

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 10, 2019, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/timPcAldDZ4>

REVISED January 8, 2019

## AGENDA

**Thursday, January 10, 2019**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Byron Bateman, Vice-Chair  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director   | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments<br>- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Program Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Pronghorn Unit Plans<br>- Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator                                  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Moose Unit Plans<br>- Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator                                      | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. CHA Rule Amendments<br>- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader                                      | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal<br>- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader                       | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. North Peaks CWMU Variance Request<br>-Michael Wardle, Private Lands, Public Wildlife Coordinator     | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. CWMU Advisory Committee Appointments<br>- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief                     | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. Prohibited Species Variance Request<br>-Staci Coons, Wildlife Board Coordinator                      | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 13. Wildlife Board Stipulations<br>-Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General                                  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 14. Antelope Island Bighorn Sheep Hunt Closure<br>-Jace Taylor, Statewide Bighorn Sheep Biologist        | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 15. Other Business<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

Details of the specific recommendations can be found at [www.wildlife.utah.gov](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov)

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

**Wildlife Board Motions**

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

Each Board Meeting until completed – Target Date – Bighorn Sheep MOU Report

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division give a progress report on the management plan's lethal removal process and MOU at every board meeting until it is completed.**

Motion made by: Karl Hirst  
Assigned to: Jace  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: November 29, 2018

Spring 2019 – Target Date – Primitive Weapon Definition

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division attempt to define a primitive weapon hunt and have the Board review it at the April 2019 meeting.**

Motion made by: Calvin Crandall  
Assigned to: Covy Jones  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: November 29, 2018

Fall 2019 – Target Date – Multi-year Furbearer License

**MOTION: I move that the Division research the possibility of a multi-year furbearer license and report back to the Board June 2019.**

Motion made by: Byron Batemen  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois and Kenny Johnson  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: This motion was placed on the Action Log per a request from Byron Bateman on Sept. 22, 2018.

Fall 2019 – Target Date – GPS Requirement

**MOTION: I move that the Division present a recommendation to the Wildlife Board next year on the inclusion of GPS data in the check-in process that requires the submission of location/time of kill site and photograph of cougar's sex.**

Motion made by: Byron Batemen  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: This motion was placed on the Action Log per a request from Byron Bateman on Sept. 22, 2018.

Fall 2019 – Target Date – Barney Top LE Archery Only Elk Proposal

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division review the Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt proposal and the primitive weapon hunt and provide the pros and cons of each, either as one or two separate reports, to the Board.**

Motion made by: Kevin Albrecht  
Assigned to: Covy Jones  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: November 29, 2018

Fall 2020 – Target Date – Premium Fishing Areas

**MOTION: To have the division look into the possibility of designating premium fishing areas - that allow artificial flies and lures only- to have increased license requirements and fees and to bring the information back during the next recommendation cycle.**

Motion made by: Byron Batemen  
Assigned to: Randy Oplinger  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: September 27, 2018

**Wildlife Board Assignments**

**November 29, 2018** - Chairman Woodward requested a calendar view of the elk season structure and how that affects other hunts and for it to come back to the board at the April/May meeting.

**November 29, 2018** - Chairman Woodward asked Dax Mangus to convene the necessary agencies and players to review the issues facing the Book Cliffs, namely habitat issues, and update the board during the April 2019 meeting.

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
**November 29, 2018, DNR Auditorium**  
**1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah**  
The meeting can be viewed live at [https://youtu.be/pQw7Z7au\\_88](https://youtu.be/pQw7Z7au_88)

**Thursday, November 29, 2018, 9:00 am**

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Byron Bateman, Vice-Chair   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>    |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 5. Agricultural Contributions to Wildlife Conservation Presentation<br>- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief   | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 6. Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan<br>- Jace Taylor, Wildlife Biologist   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 7. Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan<br>- Jace Taylor, Wildlife Biologist   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 8. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2019 Season Dates, Application Timeline and Rule Amendments<br>- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 9. CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2019 and<br>Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2019<br>- Mike Wardle, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 10. R657-38 – Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments<br>- Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 11. Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2019<br>- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Program Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 12. Flaming Gorge Reservoir Rule Amendments – R657-13<br>– Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General  | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 13. Other Business<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>    |

*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**  
November 29, 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.**

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the September 27, 2018 Wildlife Board Meeting.**

3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**)

**Action Log Items addressed: Archery Season Dates for Elk**

Chairman Woodward requested a calendar view of the elk season structure and how that affects other hunts and for it to come back to the board at the April/May meeting.

4) Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 5 in favor with one abstention. Kevin Albrecht abstained.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

5) Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division give a progress report on the management plan's lethal removal process and MOU at every board meeting until it is completed.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we support the Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

6) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2019 Season Dates, Application Timeline and Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division attempt to define a primitive weapon hunt and have the Board review it at the April 2019 meeting.**

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter and failed 2:4. Calvin Crandall, Byron Bateman, Kevin Albrecht, and Steve Dalton opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt and have the same age category as the surrounding units with the understanding that the hunt would eventually become a primitive weapon hunt.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division review the Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt proposal and the primitive weapon hunt and provide the pros and cons of each, either as one or two separate reports, to the Board.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we include the once-in-a-lifetime archery sheep hunt on the Newfoundland (11/23-12/15) and Zion (12/28-1/19) units with the season dates as proposed by the Division.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we return the Monroe unit to the spike only rifle elk hunt.**

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and failed 2:4. Karl Hirst, Byron Bateman, Calvin Crandall, and Kevin Albrecht opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we not approve the early rifle hunt on the Panguitch Lake unit.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve extending the east boundary of the extended archery unit of the Green River as proposed by the Division.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2019 Season Dates, Application Timeline as presented by the Division.**

- 7) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2019 and Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2019 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously. Steve Dalton was not present to vote.

**MOTION: I move that we accept Mountain Meadows CWMU's late application, deer season date change and deer permit reduction, and accept Double R's request to add an extra 15 days to their bull elk season date.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2019 CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers and Landowner Association Permit numbers as presented by the Division.**

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

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 5:1. Kevin Albrecht opposed.

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

- 9) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2019 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the 2019 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the caveat that the electric bike be limited to a class 1 bike as defined by state and federal regulations.**

- 10) Flaming Gorge Reservoir Rule Amendments – R657-13 (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Flaming Gorge Reservoir Rule Amendments R657-13 as presented by the Division.**

- 11) Other Business (**Contingent**)

Chairman Woodward asked Dax Mangus to convene the necessary agencies and players to review the issues facing the Book Cliffs, namely habitat issues, and update the board during the April 2019 meeting.

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
November 29, 2018, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Attendance

**Wildlife Board**

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

**RAC Chairs**

Central – Kris Marble  
Southern – Dave Black  
Southeastern – Trisha Hedin  
Northeastern – Randy Dearth  
Northern – Justin Oliver

**Division Personnel**

Rory Reynolds	Mike Christensen	Teresa Griffin	J Shirley
Ashley Green	Paul Gedge	Dax Mangus	Wyatt Bubak
Chris Wood	Staci Coons	Riley Peck	Scott Dalebout
Kevin Bunnell	Thu Vo-Wood	Guy Wallace	Dave Beveridge
Boyde Blackwell	Greg Hansen	Randy Wood	Bruce Johnson
Jason Vernon	Kent Hersey	Jace Taylor	Paul Washburn
Robin Cahoon	Mark Hadley	Mike Wardle	Ben Wolford
Justin Shannon	Lindy Varney	Bryan Christensen	McKay Braley
Kenny Johnson	Phil Gray	Blair Stringham	Matt Fackrell
Rick Olson	Steve Newren	Craig Walker	
Danny Summers		Covy Jones	
Drew Cushing		Torrey Christopherson	

**Public Present**

Casey Snider	Bryce Pilling	Joseph Hackett
Clay Batty	John Bair	Mike Montmorency
Dustin Carlson	Kurt Wood	Kelly Kreis
Brian Westover	Bret Selman	Chris Carling
Steve Thain	Kevin Norman	Duane Bush
Travis Hobbs	Bob Christensen	Erik Craythorne
Sterling Brown – UT Farm Bureau		Marc Coles-Ritchie – Grand Canyon Trust
Greg Bird – UT Wild Sheep Foundation		Allison Jones – Wild Utah Project
Sierra Nelson – UT Woolgrowers Association		Greg Pearson – UT Waterfowl Hunters
Roy Hampton – UT Bowmen’s Association		Troy Forrest – Dept. of Ag
Burke Roney – Double R Ranch		Troy Justensen – SFW
Travis Jenson – UT Wild Sheep Foundation		Ron Camp – RMEF
Kirk Robinson – Western Wildlife Conservancy		Bill Christensen – RMEF
Brandon Bertagnole – Taylor Hollow CWMU		
Todd Black – Mountain Meadow CWMU		
Kevin Adamson – UT Archery Association		

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
November 29, 2018, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
[https://youtu.be/pQw7Z7au\\_88](https://youtu.be/pQw7Z7au_88)

- 00:00:20** Chairman Woodward called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, introduced Board and RAC members, and reviewed the meeting process.
- 00:02:46** 1) **Approval of Agenda** (Action)  
The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.**
- 00:03:09** 2) **Approval of Minutes** (Action)  
The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the September 27, 2018 Wildlife Board Meeting.**
- 00:03:55** 3) **Old Business/Action Log** (Contingent)
- 00:08:53** Covy Jones presented the survey results on the elk season structure and archery once-in-a-lifetime hunts. The results suggest no change for season structure, but add archery once-in-a-lifetime hunts where they provide opportunity.  
Chairman Woodward requested a calendar view of the elk season structure and how that affects other hunts and for it to come back to the board at the April/May meeting.
- 00:04:09** 4) **DWR Update** (Informational)  
Mike Canning summarized general season deer hunt results, fire rehabilitation status, pheasant hunts, warmwater fisheries at Springville Hatchery and management plan for Scofield, introduced new conservation officers, and the application period for board nomination committee.
- 00:30:50** 5) **Agricultural Contributions to Wildlife Conservation** (Informational)  
Justin Shannon presented.
- 00:46:38** 6) **Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan** (Action)  
Jace Taylor presented the management plan.
- 00:58:01** **Board Questions**  
The board asked about the orientation course, the process for making changes, and permit offering.
- 01:01:22** **Public Questions**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**01:03:55 RAC Recommendations**

Central, Southern, Northeastern, and Northern RACs unanimously passed the management plan. Southeastern also passed the plan with two opposed.

**01:06:46 Public Comments**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**01:18:14 Board Discussion**

The chairman summarized the RAC motions.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 5 in favor with one abstention. Kevin Albrecht abstained.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

**01:21:04 7) Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan (Action)**

Jace Taylor presented.

**01:35:40 Board Questions**

The board asked about permit offerings, plan approval process – MOU, protocol for dealing with wild bighorn mixing with domestic sheep, recommendations for transplant areas. There was a lengthy discussion about getting status reports as the plan moves through the approval process.

**01:47:03 Public Questions**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**01:49:13 RAC Recommendations**

All RACs unanimously passed the statewide management plan.

**01:50:35 Public Comments**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**02:11:55 Board Discussion**

Chairman commented on the unifying support for this plan.

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

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division give a progress report on the management plan's lethal removal process and MOU at every board meeting until it is completed.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we support the Statewide Bighorn Sheep Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

**02:15:02 BREAK**

**02:24:06 8) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2019 Season Dates, Application Timeline and Rule Amendments (Action)**

Covy Jones presented the agenda item.

**02:39:34 Board/RAC Questions**

The board asked about approved airstrip, Cottonwood WMA limited entry, Henry Mtn. bison boundary change, NV/UT sheep hunt, and airgun enforcement.

**02:47:22 Public Questions**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**02:52:11 Lunch Break – 45 minutes**

**03:40:51 RAC Recommendations**

Each RAC, except Northern, had various stipulations for the 2019 bucks, bulls, and OIAL season dates. They all passed the remainder of the recommendation unanimously. Northern passed it with 4 opposed.

**03:57:54 Public Comments**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**04:20:07 Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodward noted that the public process is good and clarified that what is supported in the RAC meetings becomes a recommendation for the board to consider. He opened the discussion on point creep and the negative result of fewer interested hunters.

**04:24:37** Discussion began on Barney Top that lead to primitive weapons.

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

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division attempt to define a primitive weapon hunt and have the Board review it at the April 2019 meeting.**

He summarized the RAC motions and listed the separate motions to discuss.

**04:42:14** Kevin Albrecht inquired about the potential impacts of putting the general season elk hunt into a limited entry.

**04:44:24** Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter and failed 2:4. Calvin Crandall, Byron Bateman, Kevin Albrecht, and Steve Dalton

opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt and have the same age category as the surrounding units with the understanding that the hunt would eventually become a primitive weapon hunt.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division review the Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt proposal and the primitive weapon hunt and provide the pros and cons of each, either as one or two separate reports, to the Board.**

**04:51:40** Discussion on the late season rifle elk hunt on the Dutton.

**04:54:50** OIAL archery only sheep hunt discussion.

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

**MOTION: I move that we include the once-in-a-lifetime archery sheep hunt on the Newfoundland (11/23-12/15) and Zion (12/28-1/19) units with the season dates as proposed by the Division.**

**05:03:15** Spike only elk hunt discussion.

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

**MOTION: I move that we return the Monroe unit to the spike only rifle elk hunt.**

**05:17:34** Air rifle – Pittman-Roberts discussion.

**05:18:27** Early rifle deer hunt on Panguitch Lake discussion.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and failed 2:4. Karl Hirst, Byron Bateman, Calvin Crandall, and Kevin Albrecht opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we not approve the early rifle hunt on the Panguitch Lake unit.**

**05:26:26** Boundary extension on Green River discussion.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve extending the east boundary of the extended archery unit of the Green River as proposed by the Division.**

**05:30:00** Other discussions.

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



and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2019 Season Dates, Application Timeline as presented by the Division.**

**05:31:12 9) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2019 and Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2019 (Action)**

Mike Wardle presented the 2019 plans and permit numbers.

**05:41:00 Board Questions**

The board asked about an additional permit for Indian Peak.

**05:42:46 RAC Recommendations**

Southern and Southeastern RACs passed the permit numbers with one abstention each. Northeastern RAC passed it with one opposed. Central and Northern unanimously passed the 2019 numbers with stipulations.

**05:44:25 Public Comments**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**05:56:24 Board Discussion**

The board asked for clarification on Mountain Meadow and other change applications.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously. Steve Dalton was not present to vote.

**MOTION: I move that we accept Mountain Meadows CWMU's late application, deer season date change and deer permit reduction, and accept Double R's request to add an extra 15 days to their bull elk season date.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2019 CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers and Landowner Association Permit numbers as presented by the Division.**

**06:07:15 10) R657-38 Dedicated Hunter Rule Amendments (Action)**

Bryan Christensen presented the rule amendments.

**06:12:40 Board/RAC Questions**

The board asked about the original draw date, withdrawal process and penalty, reapplying for the program, projects. RAC asked about hours.

**06:18:47 RAC Recommendations**

Northern, Northeastern, and Southeastern RAC unanimously passed the rule amendments. Southern and Central RACs also passed the plan with a couple of dissents. Northeastern requested the Division review changing hours.

**06:21:41 Public Comments**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**06:23:58 Board Discussion**

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 5:1. Kevin Albrecht opposed.

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

**06:26:54 11) Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments - 2019 (Action)**

Blair Stringham presented the recommendations and rule amendments.

**06:34:33 Board Questions**

The board asked about the electric bike.

**06:35:52 Public Questions**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**06:37:26 RAC Recommendations**

All RACs passed the recommendations and rule amendments, some with varying dissent. All RACs, except SER, excluded the ban on e-bikes.

**06:39:54 Public Comments**

Public comments were accepted at this time.

**06:56:35 Board Discussion**

The chairman opened the discussion on electric bikes.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the 2019 Waterfowl Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the caveat that the electric bike be limited to a class 1 bike as defined by state and federal regulations.**

**07:03:09 12) Flaming Gorge Reservoir Rule Amendments – R657-13 (Action)**

Greg Hansen presented the rule amendment and Craig Walker provided information on how the Division will address the change.

**07:09:21 Board Questions/Discussion**

The board asked for clarification on the change and the fees associated with it.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Flaming Gorge Reservoir Rule Amendments R657-13 as presented by the Division.**

**07:16:48**      **13) Other Business (Contingent)**

Chairman Woodward asked Dax Mangus to convene the necessary agencies and players to review the issues facing the Book Cliffs, namely habitat issues, and update the board during the April 2019 meeting.

**07:22:24**      Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

**December 2018**

**Summary of Approved Motions**

**2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

**NRO: Motion:** Not to accept the Rigging Rule recommendation as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Recommend to reduce the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek South permits by 7. Take the 7 permit reduction out of the spring bear hunting season.

**Motion Passes:** For: 6 Against: 3

**Motion:** Accept the balance of the 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**CRO: Motion:** Not to accept the Rigging Rule recommendation as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** To approve the balance of the Division's recommendations

**Motion Passes:** 5 to 3

**SRO: Motion:** Not to accept the Rigging Rule recommendation as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** To support the 9 tag increase on the Book Cliffs.

**Motion Passes:** 11-1

**Motion:** To keep the permits on the Beaver the same as they have been.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** To accept the 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments balance as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**SERO: Motion:** To keep the current 2018 bear permit numbers for the Book Cliffs unchanged.

**Motion Passes:** 10-1

**Motion:** To accept the remaining 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**NERO: Motion:** to accept numbers as presented from the Division.

**Motion Passes:** 5-3

**Motion:** to accept all rule changes as presented, without the rigging rule.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

## **Pronghorn Unit Plans**

### **NRO, CRO:**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**SRO: Motion:** To accept the Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented.

**Motion Passes:** 10-2

**SERO: Motion:** To adopt a population objective of 300 pronghorn on the La Sal/South Cisco unit

**Motion Passes:** 6-5

**Motion:** to accept the remaining Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**NERO: Motion:** to accept as presented from the Division with the exception of the South Cisco unit – recommend 475 instead of 700.

**Amended Motion:** to recommend 575 instead of 700.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

## **Moose Unit Plans**

### **All RACs:**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Moose Unit Plans as presented.

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

## **CHA Rule Amendments**

### **NRO, CRO, SERO, NERO:**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept CHA Rule Amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**SRO: Motion:** to accept the CHA Rule Amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes:** 11-1

## **Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal**

### **All RACs:**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal as presented.

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Northern Regional Advisory Council  
December 5, 2018  
Brigham City Community Center  
Brigham City, Utah**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Begins: 6:02 p.m.**

**RAC Present**

Paul Chase- Forest Service  
Randy Hutchison- At Large  
Chad Jensen- Elected  
Aaron Johnson-Sportsman  
Matt Klar- At Large  
Mike Laughter- Sportsman  
Kevin McLeod- At Large  
Darren Perry- Shoshone Nation  
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.  
Bryce Thurgood- Chair

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Justin Dolling  
Erica Savage  
Randy Wood  
Dave Rich  
Darren DeBloois  
Avery Cook  
Jim Christensen  
Jordan Hasting  
Dave Beveridge  
Krystal Tucker  
Eric Anderson  
Brandon Baron  
Chad Wilson

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman

**RAC Excused**

John Blazzard- Agric.  
David Earl- Agric.  
Christopher Hoagstrom- Noncon.  
Justin Oliver- At Large  
Mellissa Wood- BLM

**RAC Unexcused**

**Agenda:**

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
Approval of Agenda and November 7, 2018 Minutes  
Wildlife Board Update  
Regional Update  
2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments  
Pronghorn Unit Plans  
Moose Unit Plans  
CHA Rule Amendments  
Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal

### **Item 1. Approval of Agenda**

Bryce Thurgood- Chair

Agenda Approved

### **Item 2. Approval of November 7, 2018 Minutes**

-Bryce Thurgood- Chair

Minutes approved as circulated.

### **Item 3. Wildlife Board Update**

-Randy Wood- Northern Region Wildlife Manager

Mountain Goat Management Plan-Motion was made to accept the plan as presented which was passed 5-1.

Big Horn sheep Management Plan-When it came around to the RAC's, there was a section that deals with allowing a producer or wool grower along with immediate family or employee to remove a big horn sheep that is mixed in with their sheep. With that, there was no guidance or plan put together how that would work. The first motion was to add to the action log that the division give a progress report on the management plans lethal removal process and MOU every board meeting until it is complete. That passed unanimously. Motion to support the statewide big horn sheep management plan which passed unanimous.

Buck and Bull and OIAL- A lot of discussion and talk going on with several motions. We started with adding to the action log item that the division attempts to define a primitive weapon hunt and have the board review it next April 2019. They want to define what a primitive weapon to add a fourth weapon type in there. That motion passed unanimous. The next motion was to approve the Barney top limited entry archery only elk hunt and have the same age categories on that elk hunt as a surrounding units with the understanding that the hunt would eventually become a primitive weapons hunt. That motion failed 2-4. The next motion was to add to the action log item, that the division review the Barney Top limited entry archery elk only hunt proposal and the primitive weapon hunt and provide the pros and cons of each, either as one or two separate reports to the board. That passed unanimous. Another motion was to include the OIAL archery sheep hunt on the Newfoundland and the Zion units with the season dates that the division proposed which passed unanimous. Next motion was to return the Monroe unit to spike elk only rifle hunt and that passed unanimous. The next motion was that they not approve the early rifle hunt on the Ponsegaunt Lake unit which failed 2-4. Next motion was to approve extending the east boundary of the extended archery unit of the Green River as proposed by the division which passed unanimous. The final motion was to accept the balance of the buck, bull, OIAL as presented that passed unanimous.

CWMU- Two CWMU applications came in late and the RAC's never heard of them. They showed up to the board to present. The first motion was to accept the Mountain Meadows CWMU late application for deer season date changes and a deer permit reduction. In addition, the Double R requests to add an extra 15 days to their bull elk season. That passed unanimous. The second motion was to approve the remainder of the CWMU management plan, permit numbers and landowner association numbers which passed unanimous.

Dedicated Hunter Amendment Rule- Motion to approve as presented which passed 5-1.

Waterfowl- Discussion on electric bikes. Covered waterfowl in one motion to accept the 2019 waterfowl recommendations and rule amendments as presented with the caveat that the electric bike be limited to a class 1 bike as defined by state and federal regulations which passed. They talked about looking at the rotation of the waterfowl proclamation which will be up in 3 years.

Flaming George Rule Amendment- Motion to approve as presented by the division which passed unanimous.

### **Item 4. Regional Update**

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Wildlife Section- Beginning to collect winter range condition information. Starting to trap turkey in Mendon using walk-in traps and drop nets. Deer captures on the north slope and Cache County. Started a cougar study on the Cache and they collared 3 lions so far. Trapping Elk at Hardware Ranch for disease testing the first part of December.

Law Enforcement- New conservation officer in Weber/Davis district, Brock Thornley. Liked the early deer hunt, made workload more manageable.

Habitat Section- Fire rehabilitation projects primarily in the Grouse Creek area.

Aquatic- White fish spawn is starting now and is good a Bear Lake. They are summarizing field data they collected over the summer.

Outreach-Elk Festival at Hardware Ranch on December 8th. Ice Fishing Seminar on December 18th at the Eccles Education Center at Farmington Bay.

Great Salt Lake Ecosystem- Ice is forming on fresh water marshes on the eastern shore of the Great Salt Lake. Brine shrimp industry have harvested a little over 22 million pounds of brine shrimp cysts.

## **RAC Questions**

Kristin Purdy- What is the number of cougars that are going to be collared as a result of that study?

Justin Dolling- I will have Jim answer that.

Jim Christensen- We are trying to collar and keep 7-10 female cougars collared through the life of this study.

Kristin Purdy- What is the purpose of this study?

Jim Christensen- We are trying to get a better idea of home range sizes and a better idea of kill rates on deer. We are trying to link it with collared deer we have now. If we find one of these collar deer die and it is a cougar kill, we will put a camera on it and see what other scavenging takes place and the frequency and timing. We want to get a better idea of population size as we learn more about home range sizes. Life spans and litter sizes. Those are the main things.

## **Item 5. 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Program Coordinator

See RAC Packet

## **Public Questions**

Sierra Nelson- Utah Wool Growers Association- We are hoping that adding additional hunts, maybe we can get that population to drop. Wondering if you could clarify?

Darren DeBloois- That is a statewide estimate. It looks like it is leveling off. On specific units with livestock concerns, we will be making recommendations to address those concerns.

## **RAC Questions**

Aaron Johnson- We are now requiring a GPS location when they check in a bear?

Darren DeBloois- Initially, we will send out an email to people that says we are going to ask where you took it when you check it in. They need to record that somehow. When it is checked in, we will have to help hunters tell us where and we will write down the GPS coordinates. There are protections for that data. It would be same as it is for coyotes. That is information that will not be given to the general public. We might present a heat map but we will keep those locations secure so people are comfortable letting us know.

Aaron Johnson- I think it is great. You said they are making changes to the law about retrieving dogs. I reviewed that and could not see where they made it?

Darren DeBloois- The problem was that the guidebook defined it differently than the rule. The guidebook had a little more flexibility. We made the rule reflect what the guidebook said.

Aaron Johnson- So, now it will read the same?

Darren DeBloois- Yes, that was the change.

Aaron Johnson- Why the change to the rigging rule?

Darren DeBloois- We have had a couple of concerns. One is that they feel like the playing field is not level. There is some gray area about what it means to be hunting bears. We are trying to make it more black and white so everyone understands what the rules are. The intent is that during non-hunting hours, that people are not driving roads all night waiting to get a track and camping out and the next guy comes along and thinks he can't be hunting yet. This is an attempt to try and make that more clear. The key in the language here is that you have to be doing that in pursuit of a bear.

Aaron Johnson- I don't see where the rule separates that.

Darren DeBloois- Right.

Aaron Johnson- Maybe you can explain the change. How does this rule help law enforcement prove one way or another. The dog could be inside the box and they could be hunting. How does it clarify anything?



Darren DeBloois- The intent is that people are not hunting bears outside of legal hunting hours. This is an attempt to try and clarify what we mean by that. It would be helpful if the RAC wants to suggest the language in this. We thought we would just try and spell it out so everyone was on the same page as to what is allowed or not allowed.

Aaron Johnson- Why wasn't this brought up at the committee meeting. Did law enforcement fail to bring it up. it was never discussed at the committee meeting?

Darren DeBloois- Your right. The committee didn't talk about it.

Aaron Johnson- If a hunter is selective, meaning he waits all season and chooses to kill a trophy bear, can that skew your data?

Darren DeBloois- It shouldn't. If you look at it across the 3 year data frame. That is one of the reasons we are recommending not to make recommendations every year. We do that now but somehow, we have gotten in to doing this every year. We need to let things be the same over time.

Aaron Johnson- Agreed.

Darren DeBloois- It reflects what is in the field. There are enough people that will take the first bear they get that it shouldn't do that.

Aaron Johnson- We are going to this 3 year plan and we have gotten off track which is somewhat due to turn over. We are in a 5 year cycle.

Darren DeBloois- Yes

Aaron Johnson- You started off the presentation saying we shouldn't adjust numbers every year.

Darren DeBloois- Right.

Aaron Johnson- Why have we adjusted them last year and why this year? The plan doesn't say to do that. You said we shouldn't do that.

Darren DeBloois- Now is the time to get back on track. We have had a growing bear population and we are above where we have been in the past. The permit recommendations have been made according to what we have seen in the harvest. I don't have any concerns about that. We are recommending that we get back to it this year.

Aaron Johnson- I am all for that but is it a fair argument that we shouldn't adjust tags every year because it can negatively affect the population but you have done that. I think this is the third year in a row.

Darren DeBloois- We have. It is partly due to turn over in this position. It is a little bit due to other groups coming in and saying they are not happy and want change. We have gotten off track and we want to get back on track.

Aaron Johnson- On the Bookcliffs, all in favor of a lot of the increases are for the opportunity hunts. The Bookcliffs has the largest percentage increase of all the units if you take out the spot and stock. It is in its own category. Why such a large increase there when the rest of the state you are very conservative.

Darren DeBloois- The Bookcliffs had about 50% adult males. it is a moderate unit. It is above objective on adult males. It was low on adult females. The plan says you should adjust permits between 20-40%. 20% is 11 additional permits and 40% is 23 permits. They are in the middle of that range. They also have some concerns in a lot of cause specific mortality from lions on the Bookcliffs. We are part of this lion study to look on those units that have bears. It seems like the average adult doe survival throughout the state is about 80%. On the Bookcliffs it is 64% and primarily due to lion impacts. We have a big study starting. Those are some things that went into that.

Aaron Johnson- Why was it this large increase brought up?

Darren DeBloois- We didn't talk about permits in the committee. We didn't have the data yet.

Aaron Johnson- Ok.

Randy Hutchison- On the change on the rigging, I understand the concept. How big of a problem is it? You specified a particular area. Is it a known problem?

Darren DeBloois- It seems like the places where we hear the complaints on those premier units like the Bookcliffs, LaSals and San Juan. There is not much complaining from many of the other bear units.

Randy Hutchison- What type of citations would be issued?

David Beveridge- Are you asking what type of fine?

Randy Hutchison- Just wondering if these are complaints from other hunters or other people using the area. Or, is this something that is happening and we are citing people. I'm assuming it is poaching if they are hunting outside of hours.

David Beveridge- It would be. It would be an attempt to unlawfully take wildlife. There are restotutional values for bear

Randy Hutchison- This is to prevent you from going down the wrong direction. I'm not worried about a dollar amount. I am just wondering if people are actually cited for poaching?

David Beveridge- They have had a few cases and it can sometimes be difficult. Even with the current language, you would have to prove the person was pursuing a bear or attempting to pursue a bear. That is a burden on the division and would have to make that case.

Randy Hutchison- The comment came up that there has been change every year for multiple years. What makes this the magic year that this will go through.

Darren DeBloois- We are just trying to get back on track and this is the year we realize that. One concern you have with increasing permits annually is that you can mask your population estimate. The calculation assumes that you have a constant harvest pressure. I don't think that has happened in our estimation but it can happen. It fools the model into thinking there are more bears out there than there are. We really do need to keep things consistent to use this population trend estimate effectively.

Bryce Thurgood- What is the difference between driving around the Ponsegaunt all night with a light looking at deer or just driving around with a dog in your truck at night. As long as you are not hunting.

Darren DeBloois- There are rules against spotlighting and I can't remember the exact language. If you are casting a light and attempting to locate wildlife, there are some rules against doing that. If your dogs are on the truck and you are driving up the road but not actively trying to locate a bear track, then you are not rigged, according to this definition. It doesn't change the current rule much but tries to define what we mean and let everyone know what we will be looking at.

Randy Hutchison- What is the current definition.

Darren DeBloois- Bear may not be taken or pursued only between 1/2 hour before official sunrise to 1/2 after official sunrise. We added dogs may not be rigged during those off hours. That would not change. You still cannot pursue or take a bear outside of legal hunting hours.

Kristin Purdy-What is the target population that the bear management plan manages to statewide?

Darren DeBloois- Unlike big game, we do not have a population objective. So, we manage within these parameters I showed you on the plan. If we get outside of those in a negative way, we would reduce tags. If the numbers look good, we offer more opportunity. We are not shooting for a population cap or minimum in the plan.

Kristin Purdy- Do you have any data on the success rate for spot and stock hunts?

Darren DeBloois- On San Juan and La Sal, it is between 10-15%. Those are units with a lot of bears. Some of these units would probably be in the 10% or less. It is more of an opportunity.

Kristin Purdy- Is there a concern with the 10-15% success rate, that it is going to have the effect of trimming the success rate from later on the calendar with established hunts?

Darren DeBloois- I don't think so. It has not done that on the La Sals and San Juan. It is an extra opportunity for someone to hunt a bear under a different methodology.

Kevin McLeod- If I have a bear permit for a spot and stock and it is in that time frame from September 25-October 25 and I am hunting muzzleloader deer, what is the weapon restriction for the bear?

Darren DeBloois- Any legal weapon for bears.

Kevin McLeod-What if I am hunting a bear and I go after it but I have a muzzleloader deer tag?

Darren DeBloois- The restriction on weapon type would trump. If you are hunting a bear during the muzzleloader hunt, you are not allowed to have a center firearm to hunt deer.

## **Public Comment**

Tyler Farr- Utah Houndsmen Association- Letter read regarding recommendations. Supports the DWR bear hunting recommendations with the following changes: UHA does not support the 9 tag increase on the Bookcliffs Bitter Creek South Unit. We propose a 0 tag increase on the Bookcliffs unit. UHA requests the 9 tag increase proposed be taken from the spring hound season allotment. UHA does not support the proposed changes to the rule 657-33. The rule prohibits transporting hounds and rigging position outside of legal hunting hours. We support the current rule that prohibits hunting chasing bears outside the legal hunting hours. Supports law enforcement section to enforce all current laws and rules. This rule is not enforceable.

Sierra Nelson- Utah Wool Growers Association- We would like to support the recommendations from the division. We encourage you to continue to move forward trying to decrease the overall bear population. Our goal is to decrease the amount of conflict between bears and livestock. Encourage you to keep adding more tags or extending seasons so we can have a higher percentage of take to get this separation between the two. Maybe there could be some room in the rule for adjustment for rigging coming back at night if you didn't have a box.

## **RAC Comment**

Mike Laughter- On the rigging, my only comment would be that it seems like a nightmare to enforce.

Aaron Johnson- I'll echo that Mike. Bear dogs can rig outside the box. This doesn't help at all. We called some district attorneys across the state and not one of them said they could enforce this law. We support law enforcement endeavors and the current law says you don't hunt before or after hours. We support that but this gives law enforcement a lot of leeway to decide if they are hunting. This law is not going to help. I think this rule should be taken to the committee and they should come up with some way to try and reduce these complaints and/or get a different rule to help them. This is

going to hurt more law abiding people than do any good. I have kept a log of bears on the Bookcliffs and I don't think the population is growing, they are declining. If you hunt hard in an area with few bears, you can still find a big one. I cannot make the numbers you have given us make sense. Last year's numbers were 860 permits but this year 829. The reduction did not go to the board. These tag numbers just do not add up. There are another 145 tags this year. That is 250 almost. San Juan La Sals had 0 cub survival. The biologist recommended a reduction. A few miles away, they are increasing it by 30, by his math 18. It does not make sense to increase these at all. Houndsmen are trying to get along and we support these spot and stock hunts. 90% of houndsmen in the state are upset at the houndsmen association because we are trying to go along with what the division proposes. There have been increases the last 3 years. We are for the 3 year cycle and want to lock these numbers in. It is impossible to justify such a large increase on the Bookcliffs. The divisions excuse for the increase is fawns being killed, with no proof of it. The two recommendations by the hounds association are more than fair. If we were following the bear management plan, we would make a motion to have zero increases in tags. I have the guidebooks if anyone has any questions.

Bryce Thurgood- When you talk about the bear at the central RAC saying he thought it was the fawns, isn't the increase solely based on the management plan and the numbers?

Darren DeBloois- Yes, the fawns did not come up last night. He was talking about adult doe mortality and it was specifically lions. The part that we need to find out more about, I think it is fair to say whether bear stealing cougar kill contributes to increased cougar take. We don't have the answer to that. We were not talking about bears killing fawns last night.

Aaron Johnson- Correct me if I am wrong.

Darren DeBloois- At least that is not what was presented. What he stated in the meeting had nothing to do with fawns. Whether that was text or not I don't know. I did not see the text.

Aaron Johnson- I can tell you what was text and what was presented. A motion was made to only have a 2 tag increase on the Bookcliffs.

Darren DeBloois- Regardless, according to the plan based on the number of adult male bears and the number of females in the harvest, those permits should have been increased between 20-40%. If you include the 7, I think that is a fair argument. The 7 archery tags are about 17% success. That still falls in that range of 11-23 permits. They made that recommendation. It is within the parameters of the plan.

Aaron Johnson- The plan also says it can be a zero increase

Darren DeBloois- Not in this case, it has to be a minimum of 20. The one modifier is if they saw any birth pulses. On the Bookcliffs they did see one during the last 3 years. They shot for a middle ground on the recommendation. You are right though, if one is in and one is out, you can increase none. Some of the other units did that this year.

Aaron Johnson- I may be mistaken. I respectfully disagree.

Darren DeBloois- That is fine.

Aaron Johnson- Back to the Central RAC and the fawn thing. A motion was made and before they second it, someone got on the phone and says that had the biologist and he said it was because of the fawns and the motion was withdrawn.

Every year it is the Bookcliffs. You need to take a look at that and figure out why it is the northeast RAC where there is conflict with bears and elk and everything.

Bryce Thurgood- I think a little bit on the San Juan and La Sal also.

Aaron Johnson- As far as.

Bryce Thurgood- Problems in general. I think it is because there are so many bears and so many people.

Aaron Johnson- Absolutely.

Bryce Thurgood- Those three units get the most negative attention.

Aaron Johnson- There are the most hunters and the most possibility of conflict.

Bryce Thurgood- You guys have recommended 9 but 7 are archery only with low success got moved in. You guys are saying it's really 16.

Aaron Johnson- It can be argued that way.

Bryce Thurgood- Now the success is going to be a lot higher going in to the general than it would have been if it was archery only.

Aaron Johnson- Yes, the numbers from last year: 26 spring tags and 40 this year. That is an increase of 14.

Bryce Thurgood- What was the success rate on those that early?

Aaron Johnson- That is about the 40-50% he is talking about. That might be a higher success because maybe the bait hunters are lower success. Maybe it is 60 on hounds and 30 on bait and averages somewhere around there.

Aaron Johnson- I have the proclamation here and its 13. That is the divisions increase from last year. One might be an expo. It is 13 and 7, so 20. The rest of the state, except spot and stock, is 2-4-6 minus 1, minus 2. Why the aggressiveness on the Bookcliffs and nothing else?. The data shows bears are stable.

Darren DeBloois- It might be helpful to remember that the Bookcliffs is managed under a moderate strategy. The objective is not necessarily to grow that population. It is to maintain or to slightly let it go one way or the other. That is why the parameters would suggest what they do in terms of what we recommend permit wise. As far as the guidebook numbers, part of the confusion last year is that we did include in the numbers the board and RAC saw, I think expo are in there. They don't show up in the guidebook. This year, we don't show the expo permits. Maybe Aaron and I should sit down at some point and figure it out.

Aaron Johnson- I'm going off what you said. It is 860 and 829. That is 31 difference. They say 829 but gave 860 last year. There was a 31 tag decrease at the Wildlife Board. If it is not 829 and is 860, it is not 145 it is 175 increase.

Darren DeBloois- Right. I don't know if I am totally following. I think we need to sit down and go through it line by line. Obviously, there is some confusion. Bookcliffs bitter creek south hound hunt last year in the spring was 33%. Summer bait was 56%. 17% on archery tags. That is 7 permits and they killed one bear. You may double the success rate. If you put 3 in, you might kill one or two of those instead of none.

Aaron Johnson- The reason we request these permits come from the hound allotment is you increase the bait by 1. You increased the fall tags by 1. You increased the fall tags by 4 and the multi-season by 1. The spring increased by 14. That is not 9.

Darren DeBloois- Right, that includes those archery tags.

Aaron Johnson- I agree. It still comes out to 13.

Darren DeBloois- The spring hunt in 2017 was 26% success. That is 30ish.

Bryce Thurgood- We have the presentation as a whole. We have the rigging and we have the Bookcliffs that are kind of our three. We are going to do this in three motions. We will tackle Bookcliffs first, then the rigging and then the balance.

### **Motion**

Motion-Randy Hutchison- Not to accept the Rigging Rule recommendation as presented.

Second- Aaron Johnson

Motion Passes: Unanimous

### **Motion**

**Motion**-Aaron Johnson- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Houndsmen Association's recommendation of zero change, no increase and the 9 tags be taken from the spring bear pursuit season.

Mike Laughter- Is this including the archery?

Aaron Johnson- The division is proposing a 9 tag increase on the Bookcliffs. I am making a motion that there is a 0 tag increase on the Bookcliffs and those 9 tags come out of the spring season. Instead of 40, it would be 31. Archery tags are already scattered out.

Darren DeBloois- They have already been incorporated into other hunts. These additional 9, we are eliminating and taking them out of the spring bear pursuit season.

Aaron Johnson- The motion is to reject the 9 tag increase on the Bookcliffs and that those 9 tags be taken from the spring hound season.

Mike Laughter- Can that be done and follow the bear management plan? Is it always followed?

Darren DeBloois- The archery tags probably complicates things a little bit. Even if you include those 7 tags and just don't increase 9, that does take it outside of the plan parameters. We should increase, according to the plan, between 11 and 23. The RAC can recommend what it wants and the board will weigh those recommendations.

Aaron Johnson- The argument to that is we have increased when we shouldn't have the last few years and that is outside the parameters of the plan.

Darren DeBloois- That's true.

Bryce Thurgood- The social aspect falls outside of the plan.

**Second**- Darren Parry

**Motion Fails**- For: 3 Against: 6

Mike Laughter- I always vote with the sportsmen. With that, to echo some of Aarons comments about the division and time and effort that goes into this. These decisions are not made lightly. There seems to be a disconnect in the numbers but they bring 9, we haven't had a consistency in the tags in the last several years. Now is the time to do that. Let's start

low and ease into it. I am not in favor of the 9, I would be more comfortable with a small increase. Let's not jump at that many all at once. I am part way there, there needs to be give and take.

Kevin McLeod- Same concerns. When Darren says it does not fall within the plan, the studies that have been done.

Matt Klar- My primary concern was that the plan does call for an increase and the increase is already on the conservative end.

Kristin Purdy- I am in favor of the issue of getting back on track. We need to suck up some inconsistency in order to become consistent again.

Chad Jensen- I do agree with a lot of what Aaron said. I have worked for the government for 27 years and every time there is an election or a change in a plan, at some point you have to drop the hammer and say now we are going to start over. This plan could change again with a new biologist. At some point, you have to say now we are going to follow the plan.

Paul Chase- Most of it has already been said. I agree that we need to follow the plan. We need to be more conservative.

Aaron Johnson- More discussion before another motion so we are all clear. Lets lock these numbers in for 3 years. We are dropping in at a very aggressive number on a declining bear population. It is going to negatively affect it. The rest of the state has not. We are in favor of locking it in and agree with what you said but you can make the argument that we have not been following the plan. A zero increase across the board would be following the plan, not this.

Chad Jensen- I agree with that statement.

Aaron Johnson- We want to be conservative. Some of the people said they maybe be there half way. I can make another motion but don't want to waste anyone's time. Motion on a smaller reduction, maybe not 9 but halfway?

## **Motion**

**Motion**-Aaron Johnson- Recommend to reduce the Book Cliffs tags from 9 to 2. Take the 2 tags out of the spring bear pursuit season.

**Second**- Mike Laughter

**Motion Passes**: For: 6, Against:3

Reason why voted against the motion- Same reason from previous motion.

## **Motion**

**Motion**-Aaron Johnson- Accept the balance of the 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented.

**Second**- Mike Laughter

**Motion Passes**- Unanimous

## **Item 6. Pronghorn Unit Plans**

- Jim Christensen, Regional Assistant Manager

See RAC Packet

## **RAC Questions**

Randy Hutchison- This came up last year as well. Are there any specific maintenance plans in place to maintain or take care of existing ones and the new ones?

Jim Christensen- Yes, currently our habitat section has the task of maintain those guzzlers mainly. Every year, they go out and visually inspect the majority of those guzzlers. As budget and time allows, they will fix the ones that need repair.

Randy Hutchison- I know some guzzlers are being put in western Box Elder. I have never seen a management plan. I know I run across a lot of small game and combination that aren't. Is there where an individual can find that information.

Jim Christensen- I don't know there is a specific maintenance schedule written in the plan, other than just when they go out to turn the valves on and off. They can inspect and determine if repairs are needed. Not all guzzlers are the same.

Mike Laughter- I didn't see the Ogden on there. What is the population, where we have the Ogden/Cache/Rich/Morgan as a combined unit, I didn't see the population on there. Are we identifying Ogden as an area we want to grow antelope or is it an overlap from the Cache and Rich?

Jim Christensen- The Ogden is kind of an overlap. There is not a huge population on the Ogden. We recognize there are some there and that is why we included it with the Cache.

Mike Laughter-It is in the Morgan/South Rich? Because that tag is combined right?

Jim Christensen- Right, it is all combined. We do have a separate plan for the Cache and North Rich as well as the South Rich and Morgan. Then, the Ogden population is so low, we don't actively manage for pronghorn there. We know they are there so we encompass it in the hunt boundary.

Mike Laughter- That was curiosity, thank you.

Chad Jensen- Appreciate clarification. I have lived in Cache County for 50 years and have seen one antelope. And you have us for 750 or 800.

### **Motion**

**Motion**-Mike Laughter- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented.

**Second**- Kevin McLeod

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

\*RAC Member Aaron Johnson left the meeting.

### **Item 7. Moose Unit Plans**

- Jim Christensen, Regional Assistant Manager

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Randy Hutchison- Are you looking at possible transplant sites to the Box Elder to supplement those ones that have moved in naturally?

Jim Christensen- We held an informal meeting out there. That was met with some resistance when we brought up the possibility of improving populations out there through some of these nuisance moose. For the time being, we will not be taking any out there until we can get maybe an official committee formed out there to discuss that.

### **Motion**

**Motion**- Chad Jensen-Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Moose Unit Plans as presented.

**Second**- Mike Laughter

**Motion Passes**- Unanimous

### **Item 8. CHA Rule Amendments**

- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Matt Klar- In the rule, is there a definition for unusual mortality?

Avery Cook- I don't believe we defined it.

Bryce Thurgood- I would say if a Martian got it, it is pretty unusual.

Matt Klar- How are we going to enforce this if we don't have a definition of what triggers the reporting requirement?

Avery Cook- I guess it depends on the operators to know what a normal rate of mortality in their operations and if there is something up and above that, we would hope that they would report that do us. If we become aware of a large die off or other event on an operation, we could enforce that.

Kristin Purdy- What does the acronym NPIP stand for?

Avery Cook-National Poultry Improvement Plan.

### **Motion**

**Motion**-Randy Hutchison- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept CHA Rule Amendments as presented.

**Second**- Chad Jensen

**Motion Passes- Unanimous**

\*RAC member Chad Jensen left the meeting.

**Item 9. Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal**

- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Lead

See RAC Packet

**RAC Questions**

Randy Hutchison- You talk about predator control. A recent Utah State study I read on the sage grouse, the vast majority of nests lost were from crows and ravens. Can you address that at all? What efforts can be done?

Avery Cook- For the predator control on the sheep rocks are primarily contracting through Wildlife Services. They have the ability to put out poison eggs for raven control. They are primarily targeting fox as predator.

Randy Hutchison- Do you have very much success on the ravens?

Avery Cook- There is some. We are limited in the volume of raven control we can do as far as numbers permitted by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Randy Hutchison- Is it possible to get a variance on that from them?

Avery Cook- From the Fish and Wildlife Service? Theoretically.

Kevin McLeod- We have a crow season but not a raven season. I don't see any crows. All I see are ravens. I want to put a straight tail on them but you can't. Why isn't there a season on ravens?

Avery Cook- Ravens are protected under the migratory treaty bird act.

Kevin McLeod- Theoretically, it could be changed but it isn't going to happen.

Bryce Thurgood- You have a pretty good poker face.

**Motion**

**Motion-** Kevin McLeod- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal as presented.

**Second-** Matt Klar

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Motion to adjourn**

**Meeting Ends-8:30 p.m.**

# RAC AGENDA – December 2018

Revised November 27, 2018



- |    |  |                      |
|----|--|----------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure<br>- RAC Chair  |                      |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes<br>- RAC Chair  |                      |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update<br>- RAC Chair   | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 4. | Regional Update<br>- DWR Regional Supervisor   | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 5. | 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments<br>- Darren DeBlois, Mammals Program Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 6. | Pronghorn Unit Plans<br>- Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator                                 | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 7. | Moose Unit Plans<br>- Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator                                     | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 8. | CHA Rule Amendments<br>- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader                                     | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 9. | Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal<br>- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader                      | <b>ACTION</b>        |

## Meeting Locations

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>CR RAC</b> – Dec. 4th 6:30 PM<br>Springville Civic Center<br>110 S. Main Street, Springville                     | <b>SER RAC</b> – Dec. 12th 6:30 PM<br>John Wesley Powell Museum<br>1765 E. Main St., Green River    |
| <b>NR RAC</b> – Dec. 5th 6:00 PM<br>Brigham City Community Center<br>24 N. 300 W., Brigham City                     | <b>NER RAC</b> – Dec. 13th 6:30 PM<br>Wildlife Resources NER Office<br>318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal |
| <b>SR RAC</b> – Dec. 11th <b>6:00 PM – TIME CHANGE</b><br>Cedar City Middle School<br>2215 W. Royal Hunte Dr, Cedar | <b>Board Meeting</b> – Jan. 10th 9:00 am<br>DNR Boardroom<br>1594 West North Temple, SLC            |



## Motion Summary

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Mike Christensen and passed 6 to 2 with Danny Potts and Christine Schmitz abstaining.

**MOTION: To accept the agenda as written**

2) Approval of Minutes

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Mike Christensen and passed 6 to 2 with Danny Potts and Christine Schmitz abstaining.

**MOTION: To accept the minutes as written**

3) 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Steve Lund and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: To not approve the Division's new rigging rule**

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Josh Lenart and passed 5 to 3. (Opposed: Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts, Steve Lund)

**MOTION: To approve the balance of the Division's recommendations**

4) Pronghorn Unit Plans

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Brock McMullin and passed unanimously.

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

5) Moose Unit Plans

The following motion was made by Brock McMullin, seconded by George Garcia and passed unanimously.

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

6) CHA Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Danny Potts, and seconded by Steve Lund and passed unanimously.

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

7) Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Danny Potts and passed unanimously.

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

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Civic Center  
110 S Main Street, Springville  
December 4, 2018 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Ben Lowder, Co-Chair  
Ken Strong, Sportsmen  
Joshua Lenart, Sportsmen  
Steve Lund, Elected Official  
Mike Christensen, At-Large  
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive  
Brock McMillian, Sportsmen  
George Garcia, USFS  
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive

**Members Absent**

A J Mower, Agriculture (excused)  
Kristofer Marble, Chair (excused)  
Alan White, Agriculture (unexcused)  
Michael Gates, BLM (unexcused)  
Jacob Steele, Native American (unexcused)

**Others Present**

Jason Vernon, Central Region Supervisor  
Karl Hirst, Board Member

**1) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
**Ben Lowder, RAC Co-Chair**

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Ken to accept the agenda and minutes as written  
Seconded by Mike

In favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, Mike, George  
Abstained: Christine, Danny  
Passed 6 to 2

**2) Wildlife Board Meeting Update**  
**Ben Lowder, RAC Co-Chair**

My name is Ben Lowder I'm the vice-chair of the central region RAC. Kris Marble is our chair but he had a family emergency and could not be here so I will be stepping in for him. Thank you to the audience and the DWR for coming out tonight and participating in this process. In my opinion it's one of the best processes that we have in the United States as far as making wildlife related decisions. I'll go over the format of the meeting really quick. Typically, these meetings run, we start with a presentation from a member of the DWR that will present their recommendations. At that point we go to questions from the RAC then we'll take questions from the public after which, we will take feedback from the public. If you want to comment, I need one of these yellow comment cards filled out and brought up here. We'll call you up and you'll have three minutes if you are representing yourself, five minutes if you are representing an organization. After we have heard public comment, the RAC will discuss and we'll vote on stuff. The agenda doesn't look too bad tonight. Let's start with approval of the agenda and the minutes. Would anybody would like to make that motion?

Ken- I'll make the motion to accept the minutes and the agenda.

Mike- Seconded.

Ben- So, we have a motion by Ken to accept the minutes and agenda and seconded by Mike. All in favor?

Motion was made by Ken, seconded by Mike to accept the minutes and agenda

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, George  
Opposed:

Abstentions: Christine and Danny  
Motion passes

Ben- On to the wildlife board meeting update. I was unable to attend the wildlife board meeting so I am going to go over the motions that were made. I have a list of them and we do have a board member here, Carl Hurst. Carl, feel free to step in and clarify or add as you see fit. There was quite a long agenda. We were here very late at the last meeting. There was an action item addressed to address archery season dates for elk.

They then moved on to the statewide mountain goat management plan. That was passed with a vote of five and one abstention from Kevin Albrecht.

They then moved on to the bighorn sheep management plan. There were two motions on that. One was to approve the plan and that was approved. I'll read the other motion. "Motion to add to the action log that the division give a progress report on the management plans lethal removal process and MOU at every board meeting until it is completed." That passed as well. I imagine that we'll hear updates from that as well from the board meetings.

Carl Hurst- Some of you that have been involved in the sheep understand that there is some difficulty between the agriculture group and the sportsman. It came to a head with the Mineral. I would like to applaud both groups in that for the way that they addressed that and came together and put together a plan. There are two on the things that were kind of left out of that plan or at least in the process. One is an MOU with the agriculture and the sportsman and the other is the lethal removal protocol. That motion was, we feel that that is very important to get that moving and keep it moving. That is why they will be reporting every board meeting to us. That is a game changing agreement and a game changing plan to have in place.

Ben- Thank you for that Carl. As a member of that committee, that was a bit item of discussion and the committee felt that it was important as well. We're glad that the wildlife board recognized that.

The next motion was to add to the action log that the division attempt to define a primitive weapon hunt and have the board review it at the April meeting. That passed. If you recall, we had some discussion at the last meeting about the definition of a primitive weapon which currently doesn't exist. That was a recommendation brought by SFW. I believe that we, as a RAC were in favor of that. I believe we made a motion to ask the board to get the DWR to address that.

There was also a recommendation here at the Central RAC concerning the Barney Top limited entry archery only elk hunt. There was a motion on that at the wildlife board meeting that failed. A follow-up motion to have the DWR review that proposal and that passed.

Another recommendation that I recall from SFW was to add two new archery limited entry sheep hunts on the Newfoundland Mountains and the Zion Mountains. There was a motion made on that and that passed as well. So, two new sheep hunts.

If you recall, we also addressed an issue that was brought to us by John Bair, concerning spike elk hunting in the state of Utah. We sent a motion to the board to let them know that we are not in favor of reducing spike elk hunting opportunities. I don't believe they addressed that but they did add the spike only rifle hunt back to the Monroe unit. That is a motion that also passed. I think we were heard. Carl, do you have anything to add to that?

Carl Hurst- There was not a motion on the spike elk hunt because we just left it alone. It is just as it was but we did add the Monroe back in. The discussion was that if it's going to be on somebody's favorite unit and not on another, it ought to be fair so it's going to be statewide.

Ben- Thanks, Carl. Carl, I may need you up here again. There was a motion that failed. It was to not approve the early rifle hunt on the Panguitch Lake unit. Also, there was a motion to approve extending the east boundary of the extended archery unit of the Green River as proposed by the DWR. That passed.

Ken- Back up a little bit. They didn't approve the early rifle hunt?

Ben- I think they did not get rid of it so it's still in place. It was another, "not is our backyard" thing.

Ken- They were going to put an early rifle hunt. They were going to split early and late rifle hunts on the Panguitch.

Carl- They do have an early rifle hunt there. The motion was to get rid of it and they denied that motion.

Ben- I believe Ken is taking about the Mt. Dutton elk.

Ken- No, I'm talking about the deer. The split season on the...

Ben- The comment at the board meeting and so forth was that there were people concerned that it was the time that they were taking cattle off of the mountain. It came back as I listened to the board meeting, the same discussion, if it's good for other units it's good for the Panguitch and they left that early season on there.

There was a motion to approve the balance of the bucks, bull and OIAL and that passed. They moved onto the CWMU management plan and permit numbers. There was a motion to accept the Mountain Meadows CWMU's late application. Deer season date change and deer permit reduction and accept Double R's request to add an extra 15 days to their bull elk season date. That passed. There was a motion to approve the balance of the CWMU plan and that passed.

They then addressed the dedicated hunter rule amendments. That passed as presented by the DWR. There was a motion to approve the 2019 waterfowl recommendations and rule as presented with the caveat that electric bikes be limited to a class one bike as defined by state and federal regulations. That passed.

One last motion, to approve the Flaming Gorge Reservoir rule amendments as presented. That passed. There's another note here that the chairman asked Dax Mangus, who I believe is regional wildlife manager in the Northeast region to convene the necessary agencies and players to review the issues facing the Bookcliffs, namely, habitat issues and update the board during the April 2019 meeting.

### **3) Regional Update (Information)**

#### **Jason Vernon, Central Regional Supervisor**

I have just a few things, briefly. One thing out of our habitat section, they've been working fast and furious on reseeding the fires on the South end of the county. We had several down there as you know. Coal Hollow fire is completed at this point. We put seed and chained that seed into the ground. Hilltop fire, the seeded and we we're in the middle of chaining when the snow hit so, that chaining is postponed now. We'll get back on that when we can. The Pole Creek fire is scheduled to be finished this week with the seeding on the ground. We're glad to get that done. We like the snow, we could have taken a couple more days without it to finish this up but we'll take what we can get.

From our outreach section, we have a waterfowl seminar this Saturday. I believe that it's here in this room so spread that word around for the seminar. We have had a couple of position changes in our region. Our wildlife recreation specialist recently changed positions and went up to the Northern region into the aquatics section. We held interviews and we hired Michael Packer as our wildlife recreation specialist. That position is over our community fisheries throughout the region— we have 19 community fisheries, our walk-in access program and some of the other events like the waterfowl seminar and those types of events. We're excited to have Michael on with us. He's been with us for the last three seasons as a technician in our aquatics section. One other personnel change, Tom Becker, would you mind standing up for me? Tom Becker has been with the division for over 30 years. I don't know if he'll tell us exactly how long but he's decided to retire. We're excited for him. He's been a biologist out in Tooele and that district our there. He's been a great hand. A lot of experience right there, we're going to hate to see him go but

we're excited for him as well. I think he's excited as well. Thank you, Tom for all the years that you've put in for the agency.

One final thing, we're in the middle of our wildlife captures throughout the state and within the region. I think we sent out some dates or information on those wildlife captures to the RAC members. If you are interested in getting some experience of being in on those, contact myself or Riley. Those will be happening here in the next two weeks. I think all of those will be deer on this go around. I there aren't any questions, I'll turn the time back over to the chair.

**4) 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (Action)  
Darren DeBlois, Mammals Program Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Mike – On the depredating bears, you said that the person that shoots it can't keep the bear. So, can they keep the meat? What part of the bear can they keep?

Darren – There is a way that we can authorize a person to keep the bear in that situation. The language is in the rule. The intent with those permits is to handle a problem. So, what we don't want to happen is to have landowners selling a hunting opportunity to someone when they really should be trying to solve a problem. So, that gives us a little bit of flexibility but this isn't an opportunity to hunt bears this is an opportunity to solve a problem.

Mike – I understand. I like that you said it's flexible because I don't eat bear but I know a lot of guys do so if that animal is going to go to waste and it could be...

Darren – I think we would always rather either donate the meat or give it to someone rather than waste it for sure. Like you said, in Alaska, people love black bear meat. Here, maybe not so much.

Mike – The other question I had was, they can't accept monetary compensation but they can accept other kinds of compensation.

Darren – Again, that's not the intent but it does specifically say monetary. That's similar to what we have in the cougar rule as well.

Danny – Preponderance of the photographs were cinnamon colored bears so are the cinnamon bears better eating?

Darren – Especially covered in chocolate.

Steve – I'm from Sanpete County and in speaking with several houndsman today about rigging hounds, most of them are concerned about the loss of scent after daylight. They are used to rigging their hounds a half hour before daylight. Can you address that?

Darren – You can still rig hounds during legal hunting hours. So, from one half hour before sunrise. That's always been the intent in the rule. I think that there was enough ambiguity in the rule that some people and I don't think this is general practice, but we do have some people that are essentially running all night. They've got dogs out. We get complaints from other users that their dog is barking up and down the roads all night. That was never the intent in the rule. The intent, like any other hunting hour rule is that you start hunting one half hour before. During the summer season, we changed that a couple of years ago to allow them to start at five because they had concerns about that scent dissipating. That's nearly an hour before sunrise, that's not changing. They would be able to start rigging during legal hunting hours basically.

Steve – The other one is the increase of permits North of Fairview and South of Fairview. Can you explain to me what that is?

Rusty – I believe those two units, they both called for a slight increase. Up to 20% increase but then we did the fall spot and stalk as well on those. The big thing on those units is our nuisance to sport harvest ratio is extremely high. For every ten bears we kill on the North Manti with a tag, we're killing seven more for nuisance bears by Wildlife Services. So, there are a lot of bears being killed and we'd rather have hunters kill them than Wildlife Services.

Steve – So, as far as the nuisances with Sheep is that...

Rusty – Yeah, sheep depredation. So, not nuisance but depredation.

Josh – I have more of a background question. I'm glad to see the division recommending the three-year intervals on the bears, can you maybe give me a little background of why you're requiring it for bears and how bears differ from cougar in this regard?

Darren – The cougar plan is similar. The thing that's happened over time is that we have made these three-year recommendations and then we get a year into it and someone has an issue and wants to change it and sometimes that's us. I think in order to do this, we need to be disciplined. For both of these large predatory species, really, I think we need to be in a place where we're doing multi year recommendations and evaluating those based on three years of consistent data. So, we're doing that for bears now and it's certainly something that we'll look at for lions later. Does that help?

Josh – Yeah, I'm glad to see it on the agenda.

Mike – On the spot and stalk hunts, is it legal to harvest over a carcass?

Darren – It'd be similar to the bait so you'd have to comply. People couldn't place a bait and harvest over but if it was a carcass that occurred naturally in the landscape, they'd be OK to do that. I think it was on the slide but I don't think I mentioned it. On the Lasal's and San Juan where we currently have this hunt, success rates vary from 10%-15%. That's about how many we'd expect to see. That's the type of success rate—that's probably the high end of what we see on some of these other units with less bears where the densities are lower.

Ben – If you would go back to your slides, back to the permit recommendations. So, like the 43 permits and then the 30 quota, does that mean there's 43 limited entry permits and then it's a harvest objective hunt with a quota of 30?

Darren – Sorry, I should have explained that better. Usually what we do is, the reason I did this is because what we've done in that past is just gave a total and it didn't show you which was which. So, sometimes a quota means once they take 30 bears they'll shut down the hunt and those are split between hunts. In your hunt tables you can see how those break out. If you look at the harvest objective table you can see where those Nine Mile quota permits are.

Ben – So, does this 30 quota on the Nine Mile, does that apply to those 43 permits?

Darren – No. Those quotas are their own hunt. There's 43 permits and an additional quota of 30 during different times.

Ben – So, go buy an over the counter harvest objective permit with a quota of 30?

Darren – Right.

Mike – On that same topic, so I understand it. Does the ten spot and stock come out of the 30 quota?

Darren – Yes, that's part of that. So, during the fall, there will be a season and it will have a quota of ten for that spot and stalk season. Beginning of the muzzleloader deer to the end of the any weapon deer, they can buy a permit and go hunt and if we kill ten bears, we'll shut it down.

Ben – Go back to slide and graph of applicants over time for residents. It looks to me that we had a big jump in interest from 2014-2015, 2015 is the year that we made some big changes. We allowed rifles over bait, we increased a lot of harvest objective opportunity and I'm sure there are some other changes. Do you have some context as to which of those or anything else is driving that interest?

Darren – I think the biggest change in 2015 was adding some spot and stalk opportunities on the Lasals. That was what made the permits really jump. How that relates to interest, I think we've seen some similar patterns across all of our hunts. We just see increasing interest in hunting over time. We've had a growing bear population and that could have something to do with it. People are coming and then telling their friends, it was really fun and we saw a lot of bears. So, it could be that, too.

Brock – On the quota, say I'm on the Anthro and I think you've designed this so that people that are out deer hunting have the opportunity maybe. There're large areas on the Anthro where I don't have cell service, are they going to be required to call in every day and see if the quota has been filled? Are they going to have to drive out of the Anthro to make a call then drive back?

Darren – It'll be like it is with lion harvest. It's harvest objective so you'll have to report that. So, yeah.

Danny – Just more humor. I know two archery hunters two years ago that harvested an elk and didn't know what they were doing. They were dragging a ham out and confronted a sow with a couple of cubs and they were so freaked out that they dropped the ham and the sow moved right on in because they backed off. Would that be considered baiting?

Daren – We've had that happen. I see what you're saying. That's why I'm not an officer.

### **Questions from the Public**

Matt Farnsworth – I have a question on the Bookcliffs Bitter Creek unit. You eliminated the archery hunt. Were those tags dispersed across the other units or are those seven part of the nine?

Darren – They were dispersed. This is nine more than last year. Those archery tags are part of that.

Chet Young – I've just got a couple of questions. On the harvest objective, some of that is in the fall with hounds being allowed on some units that are primarily private land but they're not huge sections of private land, is there some concern about— there's going to be a lot of houndsman on this piece of property but not on this. I just see it giving a black eye to the houndsman. They'll start out trying to do it right, maybe. Then you're going to have hounds running through there, is there a concern because it's during some of the other hunts? I just don't see that being a good fit with hounds.

Darren – Are we talking about the Northern region units? You know, the biggest concern there was that with a permit system you've got landowners that have problems with depredation and they can't get a permit to hunt a bear. Unlike lions, chronic livestock depredation, you can't get an extra bear permit like you can with lions. So, this is an approach to try to address those concerns and rather than carving those units in a detailed way, we took the ones that were primarily private. But your concerns I think are valid. People need to consider what they are doing. Again, these units in the Northern region are primarily private so if you don't have access, you're not going to be doing a lot of hunting up there.

Chet Young – Is there some consideration on trying to put a safety net in if it goes really south this year?

Darren – Yeah. So, when we go back to that three year, there's always those safety valves so if we have a train wreck, we'll bring something back to the board but the region feels pretty confident that it'll work.

Jason Binder – I have a few slew of questions. Can you tell me how many tags we increased last year?

Darren – I can look it up. Let me do that. Do you already know the answer?

Jason Binder – No. I thought about it.

Darren – I have a number in my head I just want to verify it. So, 102.

Jason Binder – And how many tags this year?

Darren – 145, that includes... when we say tags, some of that is quota. So, it breaks down but the difference is 145.

Jason Binder – Can you explain to me exactly what justifies the increase this year? Again, when we've had increases for the last ten years consecutively and we've not followed the bear plan, in the past on the three-year increments like we were supposed to— So now, that we've increased tags for the past ten years, we want to increase again and follow the plan. Can you explain to me why we are doing that?

Darren – So, what we're doing is getting back on track with the plan this year. The increases are all based the parameters that are set forth in the plan. So, we make recommendations on a unit by unit basis and then whatever the total increase or decrease is based on the sum of those recommendations. About half of the increase this year is in those spot and stalk opportunities and the quotas for spot and stalk. And, how many adult males did you see in the harvest and how many females and if you are below objective on females and above on adult males, you'd recommend an increase. It's all based on the plan.

Jason Binder – That would be my next question. We don't have that data. Where were we at on our harvest?

Darren – I can get that for you.

Jason Binder – I just think it's important that all these gentlemen and ladies making the decision tonight ought to see where we're at. Are we at 30-40-50%?

Darren – Part of the RAC packet that they get has all of that.

Jason Binder – OK. How many bears were euthanized for starvation?

Darren – None that I'm aware of.

Jason Binder – How about Lasal, San Juan?

Darren – I don't know that they killed any that were starving. Not that I've been told about.

Brock – I just texted Dustin Mitchell to see.

Jason Binder – I heard it was pretty detrimental this last year from biologist and regional managers down there. We lowered tags or stayed the same.

Darren – According to the plan they should have increased tags down there but because of the lack of reproduction during that three-year cycle, we're recommending they stay the same.

Jason Binder – My next question would be, since we do a mathematical analysis of how we come up with our population, if we are seeing units that aren't having any cubs, how does that balance out in math? If you don't have any reproduction but yet we're seeing that the populations are the same when we are harvesting bears. To me, that doesn't balance out.

Darren – The reconstruction, the numbers that we put up here, Jason, are just adults. So, this is a minimum estimated adult population. If you're not having cubs and recruiting those you would start to see that the next year or year after. That might be some of this leveling that we are seeing over the last three years.

Jason Binder – What is the average age of bears being harvested?

Darren – I can look at the data. I don't know off the top of my head.

Jason Binder – So, if the average age happens to be ten then your recruitment ten years later...

Darren – There's a lag...

Jason Binder – There's not a balance.

Kelly Christensen – I want to know what you consider hunting on bear.

Darren – Are we talking about the hunting hours?

Kelly Christensen – I'm talking about hunting. You kept defining it as hunting. What do you consider as hunting?

Darren – It depends on how you are hunting. Are we talking about dogs?

Kelly Christensen – Yes.

Darren – So, the intent in the rule is that, if you've got a dog rigged and you are actively driving the roads trying to pick up a trail, you are hunting.

Kelly Christensen – You're not hunting until that dog is released. It's no different than spotting deer before a deer season. Not one bit. It's no different that spotting elk during elk season and every hunter does it.

Ben – This is a time for questions, not comments.

Kelly Christensen – I know, I'm just asking you about having a dog on the track.

Darren – That's what we are saying. You have to be actively trying to find a bear track and get on it. That's what we are saying in the rule. That is what we are recommending.

Kelly Christensen – That's what I was asking. I don't understand your definition because you are saying trying to get on it. Well, you're not on it until you release the dogs. That is what I'm trying to get what is actually hunting. This definition still doesn't make any sense to me.

Darren – What we are saying is you can't have a rigged dog outside of legal hunting hours. That is what the rule says.

Kelly Christensen – Well, is it any different than— anybody's dogs can actually go up the road and bark. Would that be considered?

Darren – What the rule says is, you have to be actively pursuing a bear.



Kelly Christensen – You just went back again, you're actively pursuing and pursuit doesn't start until it hits the ground. That's why I don't understand what your definition of hunting is.  
Darren – This is how we are defining it in the rule. If you've got dogs rigged, and you are driving and looking for bears, you are hunting bears. That's what the rule says. That's what our recommendation is.  
Kelly Christensen – OK.

### **Comments from the Public**

Kelly Christensen – On the same thing we were just talking about. I've been in this longer than half of these guys have been alive. I've seen it all, I've been through it, worked with some of the biologists on their hunts and different things. I'm not seeing how— last year when we recommended, I did stand up and recommend no adding more tags last year because we've seen the same thing happen over the last 50 years that I've hunted with dogs. We had a hard winter as far as no snow, no feed, no acorns. I don't know if the numbers are true what I've heard that over 90% of the sub-adult bears died in the den last year. So, wouldn't that be raising permits? Some of these areas, such as the Lasals and San Juan, do you ever look at dropping permits in that area? I mean, that only makes sense, you're losing all your sub-adult bears and then you are killing all of your mature bears. Something has to replace those bears. I don't understand. I'd like that explained to me, why those units didn't drop in permits even staying the same.

Darren – So, we would drop permits if on a given unit, it depends on the strategy we're using, so the Lasals I think is a liberal unit, if we saw adult males in the harvest less than 25% and adult females in the harvest above 45%, we recommend a decrease in permits. There're also modifiers there. If we don't see reproduction, we look at three-year reproduction, this is where we are going in and visiting dens and looking at cubs. If we don't see that reproduction, we can modify that recommendation and actually reduce even further. If you go three times and you see one birth pulse, you remain steady. You go three times and don't see any, you'd make the recommendation based on this and then you modify it. That's actually what they did down there this year. They were OK on their adult portion but they didn't see the reproduction so they should have increased but they didn't because they didn't see the reproduction.

Kelly Christensen – That doesn't make sense to me because you've got your numbers there. Well, the reason those numbers go up is because there were more tags and more hunters on the mountain. That's going to keep your numbers up higher. When you give more tags, you can add 100 more but there are less bears.

Darren – This is based on the assumption that the harvest reflects what's available in the population. If you've got a lot of the adult males in the harvest in a given year, then you've got a lot of adult males. Now, if you're taking those and seeing a decline, you'd start to see these numbers come off. Again, the plan is written so that we're looking at this on a three-year cycle. So, we make a recommendation and we let it run for three years. Then, we don't change anything until that third year and we look at this again and we'd make recommendations based on that. This should capture some of those changes in population densities and if we do see drought related reduction in densities it'll be captured and eventually the recommendation would come down on permits.

Kelly Christensen – Another thing, I just want you to know that the way I feel with this rigging deal is going to cause more conflict on the mountain by far than letting it run like it is. Because you're going to concentrate everybody on every road, you're going to create havoc among the houndsmen. They're going to race and park on a road and sleep on it. Now, we have no problems. If a guy beats you there, he goes in in front of you. You ride along behind him. Bears cross behind him. He had now problem other than one person in our whole area up here. What you are proposing this year, I think you are going to see some terribly drastic problems among houndsmen, among everybody because it's going to look like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade going up every road. They're all going to be parked bumper to bumper and following everybody. I don't agree with rigging all night either.

Covy Christensen – I just want to thank everyone for taking time out of their night to meet with everyone and listen. I want to state first of all, I represent myself. I don't understand the drastic increase in proposed tags due to last year or two, three, five depending on your idea of drought. Increase on bear tags— and the fires we've had this year, I don't understand why we're going to increase and try and knock our numbers down more and more. I don't remember the exact numbers that Jason asked, a hundred something tags proposed last year and now another hundred something tags proposed this year. On the chart, it seemed to be consecutively between 40-50% on the last, I believe, 5-10 years. Where the bears maintaining themselves and we're adding tags for... what's the purpose in adding tags? I don't understand why we're wanting to kill more bears where in the stats, it's showing that these bears are 40-50% harvested. It doesn't make sense to me. Is it about money? Is it more tags/more money? More opportunity for hunters to hunt bears? I don't understand an increase. As far as the rigging goes, I represent myself, I believe more houndsmen agree, my dad said this, I do believe this rule before it was kind of perceived as a grey area. I do agree to that but now, if this goes into effect, I do believe the dust, the traffic, the noise, the havoc is going to increase tenfold. Your complaints are going to increase tenfold by campers, outdoor enthusiasts, hunters, I don't know why this is changed. Or going to change. It's something to consider this evening. I don't know if you've been on the Lasals, San Juan, these popular bear units in the spring, seeing the numbers of hunters. If you haven't, I would recommend it and I would recommend that getting out at 6:00 A.M. one morning just to see the parade of houndsmen that you are proposing.

Chelsea Monahue – I'm also talking about the rigging and such. I have some open-ended comments which I don't need answers. So, I can't have dogs placed out of the box but am I OK to rig bears from inside the box or I just can't have any dogs trained to pursue on the road at all until 6:30 A.M.? So, what if I'm traveling the road with my dogs in the box to get to a certain mountain range before the official rigging time and my dogs rig a bear on the way there, does that mean I am noncompliant with the law? Also, how do these rules apply to people hunting off horses who don't have a box? Am I not allowed to leave my home or camp until 6:30 A.M. to travel to my desired hunting designation due to the fact that my dogs will most likely rig on the way there? Where do we draw the line with traveling and rigging? Why would rigging a bear before daylight cause any type of harm to anyone as long as the dog doesn't pursue, hunt or harvest a bear before legal hours? If this new proposal of rigging at official hunting hours goes into effect, are you going to reconsider every start time all hunters and huntresses? For example, archery hunters who walk to their tree stands before daylight or any other big game hunter who hikes the mountains early in the morning to be able to get to their scouted spot before daylight? Waterfowl hunters that launch their duck boats and set up decoys before legal shooting time? If anyone has been to Farmington Bay the night before the opener, you can see that people are camped in their boats at their favorite hunting spot to save their spot. Also, backpackers, who may be backpacking into their desired areas days before the actual hunt. Are you going to restrict every outdoor enthusiast? Also, your own activities and start time due to the fact that it looks like us houndsmen are intending to hunt before legal hunting hours? Also, I think this will cause congested areas. I can only imagine every houndsmen up the canyon, bumper to bumper waiting to rig. It may not seem like a big deal but if you have ten trucks and each of those trucks have ten dogs, that's 100 dogs in one area. That seems more chaotic to me than just letting us single file. Also, I'm concerned with the new proposal that the congestion of houndsmen parading around could potentially cause the delay for emergency personnel to react to an emergency situation and/or other hunters. We're not the only ones on the mountains. We want to share the mountains with everyone and it's hard to do so with the new rules.

Matt Farnsworth/Houndsmen Association – I like going in the middle of the pack because some of you have already stole some of my thunder so I appreciate that. A couple things I want to talk about. The Utah Houndsmen Association supports the DWR proposals except for two items. One being the increase of tags on the Bookcliffs unit. The archery hunt that they eliminated, statistically, historically had a 0% success. By moving those tags over to the other hunts, you

already increased the permits by seven tags, with a nine tag increase you are increasing a total of 16 tags which falls outside the plan. We decided as a group that we want to put our money where our mouth is. If you feel that those nine tags are something that needs to happen or you're concerned about eliminating them from another sportsman group, take them from us. Take them out of the Spring pursuit season. That's how strongly we feel about it. We don't want to restrict other people's ability to hunt. So, take it from us. Let us put our money where our mouth is.

Secondly, we do not support the rigging rule. You've heard a lot of great examples that are a lot better than anything I have on my paper today. I'll just leave you with my personal spin on things. Some of you on the board know that I'm a police officer. If I am charged with any wildlife crime, I lose my job. My kids lose their house. That's just a fact. I hunt off a 4-wheeler, ATV 100% of the time. I don't have a box. I rig my dogs off my 4-wheeler from the time I leave my house, from the time I leave my camp until the time I get back. This rule, if I have a dog that stays out after dark and I have to go and collect him, I'm in violation of this rule. If I'm charged with it, I lose my job. It doesn't seem like a fair outcome. We already have a rule that says we can't speed so do we really need a rule that says we can't speed after dark as well? We can't pursue bears before the legal time limit. That's well established. We already have that law on the books and the Houndsmen Association supports that 100%. The rigging law takes that just a little bit farther than the spirit of the law intends. Do any of you guys have questions for me? I believe you all received a copy of the e-mail and if you need any clarification of that, please don't hesitate to contact any of us.

Colton Belliston – Some of my concerns are on the graph that you were showing of harvest numbers. In 2014 we had a harvest success of 50%. Just four years later, as of last year, 2018, it dropped to 41%. It's a 9% drop. Why is that drop? Is it because people just aren't being as successful or is that because the bears aren't really there to begin with? I tend to think that it's because the bears aren't there to begin with. You know, bear hunting with hounds is a fairly successful thing to do. So, how in those four years does that drop 9%, yet we just keep raising tags? Every year it's just more and more tags. Are we just raising tags because there's more interest in people wanting to hunt bear? Are we raising tags because the bears are actually there? Also, we're raising tags again after drastic droughts. We've had bad droughts this year and we've had fires. There's been a lot of concern with cub survival rates and it's a pretty well-known fact that with very dry seasons the bears don't have the vegetation that they need to be able to cycle properly to reproduce. On dry years they don't reproduce like they do when they have the forage that they need.

When it comes to the rigging hours, what are we really trying to accomplish on that? And how are we actually going to effectively be able to charge somebody for doing that? There's so much gray area left with that intent that really, you would have a very hard time probably in a lot of cases being able to even prosecute it. Like they are saying, you can rig from having your dogs inside the box. If you get pulled over just driving up the road and your dogs are just barking. Painting the picture of that intent is, there's way too much gray area there that is left up to too much interpretation. Also, right now there's a lot of hunters out, people are spread all over the mountain and we're going to congest everybody. You're going to cause more problems between houndsmen, you're going to bring more attention to us and probably get just as many complaints. Chet Young – Just several comments. The rigging law, I think most of that comes from down on the Southern part of the state: Lasals, San Juan. I know all houndsmen aren't perfect. I can tell you I spent 60 days down there the last couple of years and never had a run in with an officer. I've never had a run in with another houndsman. If there's a few guys out there that's pushing these rigging laws, to be reworded and changed, give them the ticket. Throw the book at them. Let's not change the wording so that it effects everyone of us that's out trying to gather up a dog and trying to do the right thing. Second thing is, on the Bookcliffs, it's an increase of nine tags this year plus seven tags that are coming from the late archery season which has been a 0% success rate. So, that is actually an increase of 16 tags. I would like to ask that somehow, that be

brought down to nine tags, just to fit the plan. If you have a 0% success rate on a hunt for a couple of years, those tags shouldn't be in the pool

The last thing is, any harvest objective with hounds, I'm strongly against. I think it'll give houndsmen a black eye. Especially, where it's in the fall in the Northern part of the state. There's only a handful of tags across the state so there'll be a lot of houndsmen wanting that tag and wanting to be able to go and hunt so it'll congest everybody that doesn't have a tag for the fall up in that area and I think it'll be bad for the houndsmen. I think it'll be bad for the private property owners. I think it'll be bad for the public in general. Thanks for your time.

Jason Binder – I'm not even going to touch the rigging rule because the way we're going, there's not going to be a bear left to rig. We increased tags the last ten years. We should have been following the plan since 2011-2012 with the stabilization of tags. We haven't seen that yet and here we are again. Last year we raised 102 tags. This year we're raising another 145 tags so that's 247 tags. 15 years ago, we only gave out 300 tags. So, now we're pushing the numbers of 1000 bear tags. Why? The bear population hasn't changed. Just because there's more people putting in for bear tags, doesn't mean the population can sustain the type of hunting opportunities that we want to put out. You're talking about an animal that sleeps 6-7 months out of the year and is not hurting our ecosystem. They do get a few sheep and they are either killed for being the offending animal or the rancher is paid their money. I can't see why we have to keep increasing tags every year. To do the right thing on this plan, we should back up three years and go with those tag numbers and let that roll for three years and see exactly where we're at on a bear population. We have no clue where the bear population is. It's a mathematical number. Over the years where we don't have any cub recruitment, where are we going to be ten years from now? If everybody is killing 10-12 year old bears because they want a trophy, a three year old bear is not a trophy, that's like shooting a doe deer and mounting it and putting it on your wall. This needs to be a quality hunt and a quality animal and we need a sustainable population in Utah.

### **RAC Discussion**

Ben – I took down a few notes as we went through the public comments. I wrote down a few things that came up. The rigging rule, the Bookcliffs tag increase, general opposition to tag increase, and opposition to harvest objective with hounds. I'll open it up to the RAC members for discussion.

Brock – Darren, can you explain the reason behind the rigging rule? I really appreciate all the comments from the public and I'm a real fan of public input. So, we're trying to understand the conflict here.

Darren – On that note, I apologize. Again, from the RAC thank you for the public comment. We do hear your comments and we take them in to consideration and definitely weigh them in our decision. As a note, obviously decisions don't always go somebody's way. That doesn't mean that we didn't hear you. We definitely heard every comment, so thank you for that. Maybe the easiest place to start is to actually read the definition that's in the rule on rigging.

Brock – I can read that today but I'm trying to understand why everyone is in opposition to that.

Darren – Here's the intent. There's always been a limitation to hunting hours. That hasn't changed. We've had some problems in the field in some units more than others with enforcing those rules and we wanted to try and clarify what we meant by hunting. So, this is what the definition is. We're saying that you can't rig a dog. What does that mean? In the rule it says, "rigged for the purposes of this rule means the act of having dogs trained in pursuit placed outside of a dog box, kennel, crate or similar enclosure while being transported on a motorized vehicle for the purpose of locating or pursuing bear." So, if they're outside of a box for the purpose of pursuing and locating a bear, we're defining that as, you are hunting bears and you can't do that outside of the legal hunting hours. If you've got a dog on a 4-wheeler and you're running back to camp, that's not for the purpose of hunting or pursuing bears, that's not included in this definition of rigging. If you're transporting dogs to a hunting site, but you are not pursuing or hunting bears, you're not rigging for bears. So, you have to be actively locating or pursuing a bear in order to

meet this definition. That puts the burden on the division. We have to prove your intent. We have to do that anyway. This is an attempt to clarify what we mean and what we expect and the things that we're going to look at when we're trying to make those cases. I hope that clarifies our intent.

Brock – How has it changed from the old rule?

Darren – In the old rule we didn't define rigging. It just said you couldn't hunt or pursue bears from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. This is an attempt to clarify what we mean. The old rule didn't have a definition.

Steve – Can I make a comment while he is looking this up? As I read this rule, that you just read, to me this puts the law officers in a pretty bad situation on the mountains because they have to make some decisions out there that they really shouldn't have to make. This is just my opinion.

As I look at this, it says, "having dogs trained in pursuit" how do you tell if your dogs are rigged, if they're actually trained in pursuit or if you're hauling them on an ATV or 4-wheeler outside of a box? Or if you're on horseback? That right there puts that law officer in a no-win position. It would be difficult for him to make that determination out there. I think about hunting elk and if you're cow calling an elk long before the hunting hours, are you hunting that elk? Probably so, but it would be tough to call in my opinion. I just think it puts these law officers in a bad position and frankly, I'm not a bear hunter but I see this rigging rule as a problem.

Darren – This was an attempt by our law enforcement to try and clarify what we meant. Here's what the rule used to say: "bear may not be taken or pursued only between one half hour before official sunrise through one half hour after sunset" except during the summer season when that begins at 5:00 a.m. That's what it used to say. What we've added is a sentence that says dogs may not be rigged from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise. So, we're just saying you can't, as I defined rigging. So, that's what we're proposing tonight.

Ben – The way I interpret this, what the DWR is trying to do is add some teeth to that to where they can actually say, this person is hunting outside of hunting hours and this is why. This is a tough one because I think there was a lot of good... I think the intent is pure and I think the Houndsmen Association would agree with that. I've talked to Aaron about this issue. Maybe you could talk a little bit more. As I've talked through this with Aaron and it has been brought up to me, the concern is somebody who picks up their dog and is on their way back to camp after dark, they're not hunting anymore but like the gentleman that hunts on a 4-wheeler doesn't have a box and he's only got one way to haul their dog. That's technically in rigging position. I don't want to penalize that guy. How does law enforcement interpret that? Is it even enforceable with that language?

Darren – I think what we're trying to do is be more specific about what we mean when we say, hunting. This was our recommendation to try and clarify that. If we don't add that, and we just leave it as is, it doesn't really change a lot. They're still going to have to prove that someone had a dog that's trained in pursuit and they are attempting to locate or pursue a bear.

Ben – The thing I don't personally like about it is we already have a rule that says it's illegal to hunt outside of hunting hours and I hate regulation on top of regulation to enforce the regulation that's already there. That's my opinion.

Ken – I just want to hear again from this gentleman that's the police officer on how he does his hounds and how it can affect his job. I'd like him to come up and explain that again.

Matt Farnsworth – So, I'm governed by two separate bodies. POST: Police Officers Standard in Training and BCI: Bureau of Criminal Investigation. If I am charged with any wildlife violation, I lose my clearance through BCI. I cannot do my job. Any wildlife violation is sent to POST for review. At a minimum I would be suspended for a period of one year if I'm found guilty of that charge. The BCI stuff I lose instantly upon being charged.

I hunt off an ATV 100% of the time. The Nebo unit is the majority of where I hunt. I live at the base of it. I go out in the morning, I unkenel my dogs, I put collars on them, I put two on the front rack and two on the back rack and I drive up the canyon. From my house, it might take me an hour to get to where I prefer to hunt. There is the possibility of me hitting a bear track on the

way sooner than that hour but that's how I transport my dogs, to and from every day. They are exactly in that rigging position.

Danny – Because you're an officer, you're confronted with a whole issue of, is it enforceable? Do you think that rigging rule, in your mind, and you deal with a lot of stuff where you have to make these kinds of decisions daily.

Matt Farnsworth – Let me say this, I support the wildlife section and especially the enforcement section, 110%. I would be all for giving them any tool that they could use. As I mentioned in my presentation, we already have a law that says we can't speed. We already have a law that says we can't hunt bears a half hour before official sunrise. Do we need one that says we can't speed before dark? I don't think we do. I definitely see some legal challenges but that's my perspective on that.

Ben – Do we have DWR LE presence here tonight?

Ray Loken – My area of responsibility is Salt Lake and Tooele counties and we don't hunt bears there. I've been there a long time so I don't have to deal with this. I really am not the best guy to ask. I wish we had someone from San Juan county here. I do see there's challenges with it.

Josh – May I ask you one question? The old rule said taken or pursued, so the example where someone is running up the canyon, in the old rule they would technically have to wait until 30 minutes prior to sunrise to actually get off of the 4-wheeler

Ray Loken – Yeah, to set the dogs out and let them go. You have to wait for the time period. I can see the problem. I assume just from listening what we're talking about here, it's basically, somebody might be driving up the road at four in the morning to go to where they're going and the dogs start barking. They know that they've caught a track so they're going to stop and wait till the proper time and then let the dogs out. But some people I guess are not waiting the proper amount of time.

Ben – From that perspective, I don't know they are Brock because how is that different

Brock – If they let their dogs out

Ben – If they let their dogs out, yes. But say as an elk hunter driving down the road on my 4-wheeler and I hear a bugle and hour or two before daylight and I stop because there's an elk there so I'm going to go wait until light to go hunt

Danny – That was an assumption. I was bugling, I was practicing.

Ben – I am struggling with this one. I get the intent and I like the intent but it feels like there's a lot of ways to make criminals of good people here. It also feels redundant.

Mike – I tend to agree with you, Ben. What keeps popping in to my mind is, I've never been to the Paunsagaunt but I've had a lot of people tell me that it's pretty bright at night out in the desert where people are spotlighting all night long looking for bucks to go back and shoot the next morning. It feels like it's a noble idea but maybe it has some unforeseen issues with it.

Steve – I spoke with five different houndsmen and every one of them said basically the same thing. If they're driving up the road and all of the sudden their dogs start barking and it's one or two hours before, they wait. Frankly, I think probably 99% of the houndsmen do that. I would recommend that we prosecute the SOB's that don't and leave the good people alone.

Ken – I would like to make a proposal to not approve the new rigging rule as presented.

Seconded by Steve

Ben – Let me restate the motion. The motion is to not approve the new rigging rule. Is that sufficient?

#### **Discussion on the motion**

Mike – I agree with you, I just wonder, does this give direction to the board that they'll understand what we mean by this, to just revert to the old language?

Ben – Karl is this sufficient for the board?

Brock – I'd like to make a comment that this is because of the public input. There's nobody in here talking the other side from the public. There's only one side being represented here and I recall back to the new muzzleloader hunts, the public said no and we voted against it.

## VOTING

Motion was made by Ken, seconded by Steve to not approve the new rigging rule

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, George, Danny, Christine

Opposed:

Motion passes unanimously

Ben – We have more to discuss. Does anyone have any particular item that they want to discuss?

Mike – I like what Chet said about the harvest objective quota of three tags. In the new unit that you've created with the private lands and since it is a new unit, that overlaps a lot of big game hunting seasons. I can see that. I can see what Chet is saying that that is an issue. I know a lot of landowners up in that area that wouldn't appreciate a pack of hounds running through there. Their paid client's deer hunt. So, I'd probably recommend we move that quota of three from the fall season to the spring season and have a quota of six. That's something I'd like to look in to. I don't know what the RAC's feeling on that.

Ben – Is that a motion or discussion?

Mike – I'd just look for discussion. I don't mind hearing other people's opinions before we vote. I think it's good to bounce things around. Maybe something is thought of that I'm not thinking of.

Brock – Darren, I'm sure you worked this out with the regional biologist, right? And they think this is a good idea?

Darren – Right, and this came at the request of landowners on this unit that they wanted the tools to handle their own problems. There were a lot of different options that we talked about but this was the easiest with our current system. Just to allow a harvest objective strategy so, if they have bears that are causing problems with their livestock, they can go buy a permit or get someone that they know to go buy a permit over the counter and come and handle that problem. I think if we take those out of the fall, we'd be eliminating a fall hunt and they wouldn't be able to do anything during that time frame. So, we tried to limit it to those units that are primarily private and that's really the bottleneck, is access on those units. Those are some of the discussions, Mike.

Mike – So, that idea did come from landowners in that area?

Darren – Yeah.

Danny – I would like to compliment the division on the whole. Bear regulations, as I was telling Christine, for our almost 100 year old nonprofit foundation now have always been the most controversial and we'll see that again tonight. Almost split right down the middle but most of the issues were between what we called baiting vs. fair chase. So, I just wanted to compliment the division for offering an increased number of what we would call fair chase type of opportunities in the field because, really for most of us, it's not about killing something. Other than me, I like to kill everything but seriously, truly I think the biggest value for the public is just getting out. Getting out in the field and I just want to compliment you guys for giving us that opportunity or that reason to maybe leave the house.

Brock – Are we ready to move on? Darren, I'm going to have to ask you to come back up again. So, there's been a lot of comment on increasing tags. I just want to reiterate all the recommendations are based on the management plan. So, if we're harvesting too many old animals or not enough females, you recommend an increase. I do understand the concerns about the Lasals and the Bookcliffs. I just talked to Dustin and he said that there were no cubs this year and that they had 20% yearling survival. There were not bears euthanized for starvation. Six bears were euthanized in the whole region, none for starvation. One was in poor shape of the six euthanized.

Darren – Under the plan, based on these parameters, we would have been recommending an increase in permits but because of those reasons we're not recommending a change on those units.

Mike – My math showed around 200-215 spot and stalk permits. Off of those, you're thinking there'd be a success rate of around 10-15%?

Darren – Right, on dense bear units. So, if you have less density of bears it'd probably be less.

Mike – So, while it looks like we've ballooned permits a lot of that increase is gone to spot and stalk?

Darren – Yeah, out of the 145 increase, that includes quota, about half of that is in these spot and stalk opportunities with low success rate.

Mike – That's kind of my point. We've heard that there's been this big increase over the last few years but the lot of that increase is coming off the backs of non houndsmen who are going to have a 10% success rate.

Darren – Right, it's an opportunity hunt. You know, a lot of our neighboring states, that's how they hunt bears. It's spot and stalk hunts, primarily and those success rates are fairly low.

Ben – Darren don't go too far. I'd like to address the Houndsmen Association concern about the Bookcliffs. They're looking for no increase there and part of their reasoning is because of those seven tags from the archery hunt that got eliminated. I think it was stated that it was 0% success rate there but I don't believe that's accurate. I think there was some harvest there. I know it's been a minimal success rate.

Darren – Right, I don't know off the top of my head but it certainly wasn't 50 it was definitely lower.

Ben – Was that taken into consideration when making the recommendation of the addition nine on top of those?

Darren – I think what we did was, we took the level of permits and made the recommendation based on that. I think that's a fair critique that we are taking some permits out of a low success opportunity and putting them into a higher success opportunity. I think that's fair. I think we thought about that but I think that those impacts would be a little different than they would if they were permits that just were there and normal opportunity.

Josh – I have another question. As I've already stated, I'm glad to see the three-year interval change. I think that is going to provide a lot more data and answer a lot of the questions that have been voiced in terms of actually counting the number of bears on the mountain. When you recommended the increase this year, would have that recommendation looked different— I'm sure you took into account this increase given that it's technically not supposed to change for the next three years, if it was going to change say for one year again, would have that recommendation looked any different?

Darren – I think based on what we've been doing over the last three or four years, we've been making recommendations yearly and we're still basing it on a three-year prior and so I think it's fair to say we've been increasing faster than the plan spells out so really, this is an opportunity and we're making the recommendation now that we revisit the plan from this point moving forward. If we had a three-year cycle two years ago then the objective then would be to stick with what we had that year but that's kind of water under the bridge at this point. Again, those recommendations are still based on the plan and made based on three years of data.

Mike – So, based on what Darren said about the Bookcliffs, I would make the motion that we reduce the division's recommendation of an increase of nine permits to an increase of two permits which takes in account the seven archery permits.

Ben – Is that a motion?

Mike – Yes.

Ben – Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Josh to reduce the Book Cliffs unit permit increase from nine to two.

George – That is just on the Book Cliffs, right?

Brock – Ben, I wish somebody knew what the harvest success rate was on the archery so that we were increasing by nine tags. So, if they are having a 20% increase, maybe we're increased by three or four instead of by nine.



Ben – While Darren is looking that up, I would like to add to that. I called Dax Mangus this evening on my way here to ask about this specific issue on the Bookcliffs. For those that don't know, he's the regional wildlife supervisor in the Northeastern Region. The feedback that he gave me on this is, the reason they are looking for a tag increase out there, one, it falls within the plan. The plan supports it. Also, they've got some real adult deer survival issues out on that unit that he believes are not entirely related but somewhat related to bear predation. It was an interesting conversation. One of the things that he doesn't know for sure, they're going to be doing some studies starting next year. A lot of collar studies out there... Oh starting tomorrow. Maybe Brock can fill in where I missed. It sounds like he's well informed. There was a study done in Colorado that's very similar unit to the Bookcliffs where they found that in high density bear areas, the bears were taking over lion kills. So, the bears may not actually be killing the animals but they are taking over the kills and thus increasing the lion take. Long story short he said the reason for the increase was to address the low adult survival rate on deer. He mentioned elk also.

Brock – To give you a little perspective, average adult deer survival for the entire state is 86% and on the Bookcliffs this year it's 64%

Mike – That's great information. Is that supported?

Darren – Yeah, actually we're looking at the lion/bear side of that as well. We are actually actively capturing lions right now. On the Bookcliffs we've got bear and when we detect a kill by a lion, we're going to put a camera on that kill site and see what happens. We're doing that on the Bookcliffs, on the Manti and on the Cache as well. Success rate over the past couple of years on the hunt has been 17%. There's been 17 tags so that means they kill about one bear out of those tags.

Mike – So, does what Ben said, is that supported by what you understand? Because that's not anything I heard in the presentation. That the reason for the increase is to address bear...

Darren – They're increasing within the parameters of the plan but they are being generous because they are trying to limit bear numbers and try to address some of those concerns.

Mike – I wasn't aware of that before I made my motion. After hearing you say that, I withdraw my motion.

Ben – Information I got out of Dax earlier this evening, I felt that it was relevant to the discussion.

Mike – I agree 100%. I think that should be expressed.

Motion has been withdrawn

Ben – Let's move on. Do we have any particular items we'd like to discuss or if not we can look for a motion on the balance.

Brock – I move to approve the balance of the recommendation.

Ken- I second.

Motion was made by Brock, seconded by Ken to accept the balance of the recommendations

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Brock, Mike, George

Opposed: Christine, Danny, Steve

Motion passes 5 to 3

Comments on opposition by:

Steve – I still think that we don't have a real strong handle on the permits themselves. I think there's enough question and ambiguity in the results and the recommendation, coming from Sanpete County, I'm not exactly sure that's what I want to report to my houndsmen and public down there.

Danny – I have heard consistently from the public. The same doubts about the total numbers and maybe not in specific areas but just the total numbers. Although, I did make the comment that fair chase is only going to accommodate... It's not going to increase harvest significantly. I think that his drought and the fires have caused us some troubles that we really haven't seen the result of that yet.

**5) Pronghorn Unit Plans (Action)**  
**Riley Peck, Regional Wildlife Program Manager**

**Questions from the RAC**

Ken – I spent a lot of time this year down on the Plateau. Where do you hide the antelope down there? I wasn't hunting them, just spending a lot of time down there and I don't think I saw a group bigger than five and I bet I didn't see a group bigger than three groups. That's it and we spent days down there.

Riley – Yeah, that one is a tough one to answer. I've spent time down there as well and what I would say to that is somehow the population moves and have the ability to hide. When we do our population census and we take our data back we still have strong population numbers. So, that is an interesting one. I think historically, they have been higher in the past and so it gives the impression that maybe they are not doing well but according to the population objective, we still have a strong population there and they are doing well. They may be a little tougher to find but they are still doing well.

Ben – Sounds to me like they're taking notes from the Wasatch elk.

Mike – What is your urban antelope plan?

Riley – That's a good question. Sometimes, with urban pronghorn, they take care of themselves. We've had issues around Herriman, we have issues now with Saratoga Springs. The Herriman ones, they seem to take care of themselves except for just a few animals and we did have to trap a few or euthanize a few and that's the same with Saratoga Springs. We hope that as the building continues, because they did migrate a little bit south, as the building continues, they might migrate back in but if they do and they become trapped like the ones in Herriman then we will address that at that time.

Mike – Do you look forward to try and transplant those or just euthanize?

Riley – We did. If we can trap them, we did move them further out within the unit so that they hopefully don't come back.

Mike – I don't know that you can answer it specifically because you're not over it but the like the Cache/Rich herd, there's a population objective of 600. If I go into unit 100 in Wyoming I can see 600 antelope and see the Utah border from the same spot. Do we count those antelope when they come in to Utah? How does that population?

Riley – Like I said, I'm not over it so to speak to that specifically is tough. I know that in areas where we have migrating animals, we do the best that we can to estimate the number of animals that are there for the majority of the time. Our population objectives that we take into consideration is for the available space that we have within the current unit boundaries. So, I don't know if someone wants to speak further to that but I think we do the best that we can at making an objective that can be held within that area. We understand that some of the animals are going to come, some are going to go and we'll just move accordingly.

Justin Shannon/Wildlife Section Chief – One thing that we've done is put a lot more GPS collars out on pronghorn. Last year we put 75 on the Parker Mountain because, you bring up a good question, where are they going, we'd like to understand that better as well. I think that as we put out more collars, we're going to have a better understanding of, do we have the appropriate boundaries for these things. So, we've got a lot to learn.

Brock – I talked to Jim Lamb just the day before yesterday about that. He said that they've all moved in to the trees. They live in the pockets within the trees. They aren't in the open like they were ten years ago.

Ken – I went through the trees. I went through the Quakies and I went through the pines. I covered that whole mountain from North, to South, East and West.

Danny – One more question/comment. We do have a herd where we know where they are. They probably came off of Antelope Island, right? Yesterday, I counted 62 antelope in a herd right there just West of the International Center. A great watchable wildlife. Oh, my golly, it's just awesome. No big bucks. What's our thoughts there? Are we just going to start transplanting those critters somewhere else because they really have nowhere else to go? We're going to put a prison in there. We're going to put an inland port in there. I don't see the future and we're putting in buildings out there like crazy. So, I don't really see a bright future for antelope in that area. At least not in the numbers that we see now. What's our plan?

Riley – So, that's not a problem that is new to this region and the animals that live in it. The plan is to use any and every tool that we have. Sometimes, translocating the animals makes sense. Sometimes giving additional hunting opportunities makes sense. Sometimes utilizing both or hazing. However we can address that, we are going to do. Those specific animals moving forward we're going to try and hunt them in a manner that's acceptable. Maybe archery. We're going to try and use every tool that we have in the box and sometimes one doesn't work so well. So, we have to move to the other but that is a population that we are going to try and be aggressive on hunting.

Ben – Riley, you said that antelope are becoming rather desired. The current, present public might disagree. Seeing no public, we'll just move to RAC discussion and look for a motion when we're ready.

Mike – Without further discussion, I move to approve this as presented.

Brock – Second.

Ben – So, we have a motion by Mike to approve as presented and seconded by Brock. All in favor? Passes unanimously.

#### **Questions from the Public**

None

#### **Comments from the Public**

None

#### **RAC Discussion**

None

#### **VOTING**

Motion was made by Mike, seconded by Brock to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, Mike, George, Danny, Christine

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

#### **6) Moose Unit Plans (Action) Riley Peck, Regional Wildlife Program Manager**

#### **Questions from the RAC**

Mike – Is Box Elder on the transplant list?

Riley – Yes, it's already currently there.

#### **Questions from the Public**

None

#### **Comments from the Public**

None

**RAC Discussion**

None

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Brock, seconded by George to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, Mike, George, Danny, Christine

Opposed:

Motion passed/unanimously

**7) CHA Rule Amendments (Action)  
Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader**

**Questions from the RAC**

Josh – What's the occurrence of some of these facilities coming up disease laden regularly?

Avery – I don't have data on that but to date, I'm not aware of any outbreaks in Utah. But going to some of the Gamebird Grower Association meetings and talking to our veterinarian, we have seen disease outbreaks in other parts of the country and the world. It's basically trying to get out in front of it a little bit.

Josh – You mentioned the transmission of disease from these, pen raised birds to poultry industry, have you seen that transmission occur with an adjacent Waterfowl Management Areas or native species that are already on the landscape? You just mentioned poultry so I just wondered why you singled that out.

Avery – I guess I singled out poultry industries specifically because it's a relatively low probability of occurrence by high consequence. So, there have been avian influenza outbreaks in other parts of the world that have been pretty devastating to the poultry industry. It's economically, a pretty large industry in Utah. So, we're basically trying to be consistent with other poultry gamebird growing industry standards to have some of those same disease testing requirements.

Mike – Have you found that operators are pretty good about self-reporting when outbreaks occur?

Avery – Again, we haven't had major outbreaks. They do report on the annual report but usually that's delayed anywhere from 5-6 months from when it occurs to when to report back. For one example, last year, there was a number of growers that received bad feed so we had at least a few growers that had die offs due to bad feed. It also affected our day-old chick program. If we had immediate reporting on that and communicated that to the Department of Ag, we could potentially be out in front of that and prevented additional losses.

Mike – So at the last meeting, we so eloquently heard how farmers and ranchers and the division work together. But you just stated that sharp tail hens can look like pheasant hens. So, are there any circumstances where you don't allow a CHA to occur because they could impact the sharp tail grouse?

Avery – Typically, when looking at a new CHA that is in an area that overlaps with one of our native grouse species, we might put some additional restrictions on the CHA where they are either rooster only or putting streamers on the hens.

Mike – Do we have anything like that currently?

Avery – We do have some CHA’s that have the rooster only type restrictions.

Danny – So historically I have, I grew as a pheasant hunter, my father hunted pheasants but I’ve hunted in the Howell hunt up North for many years. What I’ve seen is consistently is that what started out as a unit that was kind of, as per your description, now pretty much a patchwork quilt of private properties integrated within. So, the 300-yard marking of those properties, some of them where pheasant hunters are excluded, may not even be... the corners maybe. It’s such a mess now from what it was years ago. So, how do you all plan on dealing with that kind of a situation where it started out to be kind of a single thing is now just... people are bailing out right and left because they don’t want to be involved in the CHA.

Avery – I guess if people were bailing out of the CHA and they didn’t meet the acreage requirements then they would...

Danny – They are releasing 600 roosters in Howell every year. I think, something like that. So, the area is huge but it’s just a patchwork quilt.

Ben – I can’t help but wonder if you are confusing a CHA with a management unit.

Danny – Maybe, I might.

Avery – These are commercial areas where someone would pay to go hunt and pay for released birds.

Ben – This is a pheasant farm.

Danny – Sorry, my bad.

**Questions from the Public**

None

**Comments from the Public**

None

**RAC Discussion**

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Danny, seconded by Steve to accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, Mike, George, Danny, Christine

Opposed:

Motion passes unanimously

**8) Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal (Action)**

**Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader**

**Questions from the RAC**

Danny – You know, we had up there in Clarks Fork, in that general area, we had a pretty significant fire up there. Will that influence moving birds from up there down to the Sheep Rock?

Avery – Are you talking about the one that came over from Nevada?

Danny – Yeah.

Avery – If you map that fire relative to our leks it actually missed all of the leks and most of the brooding and winter habitat. So, it’s not anticipating a huge impact to the sage grouse population. Where we’re typically trapping them is off of the Park Valley side.

Brock – Is there any evidence that these translocated grouse incorporate into the population very well?

Avery – They seem to be. We see a few on leks. It seems like most of the birds being counted on leks are not just the translocated birds. We seem to be actually changing the

trajectory in the population rather than just dumping birds out there to augment our counts.

Brock – I thought that I'd read in the literature that the biggest thing was the predator control. Is that true?

Avery – I would say that it is generally not. When you get very low populations like we had out on the Sheep Rock, pretty much each bird starts to matter more and more so we've got demographic still causticity where just the small dips can push it to zero. So, predator control can be more important with these small populations but generally improving habitat...

Brock – I mean habitat, but of the things that you mentioned...

Avery – Yeah, so with these small populations we're kind of doing everything we can. But in the longer term, larger scale perspective, habitat work and having sufficient cover so the birds can naturally avoid predators is more important than our active predator control.

Ken – What about these small groups of sage hens that are out? For instance, West of Nephi and out West of Eureka they seem to be getting more and more out west of Eureka and easier to find. Is there any plan of doing anything out that way?

Avery – We don't currently have any plans based on those populations. I guess I'd have to look at the map to see exactly what birds you're talking about but I believe those would be outside of a SGMA. So, our efforts are focused within. Jason might know what you're talking about a little better.

Jason Robinson/Upland Game Coordinator – The birds out in that area, the East Tinic (sp) Mountains, up there west of Nephi. Those are outside our sage grouse management areas. So, the governors office, a few years ago, put together a conservation plan for sage grouse. We tried to focus our conservation efforts on specific populations. The Sheep Rock population is an SGMA (sage grouse management area). The East Tinic's (sp) are not in a SGMA. So, we're focusing most of our effort in the Sheep Rock. The East Tinic (sp) birds seem to be doing well. The habitat hasn't changed that much. Most of our conservation efforts are directed to the Sheep Rock.

George – In order for a lek to be a lek, it's got to be active for three years. So, you're saying the U?? lek has been active the 2016, 2017 and this last year 2018. Is that correct?

Avery – No. We need to be active through two years and the new lek we found last year wouldn't be incorporated into the data set until we count it this year.

Steve – Can you go back to your population graph that showed Sheep Rock and the state? Where things start going out of phase there in about 2011, 2012? Do you ever expect that Sheep Rock sage grouse population to come back into phase with the state or are there external influences that keep it out of phase?

Avery – I would guess that if we get it back to a healthy population those same factors that are influencing the rest of the populations in the state would influence the Sheep Rocks in the same way and it probably would go back in.

Steve – So, you can categorize what those external forces are?

Avery – We don't have a great idea of what is driving the cycles in sage grouse populations.

Mike – I think it is funny Ken brought up the same thing I was going to talk about. So, you have a population of birds west of Nephi that is doing really well. So, can you use that as a population to translocate out of or does it have to be a dedicated?

Avery – We could potentially use that population to translocate out of. I think it's still relatively small low-density population, relative to the larger populations in Box Elder and Parker Mountain that we are translocating out of.

Jason Robinson – Those birds specifically are probably too close to the Sheep Rock population, so if we moved them, they would very likely just fly right back. That's why we like to take them from a greater distance to make sure that they stay. We want them to stay.

Danny – One thing that was left out, Robby Edgel is doing some work out there to try and improve riparian habitats with beaver analogs and the like. We've been involved with him on that and I think that's really exciting. So, is that not as important that that kind of instream habitat work?

Avery – I guess I didn't go through, I mentioned that we have done quite a bit of habitat work out there but I didn't go specifically into all of the projects out there.

Danny – That's primarily aimed at chicks, right?

Avery – Yeah, so most of the acreage, most of the work we've done out there is P/J reduction. So, when we take out P/J trees there you basically get instant habitat. Sage grouse will avoid sage brush habitat at pretty low levels of coverage. So, 4% P/J cover will pretty much exclude all sage grouse. By removing trees from some of these lower density areas where we've got remaining understory, grass forbs and sage brush will kind of create instant habitat. Then in addition to those, we've been doing some of those beaver dam analogs which help raise the water table and should create quite a bit more of those agreeing groceries that are very important for broods. Both the green plants growing and also the insects associated with that. I've got a backup slide here. So, there's all the WRI projects that have taken place in the Sheep Rocks.

Brock – Is there ever a time you say, it's not worth it for 20 males? Or do you just keep trying?

Avery – So, we're working on a revision on our conservation plan and we will address that in that plan. It's not complete yet.

Brock – I'm just asking philosophically, I don't know the answer either.

Avery – I think there is a point where you are throwing good money out.

Jason Robinson – Essentially, the conservation plan that the governor's office came up with tried to address that very question. What populations should we focus in on? So, we have populations of sage grouse that are outside these sage grouse management areas. That very question was address of, can we save this population or not? So, a good example would be, there are birds in Park City valley that are not within a sage grouse management area because of the housing developments going into that area. The Sheep Rock population, this question was asked and ultimately the decision was made to continue to put conservation efforts towards it. This proposal that the division is bringing forward is part of that plan.

#### **Questions from the Public**

None

#### **Comments from the Public**

#### **RAC Discussion**

#### **VOTING**

Motion was made by Ken, seconded by Danny to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

In Favor: Ken, Josh, Steve, Brock, Mike, George, Danny, Christine

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

**Meeting adjourned: 9:26 pm**

**In attendance: 16 public plus 8 DWR employees**

**Next board meeting: January 10, 2019 9:00 am, DNR boardroom, Salt Lake City**

**Next RAC meeting: April 9, 2019 6:30 pm, Springville Civic Ctr multipurpose room**



# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 12-4-18

Name Jason Bindo Phone Number 435-671-0687

Address P.O. Box 217 Wallburg UT 84082

Who are you representing?  self  group \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Bear recodulation

COMMENTS NO Tag 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 12-4-18

Name Chet Younger Phone Number 435-671-7255

Address 2285 E main canyon Rd Wallsburg UT 84082

Who are you representing?  self  group \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? 5 black bear

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 12-4-18

Name Coltan Bellistan Phone Number 801-669-0710

Address 200 W Elk Point Circle Woodland Hills

Who are you representing?  self  group \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Tag Raises, Hunting hours

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 12-4-18

Name Mat Farnsworth Phone Number 801-404-7071

Address 668 n 100 w Southview ut. 84655

Who are you representing?  self  group UHA

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Bear

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 Chelsea Montague Phone Number 801-597-2052

Address 4339 W. 12400 S payson, UT

Who are you representing?  self  group \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? #5 2019 Black Bear

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 Colten Christensen Phone Number 801-380-7697

Address 4339 W. 12400 S payson UT

Who are you representing?  self  group \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? #5 2019 Black Bear

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 kelly christensen Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Who are you representing?  self  group \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? #5 2019 Black Bear

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Hello,

Thank you for your time, I want to address the new proposal about the hunting hours and rigging rules.

I'm not sure how many of you are super familiar with the rules and regulations so I will be going over the current rules that are set in place, the new proposal, and the stance I take on it.

**Current rules for hunting hours:**

In the 2018 Utah black bear guidebook, on page 22, under the Hunting hours section it states, "During the spring, summer, and fall hunting seasons, you may hunt or harvest a bear from 30 minutes before official sunrise" (that would roughly be around 6:30am). It goes on to say that "Those are also the hours you may pursue a bear during the spring and fall pursuit seasons."

There are 3 key words I'd like to point out:

\* **Hunt**

\* **Harvest**

\* **Or, pursue**

I'd like to go more over the definitions of those words for more clarification. Under the definitions on page 42 in the guidebook it states:

- **Hunt:** means to take or pursue a reptile, amphibian, bird or mammal by any means.

- **Pursue:** means to chase, tree, corner or hold a bear at bay.

These rules are completely black and white for me.

1. You can't let your dogs chase bears or any other animal until 30 minutes before official sunrise.
2. You also cannot kill or harvest any animal at this time.

**New Rules:**

Page 2- #5 it states:

"Hounds cannot be rigged until legal hunting hours". (30 minutes before daylight)

"This clarifies that having dogs trained in pursuit, placed outside of a dog box, kennel, crate or similar enclosure, while being transported in or on a motorized vehicle for the purpose of locating or pursuing bear, may only occur during legal hunting hours.

To me this gives an unclear understanding and leaves a few grey areas. This leads to a flood of other questions, that are more rhetorical so I do not expect any answers. I simply want to point out the flaws of the new proposal and get your minds thinking out of the box.

1. I can't have dogs placed outside of the box, but are they okay to rig bears from inside the box?

OR

2. Is it stating that I am not allowed to have any dogs "trained to pursue" on the roads at all, until roughly 6:30 am? (legal hunting hours?)



I will now go into more depth of why this new rule is a concern to me.

### **1. Traveling**

If I travel the roads with my dogs IN THE BOX, to get to my preferred hunting spot, on the mountain range and my dogs rig a bear on my way there, (before official rigging time proposed) does this mean that I am non-compliant with the law? How does this rule apply to houndsmen that are hunting off of horses, 4wheelers, or side-by-sides, that many not have a "box"?

2. Am I not able to leave home until 6:30am to travel to my desired hunting destination due to the facts that my dogs will most likely rig on the way there?

3. Where do we draw the line with traveling and rigging?

4. Why would rigging a bear before daylight cause any type of harm to anyone, as long as a dog doesn't pursue, hunt, or harvest a bear before legal hunting hours? Etc

Anyone with any kind of houndsmen knowledge knows that if you rig a bear before legal pursuit hours. Knows you should drive a couple yards away from the rig, manage the dogs, and wait until legal hunting hours as stated in the current guidebook to put any dogs on the ground (making it so the noise of the dogs is at a minimum out of respect for campers or others in the area).

Why would this a rule need to be altered? I've heard rumors that its because others think we are "intending to hunt before legal hours" this goes directly into my next question. If this new proposal of "rigging at official hunting hours" goes in effect, are you going to reconsider start times for all other hunters/huntresses?

Would you restrict the following;

1. Archery hunters, who are walk into tree stands before daylight?

2. Any other deer, elk, or big game hunter who hike the mountains early in the morning to be able to get to their scouted spot before daylight?

3. Would scouting have some sort of regulating?

4. Waterfowl hunters that are launching duck boats, and setting up decoys before legal shooting time. (If anyone has been to Farmington bay the night before the opener you will find people sleeping in their boats on the water, to save their favorite hunting spot.)

5. Back country Backpackers, who might be backpacking into their desired hunting area, days before their actual hunt.

6. Are you going to restrict every single outdoor enthusiast's start time (including the activities you love) due to the fact that it looks like they might be "intending to hunt before legal hunting hours"?

### **Congestion**

Don't you think it would be pretty absurd for the general public to see a parade of houndsmen racing around one another to try win the first spot on the mountain, or to have more congested areas. How would it be more congested, you may ask?

With this proposal, I can only image that every houndsmen will be lined up, side by side, or bumper to bumper, waiting to rig roads. May not seem like a big deal, but let's go over some numbers for a little more of an outlook on the situation.

- If you have 10 trucks lined up idling, the noise from all the engines are going to be pretty noisy.

- Now let's say that each one of those trucks have 8 hounds in them. You now got your self roughly 80 hounds in one area.

We all know dogs will be dogs, and they will most likley all be barking at one another.

Some people might say, "Well put a handle on your dogs" Okay sure, but how do we do that? (Usually by yelling at them.)

-So now you have 10 idling trucks, 80 barking hounds, and 10 or more houndsmen yelling at their dogs to keep quiet? Sounds pretty chaotic, doesn't it?

If our goal is to have less noise on the mountain, be more respectful to the campers, and receive less complaints, will this really help achieve that goal...?

In closing, this new proposal has many legal grey areas that may leave field officers in a position of judgement that may or may not be enforceable. Most houndsmen are very mindful and respectful of the law and knowing this potentially puts us at risk of violating the law unintendedly, is very concerning.

We are never going to make everyone happy, as houndsmen, hunters, or outdoor enthusiasts. We as houndsmen are mindful that we share and coexist with others on the mountain and it's important to be respectful. We may consider and propose more education for both houndsmen and the campers.

- Houndsmen: Improve and more management of dogs with intent of respecting others.

- Campers: Help them understand houndsmen are providing a public service by push bears away from camps helping keep their camp, pets, and children safer. (This is an area seldom considered or discussed)

These are all things that should be considered. Thank you for your time and I hope you will take my remarks into consideration by leaving the hours/rigging rules as-is.

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING**  
**2215 W. Royal Hunte Dr., Cedar City Middle School**  
**Cedar City, UT**  
**December 11, 2018 6:00 p.m.**

**1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Mike Worthen made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as presented. Nick Jorgensen seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**2. 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

**MOTION:** Verland King made the motion to support the 9 tag increase on the Book Cliffs. Tammy Pearson seconded.

**VOTE:** 11 to 1 (Gene Boardman opposed)

**MOTION:** Mike Worthen made the motion to not support the change to rigging rule. Rusty Aiken seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION:** Brayden Richmond made the motion to keep the permits on the Beaver the same as they have been. Brian Johnson seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MOTION:** Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments balance as presented. Riley Roberts seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**3. Pronghorn Unit Plans**

**MOTION:** Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented Riley Roberts seconded.

**VOTE:** 10 to 2 (Tammy Pearson and Verland King oppose)

**4. Moose Unit Plans**

**MOTION:** Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Moose Unit Plans as presented. Wade Heaton seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**5. CHA Rule Amendments**

**MOTION:** Rusty Aiken made the Motion to accept the CHA Rule Amendments as presented. Brian Johnson seconded.

**VOTE:** 11 to 1 (Tammy Pearson abstained)

**6. Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal**

**MOTION:** Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal as presented. Riley Roberts seconded.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Brian Johnson Brayden Richmond Sean Kelly Riley Roberts Wade Heaton Dave Black Nick Jorgensen Sean Stewart Gene Boardman Verland King Tammy Pearson Rusty Aiken Mike Worthen	Mindi Cox Denise Gilgen Andrea Gifford Phil Tuttle Heather Talley Johnny Neil Jim Lamb Vance Munford Dave Smedley Josh Pollock Kevin Bunnell Paul Washburn Josh Carver Avery Cook Darren DeBloois Teresa Griffin Jason Nicholes Cody Evans Tyrell Orme	Donny Hunter Steve Dalton	Craig Laub

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. There were approximately 14 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:** We would like to welcome you out tonight to the Southern Utah RAC meeting. I'm Dave Black, Chairman, from St. George, representing the public at large. I'd like to start introducing the RAC members; I'll have them start with Rusty down at the far right.

**Rusty Aiken:** Thanks Dave. I'm Rusty Aiken; Cedar City at large.

**Tammy Pearson:** Tammy Pearson; Beaver County Commissioner.

**Verland King:** Verland King; Bicknell agriculture.

**Gene Boardman:** Gene Boardman; Hinckley; public at large.

**Sean Stewart:** Sean Stewart representing the BLM.

**Mike Worthen:** Mike Worthen; public at large, Cedar City.

**Nick Jorgensen:** Nick Jorgensen; non-consumptive, St. George.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Kevin Bunnell; I'm the Regional Supervisor for the Division of Wildlife.

**Wade Heaton:** Wade Heaton from Alton; at large.

**Riley Roberts:** Riley Roberts; Tropic Sportsmen.

**Sean Kelly:** Sean Kelly; Fillmore Forest Service.

**Brayden Richmond:** Brayden Richmond; Beaver Sportsmen.

**Brian Johnson:** Brian Johnson; Enoch non-consumptive.

**Dave Black:** We'd also like to recognize two of our Wildlife Board members that we have here tonight. We have Donny Hunter and Steve Dalton. Thanks for coming. The first item on the agenda is we need to approve the agenda and the minutes. I assume that everybody had a chance to look over that. I'll entertain a motion.

#### **Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)**

**Mike Worthen made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as presented. Nick Jorgensen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:**

**Dave Black:** The next item will be a Wildlife Board Meeting Update. I think that probably some of the highlights that we want to go over would be the bucks/bulls once in a lifetime recommendations. We had a number of motions here at the southern RAC and we had some proposals from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. One of them was on the Barney Top. They wanted to start a primitive weapon only area and for the first year they wanted to break that out as archery only for elk. There is quite a bit of discussion. I think that there were a lot of people interested in favor, but they didn't feel like that would move far enough along that they could make a decision. There is still a lot of homework that needs to be done. So, that didn't pass, but they recommended that they create an action item to start looking at the definition for "primitive weapons" and try to start getting things in place in case that comes to the RAC and the Board again, so we would have some clear definitions and maybe they'll get some more traction and we might see that again. There was also a discussion and a recommendation from our RAC on the Dutton late season elk. They wanted to eliminate that hunt and that went through the Wildlife Board and that motion failed. There was also a proposal from SFW on the archery only bighorn sheep on the Zion and the Newfoundland Units and that passed with the Wildlife Boards, so we will see that. There was discussion about the Panguitch Lake Unit and the early season deer hunt. There will be an early season hunt on the Panguitch Unit this next year. There was a motion that came out of the blue on the Monroe Unit. They passed to put the spike elk hunt back on that unit, a rifle hunt. Then, everything else passed as presented. Probably, just the other one, there is a lot of interest up north with the electric bike and the water fowl recommendations. What the motion was from the Wildlife Board was to accept the 2019 water fowl recommendations and rule amendments as presented, with the caveat that the electric bike be limited to a class one bike, as defined by state and federal regulations. That passed. So, those are probably some of the main highlights. I'll turn over the time to Kevin now for a regional update.

## **Regional Updates**

### **-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor**

**Kevin Bunnell:** Okay, were going to do a video here in just a minute, but hold off for just a minute. Phil put together a video for us for our end of year regional meeting that really, kind of highlights all the things that we do here. Before we get there, at the last RAC meeting, I told you that I had committed to a group of people that I was working with; that I'd highlight some of the cooperation that's going on between the Sportsmen and the agricultural community, because it seems that in this setting, we're always experiencing a conflict between those two groups. One thing that I think can really bring Sportsmen in general and all of the agricultural folks together is the wild horse issue. It's a big deal here in Southern Utah. Tammy may want to add some more to this, but anytime there are gathers or public notices, or anything that is going on relative to removing wild horses and getting more of them off the landscapes, Sportsmen-the agricultural community is already pretty well focused on that and they're pretty active in commenting on that. I think that the Sportsmen community needs to become more focused on that. You need to educate yourselves and figure out- I can help do that, but we need to figure out how to get involved in that process, because it's a big deal, especially out on our Southwest Desert Unit here in the southern region, but in several other regions around the state as well. Tammy, is there anything that you would like to add to that?

**Tammy Pearson:** I'd second that.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you. Then, if you'll turn your attention to the screen here, Phil has got a video to show us. With that, I'll turn the time back to you, Mr. Chairman.

**Dave Black:** Phil that was top notch. Thanks. The first actions item is item #5 on the agenda. It's the 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments, and Darren will be presenting that for us.

## **2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (action)**

### **-Darren DeBloois, Mammals Program Coordinator**

**Darren DeBloois:** Is that working now? Okay, good. I'll be presenting our black bear recommendations for the upcoming seasons tonight. I wanted to quickly just kind of run through how we manage black bears. This is a quick reminder for the public that are here and for the RAC members that might be a little bit newer. First of all, the mission of the Division of Wildlife Resources is to serve the people of Utah as a trusty guardian of the state's wildlife. Part of that mission is to actively manage wildlife populations, and we actively manage black bear populations. Hunting is a key component of management. If you want to do population level management, hunting is a very good tool and a useful tool for us to have. We have been managing bears as protected wildlife in Utah for about 51 years. They became protected in 1967. In the mid 80's we undertook quite a few studies to try to better understand what our bears were up to, what some of those population level interactions were. As a result of that information, in the late 90's, we put together the first black bear discussion group, which drafted a black bear management plan in 2000. That plan was revisited in 2011, and that is the plan that we are currently operating under. It began in 2011 and it runs through 2023. The plan's overarching goal is to maintain a healthy bear population, an existing occupied habitat, and expand distribution while at the same time, considering human safety, economic concerns and other wildlife species. The plan defines a healthy bear population as one with a proportion of breeding-age animals that will maintain population levels consistent with habitat, and also maintain genetic variability. So, that's what we are trying to accomplish through the plan. The plan has a couple of strategies in order to accomplish that overall goal. The first is that the-the plan spells out that we will make bear recommendations on three year harvest recommendation cycles. The reason that the plan does that- the reason that the group that discussed it and put the plan together put this into place, is that black bears are long lived, especially compared to other animals, they can easily live to be 20 years old, and even up to 30 in some instances. They have a relatively low reproductive rate. So, populations change very gradually over time. A bear only needs to produce one good litter to replace itself. Over that long period of time, those populations don't change a lot. You don't see big spikes and big crashes. The other reason that we look at these on a three year basis is, when you're trying to do a population reconstruction, and I'll show you that tonight, you can confound your data, if you're constantly increasing the number of permits of bears you're taking each year, that has a potential to make it look like you're population is growing faster than it may be growing. The idea is, we make a recommendation in year one, and then we let things stay the same for three years, and then we make the recommendation at the end of that three year period. We don't change things in between. We would also have the benefit of giving people who hunt bears a more stable management strategy. It's more predictable, things aren't changing every year, and people can get used to what we're doing and the guidebooks. I won't go into detail here unless people have questions, but just quickly- the management plan sets parameters for how we adjust permits. How permits are adjusted depends on what kind of hunt strategy the individual unit is under. There are three possible hunt strategies; light harvest, moderate harvest, and liberal harvest. Most of the units in the state-13- are under the moderate harvest category, 4 are light, and 6 are liberal. Just as a thumbnail sketch, usually with the moderate, the intent there is to maintain or slightly allow bear population to increase. Light harvest would be a harvest

strategy where we actually want to grow the number of bears in a unit, and liberal is usually placed on units where we have a lot of bears, or we have a conflict with livestock producers, or even agricultural interest, where we are actually actively trying to suppress the bear population. Then your permit adjustments are tied to these management parameters and you would adjust depending on where your three years of harvest falls within these categories. Another thing we did since last year-and we had a couple of items that came up during the RAC and Board process that the Board asked us to revisit. So, this year, we put together a black bear discussion group. The two issues specifically that the board wanted us to look at were the Book Cliffs and the La Sal hunting seasons. There was some concern, if you remember last year, about hunt dates and how that overlaps big game seasons. So, we put a group together to talk through the details on those. Since we had our group together, we also talked about a couple of other things; one- we talked a little bit about opportunities for spot and stalk hunting, so these are low success hunts that provide opportunity if people want to hunt bears, and I'll give you some more detail on that as we move through the presentation. We also had some discussions about bait stations and registration. Non-resident pursuit during spring season, that's a hot topic that we talked about. We also had some livestock producer members on that group, so we talked a little bit about livestock and the concerns that livestock producers have in relation to bears. This is a list of the organizations that were on that committee and participated. So, getting into some data; first of all, statewide harvest success since 2014 has been pretty close to 50. It dropped a little bit last year, but that was the low year. It's been between 40 and 50 percent fairly consistently. It might be worth pointing out, that's very high for the west. Most other western states are much lower, partially due to the fact that they don't allow some of the hunting methods that we allow, but we really have high success rates for bears in Utah. Then, these are just the actual harvest numbers here from 2014-2018. This is a graph that pretty much shows the same thing. The yellow line is the number of permits that we have issued over time and the red line is the number of bears harvested. It was a little bit of a down turn last year, but we still get a plateau in terms of harvest and permits. One other thing that might be worth pointing out- this is when the 2011 plan was put into place, and we actually did a three year recommendation cycle and then adjusted, but we have kind of gotten away from that in the last few years for various reasons that I'll tie in here in a minute. This is the population reconstruction that I talked about. We have talked about this before where you take harvest data-the age of animals at harvest and back calculate to try to estimate at least the trend in your bear population. This doesn't include any type of natural mortality, this is all harvest related mortality, and this is only black bears that are adults, two years and older. This does give you a good idea of what the population has one since 2008 when this graph begins. It looks like we may be reaching a peak. Things seem to be leveling off a little bit in the past couple of years. Bearing in mind that our biggest bear populations are also in areas where we are seeing a lot of drought, and so it could be as a result of some reproductive failures, especially in the southeastern part of the state. The other thing that we take into account is depredation. What this graph shows, and I hope everyone can read it, these are the damage payments that the Division made last fiscal year, so from July through June of this year, by county. So, this graph kind of gives you an idea of where the hotspots are throughout the state for bear damage. You can see Carbon, San Pete, Utah, and Wasatch are the higher ones. We always have to take this into account too, when we are trying to make our recommendations and try to work with producers where they are seeing damage. When we do have conditions where bears are getting into conflict situations, we have the option- producers have the option- of working with Wildlife Services, but as an agency, we try to increase opportunity among hunters, and so what this graph shows is Wildlife Services' harvest is this red line. That has remained fairly consistent with, again, a growing bear population and increasing numbers of permits to the public. So, as we have grown bears, the public has benefited primarily from additional hunting opportunity. We try to keep Wildlife Services' take fairly consistent. Obviously, we want them to be able to help producers, but if we have an opportunity to give a



Sportsman a permit, that's the strategy we're after. So, on to recommendations. The first thing that we are recommending this year is that we get back to that three year recommendation cycle. The recommendations that I'm making tonight would begin in 2019 and run through 2021. Then, we would take a look at the data for the last three years and come back to the RAC's with recommendations at that time. There are some safety valves here, a couple of things. First of all, if we see something in the population that warrants an emergency change, maybe we feel like permits are too high or we have unusual or continued drought and we are not seeing the production, we could bring changes back through the RAC's and the Board mid-cycle if we needed to, so if there were an emergency. If we have time to do that, it would be the preferred option. If it is an emergency situation that is time sensitive, the Division Director can always close a hunt, so there is also that option as well. The next recommendation, I just want to give a little bit of background. This graph shows the demand for bear permits since 2007. The red line are the number of applications for bear permits over time, and the yellow line are the number of resident permits that have been available over time. There is such a difference in that-remember how when you looked at the permit graph kind of went like this? There's quite a bit of difference here and just scaling it almost looks flat. Anyway, the take home here is that demand continues to increase, even at the pace that we have been offering extra opportunity for permits with the growing bear population. This is the same graph for non-residents. It shows fewer permits, but it shows basically the same thing. One thing that we are recommending this year to maybe try to alleviate a little bit of this is to offer some fall spot and stalk bear hunting opportunity. Beginning at the opening of the general muzzleloader deer season and running through the end of the general any weapon season, as we get into unit by unit permit recommendations you'll see these. So, we have selected some units to try this. One thing that we will need to do is eliminate the early baiting season on the November hunt, because that would overlap with these fall hunts, and we don't want people hunting spot and stalk with baits in the field. Just informationally, we currently have these types of hunting opportunities on the La Sal and the San Juan Units. Success on those units runs about 10 to 15 percent, so similar to some archery hunts, probably general archery season. We expect that that's probably what we would see on some of these other hunts, or maybe even a little less. Let me go back to that really quickly. We have two strategies. We want to try to do these two different ways. One is by offering a number of permits through the draw that people can draw and then hunt these seasons and then also, we are offering a few that are harvest objective seasons. So, the permits are unlimited, but we would have a quota and the hunt would shut down when those bears were taken. We want to see which one works better, so we are going to try two different ways on different units. Our next recommendation, this is the season date question that the group tackled at the request of the Wildlife Board. We are recommending that we change the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek/South seasons by eliminating the archery only season, opening the hunt on the first Saturday in August and running it through November 14<sup>th</sup>, with no dogs allowed from the opening of the limited entry archery elk season through October 1<sup>st</sup>. So, that hunt would open a couple of weeks earlier than it currently does for Houndsmen and they could hunt that period of time in August before the archery season is open and close the hounds during the archery seasons. That's where we get the most conflict between users is when hounds are in the fields and archers are in the field at the same time. It would open up again to Houndsmen beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>. The other change to seasons that we are recommending, is adjusting the spot and stalk season on the La Sal and San Juan to match everywhere else so that opener on the muzzleloader deer season through the any weapon season. It's a little different now, but we're recommending that we just make that consistent. All of the other seasons that you have in your packets are just adjusted for calendar, so we are not recommending any changes to any of those other seasons. So, we'll move on to unit by unit recommendations. If the notes are in green, that indicates a change, so we are recommending nine additional limited entry permits on the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek/South. We are recommending two quota spot and stalk permits, so it would be a quota of

two that fall season on the North Slope/Three Corners/West Daggett. That unit has six limited entry permits and then a quota of five, two of which would be spot and stalk. On the South Slope Bonanza Diamond Mountain, three spot and stalk quota in addition to the 31 permits for other seasons out there. In the Northern Region, Northern has hunted bears; they don't have a lot of bears in that part of the state, up until this year. They put all of their units into two hunts. The Northern Region has a lot of private land and we have land owners that have had concerns about bears that get into sheep. We kind of went around and around on this in the group. What we are recommending this year is to split out the private land units in the Northern Region; Chalk Creek East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich, put some quota hunts on those units, so that a landowner, if they've got a problem with a bear, they can go buy a harvest objective permit and then handle their own problem in addition to the assistance that they get from Wildlife Services. We're also recommending an additional five spot and stalk permits on the Chalk Creek East Canyon/Morgan-South Rich, and then the other two hunting units up there would be Cache Ogden with nine total permits, five of which would be spot and stalk, the Kamus North Slope Summit with 26 permits, five of which would be the fall spot and stalk. This does affect a conservation tag. Currently, there is a conservation tag that is Chalk Creek Kamus North Slope, so if we move Chalk Creek out, that changes that. We'll bring that up with the Board, but I just wanted to make sure that the RAC was aware and if you want to weigh in, you're obviously welcome to do so. For the Central Region, the Central Mountains Nebo, there are 20 spot and stalk permits. On the Wasatch West Central, we are recommending an additional two permits. The Central Mountains Manti North, 20 spot and stalk permits. The Manti South San Rafael North, 20 spot and stalk permits. No changes on the La Sal's. Nine Mile, 20 spot and stalk quota on the Nine Mile. No change on the San Juan. For the Southern Region, on the Beaver, we are recommending two fewer permits this year. On the Dutton, we are adding two. On the Panguitch Lake/Zion, adding three. On the Paunsaugunt, we are recommending adding one. On the Plateau Boulder/Kaiparowits, 20 spot and stalk permits, and on the Plateau Fish Lake, two additional permits. So, those are our permit and harvest recommendations. Moving on to some rule changes that we're recommending; we changed the language in the depredation portion of the black bear rule to allow a landowner to designate a person that could help in control situations, so if we've got problems, especially in the Southeastern Region where bears get into watermelon and sunflower crops. This is similar to what we do with the lion rule. We allow a person- we can issue them a damage tag to try to help take that bear and they could designate someone to get that permit. They can't charge for it, and they don't get to keep the animal. This is strictly for damage-to address damage situations. The second recommendation that we are making; in the Southeastern and Northeastern part of the state where we've got a lot of interest in bear hunting, we have had some concerns with people rigging dogs and running all night, trying to pick up a track. This is causing a little bit of conflict among users. It has also made it difficult on our law enforcement section to try and enforce. We've already got legal hunting hours, but this is enough of a gray area. We have had enough concern that we thought we would try to address this. What we're recommending is that dogs may not be rigged, (and I'll give you the definition for "rigged" here in a second) dogs may not be rigged from one half hour after sunset to one half hour before sunrise, so they can't be rigged outside of legal hunting hours, except during the summer pursuit season when legal hunting hours begin at five A.M. Essentially, you can't have dogs rigged outside of legal hunting hours. Now, the key here is what "rigged" means in the rule. It means to have trained dogs placed outside of the dog box, kennel, or crate while being transported in or on a motorized vehicle for the purposes of locating or pursuing a bear. So, one thing that has come up in the first couple of RAC's is "What if I have a dog that's lost and all I've got is a four-wheeler and I want to go pick it up?" If you did that and you are not pursuing a bear, that wouldn't be included in this definition. We'll get to talk more about that, I think. I know that the Houndsmen have sent a letter, so I'll leave it at that for now. We are recommending modifying the firearms and archery equipment portion of the rule, just to match the new

changes in the big game rule. It allows air bows, just so it's consistent. We cleaned up some language in the rule. There was actually a little bit of a discrepancy between the guidebook and the rule on requirements for dog handlers and who can pursue and when they can pick up dogs that get separated during a pursuit. We just tried to make that language consistent throughout the rule. We added a little bit of language to the portion of the rule that talks about bait and dogs. What we are recommending is that the rules say that a person may not intentionally start rigged dogs that are registered bait station or take with dogs a bare lured to a bait station. The key change there is "intentionally." Sometimes we have folks that accidentally run into bait because they start on a track and the bears hit the bait and their dogs hit it and so we added that clarification so that if we can prove that someone intentionally takes their dogs to bait and starts a hunt that would be against the rule. Then, we're also clarifying on the requirements where baits cannot be placed. First of all, they have to be 100 yards from water or a public road, or a half a mile from any permanent dwelling or campground. That hasn't changed. There was some language in there about that gave the Division the discretion to restrict baits in other situations and it was vague enough that it made our attorneys nervous, so we struck that. I think as a practical matter, these two restrictions are sufficient. We are recommending that we modify the check-in portion of the rule to include when a person checks a bear in after the hunt that they can check and have a permanent tag placed at a regional office or by a Division representative. The rule before said that a regional office or conservation officer, but in practice, we don't just make conservation officers check all these animals. Biologists do it as well, so we just wanted to make sure that reflected what we're actually doing. We're also asking for an exact location of kill when bears are checked in. That's it.

**Dave Black:** Okay thank you, Darren. Are there any questions from the RAC?

#### **Questions from the RAC:**

**Riley Roberts:** Thank you, Darren. The first question is on the permit demand. Is there a way to find out the breakdown? I know a lot of people bank points on actual applications looking to draw, versus those who are just building points. That total number is everything included, correct?

**Darren DeBlois:** I think the numbers we saw tonight are not people put in for points. It doesn't include people putting in for points.

**Riley Roberts:** And then the second question, just because I know it's probably going to be a topic that gets discussed, is the rigging. Can you give us a little bit more of a background on how this came about?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah. So this is not something that the discussion group discussed. This is something that came up internally. On those units like the La Sal's and the Book Cliffs, where we have a lot of people hunting bears, a lot of out-of-state interest, we're hearing that hunters are coming into conflict on those units. What's happening is that some people are rigging their dogs on their vehicles and they're driving all night long, and as soon as the dogs hit on a track, then they'll camp out on that spot, and then as soon as legal hunting hours arrive, they'll let the dogs go. The conflict arises when some people feel like, "Well, that's hunting...you're pursuing a bear outside of legal hunting hours!" So there's kind of this gray area. We had some people that felt one way and some people felt another way, so this was an attempt to lay the ground rules, so everybody's on the same page and this is what's legal and this is what isn't. The current rule, basically says you can't pursue a bear outside of those times, and this is an attempt to maybe clarify or define what we mean by pursue. So, that's what we're recommending and that's what we're trying to do. Does that help?

**Riley Roberts:** Yeah.

**Mike Worthen:** So the pursuit that you're talking about here changing is not the dogs pursuing the bear, but the dogs just locating where the bear crossed the road, because I would imagine that most of these guys that are hunting bear, want to see how big the bear is before they chase it and if it turns out to be a little bear, they'll just leave it and go on, right?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, I think that's true.

**Mike Worthen:** And so, you're changing the definition to say that pursuit means dog on the box. That's pursuit, and I just have a hard time seeing how that is a pursuit.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, I don't want to steal their thunder, but I think that's how the Houndsmen feel as well.

**Brayden Richmond:** Just a quick question on the numbers. The only area I saw those decreasing tags is the Beaver, which is my backyard and I know we're not supposed to talk about our backyard, but I'm going to. Just curious for the reason on that?

**Darren DeBloois:** If one of the biologists knows off the top of their head, I'll let them answer. Dave?

**Dave Smedley:** So we had high female harvest outside of those sideboards, from 40 to 45% over three years. Two of those years were over that number, and so it's just trying to come back into those management guidelines.

**Brayden Richmond:** Alright and I actually knew that answer. So now, the next question I have is, from my experience and from those that I talk with, again this is my backyard, the population is increasing on the Beaver and I think we're fairly comfortable saying that it is increasing. So, this seems like an education problem...the population would dictate more tags, but we need more education perhaps? What are your thoughts on that?

**Dave Smedley:** That's a good question. I think there are a lot of bears on the Beaver. A lot on trail cameras, on pictures and maybe...I don't know if it is education or not? I think. I was worried like on the spot and the stalk...that we might have a higher female harvest too and go further and above what we're already trying to do. I wanted to see us come back in before that. Personally, I think there are quite a few bears as well.

**Dave Black:** Okay. Any additional questions from the RAC?

**Verland King:** Well, my question is, do you have any idea how many bear there are on these different units because everybody's talking about how many bears they see on their trail cams and then you guys seem to managing. Do you know how many there are?

**Darren DeBloois:** Right. It's difficult when you start getting down to individual units. You just don't have enough data to make a good estimate, but I think we can confidently say statewide, we've been growing bears over the last 8-10 years and that it looks like statewide, we may be seeing a little bit of

leveling off. Bear in mind that where there are a lot of bears, that tends to kind of drive things. It's difficult to drill down any deeper than that. You can do it on units like the La Sal's or the Book Cliffs where they're harvesting a lot of bears. Those patterns look fairly similar too.

**Verland King:** Okay. We just talked about education. What are they talking about?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah. It's difficult.

**Verland King:** He mentioned we kill too many females.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, just how to tell the difference between a boar and a sow. I guess that assumes that if someone doesn't want to take a sow, but they take it because they don't know the difference. We can definitely address that in our orientation courses, maybe a little better. You know. Those are some things I've been looking at, too. I think some of that could be polished. Sometimes, what Dave mentioned-- one trade-off-- when you move to less success is when you move away from hounds or bait, people are less selective, and so if you're spotting and stalking a bear you don't always know what it is exactly when you see it. We could see some increase in females and so we're trying to be a little bit cautious on those units that are reared outside of our management perimeters.

**Dave Black:** Brian.

**Brian Johnson:** I just was curious about...I'd heard some talk about the overlap between the summer baiting and the Houndsmen. Is that still to where you can pre-bait these? Is it still there?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah. What we did last year, Brian, is we allowed. You used to be able to bait two weeks early. Now you can bait a week early, but you can start hunting immediately. So, they overlap a week. It was a compromise, same as last. We're not recommending any change.

**Brian Johnson:** Okay. Thanks.

**Dave Black:** Anybody else? Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** I'm trying to compare back and forth, where your increases are. Have you correlated the increases with your big pay-outs, your cash pay-outs, on livestock depredation and those kinds of things?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah. Some of those are in the mix, for sure. Some of that was taken into account in past years, but that's definitely something that we look at when we make these recommendations. The other thing is, too, with bears, is they're a little different than something like a lion. Usually, it's an individual animal that is really the culprit and so if we can get wildlife service to take that animal, or allow a landowner to take that animal, a lot of times, that problem goes away. But we try that strategy as well with bears.

**Tammy Pearson:** So, do you collar bears or do the tracking devices and that to try and get some kind of count on them?

**Darren DeBloois:** What we're doing is, we are collaring female bears and we monitor them for those birth pulses and that can be predictive when we might see populations grow a little bit. We're not trying

to estimate total numbers from that. We just don't have enough collars to do that, so we're trying to get an estimate, at least of trend, using the harvest date in the reconstruction.

**Tammy Pearson:** Okay. Everything that we're hearing from the counties on our association level is that there are huge increases statewide and so the impacts that we hear about, obviously, mostly are the livestock problems and issues. Are you correlating that also with the wildlife depredation park?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah. I think again with bears, we are looking. We just started a study where we're going to be looking at a cougar and bear interactions. There isn't any hard data, but there has been some speculation that if a bear scavenges a lion kill, it might actually increase the lion's kill rate. We're actually going to look at that a little bit. So we are putting collars on lions on units that have a lot of bears. The Book Cliffs are one and the Manti is another. We're going to try to look at that and see what happens, so we'll know what the lions kill rate is and then we'll actually go and visit these kills and put cameras and just see what kind of interactions are going on there. So, we're trying to get at that and see if we can figure it out. The Book Cliffs are especially concerned about predation and deer and elk numbers.

**Dave Black:** Okay. Any other questions from the RAC? Before I open it up to the audience, I just want to remind you that if you want to make a comment, make sure you fill out a comment card and give it to one of the officers and they will bring it up. If you do have a question that's for clarification or whatever, we'll allow you to do that now. Please come to the microphone and state your name and ask your question, and then in just a few minutes, we'll go through the comment cards. Do we have any questions from the audience?

**Questions from the Public: None.**

**Comments from the Public:**

**Dave Black:** Lynn Kitchen. Lynn will be followed by Bud. And Bud, just a quick question? Did you want to comment on this particular agenda item? (response handled by Paul) So Lynn will be followed by Bryce.

**Lynn Kitchen:** Okay. Lynn Kitchen just representing myself. Usually, I don't make a lot of comments on things, but this past year I feel like I was a little more knowledgeable maybe on what was happening on the Beaver and wanted to strengthen a few of the comments and maybe the concern Brayden had. My boy had the fall permit and I was also helping several other people on bait stations and on their hunts. What I observed was there were A LOT of bears on the Beaver unit, and was very surprised at just the sheer numbers and the sheer size of what I saw. There really was no real problem in finding bears there! (laughs) In some places, there would be nine different bears within two weeks, cross a trail with just nothing on it. It would be my recommendation... I would not worry about not having that number at the regional number or even raising it to a higher number than what it is. There are A LOT of bears there. One particular canyon that we spent a lot of time in, I think there were six bears shot in that one drainage and that didn't even count the little ones that were running around! There were A LOT there! Just every time we went out, we would see bear sign and so there's a resource there we have to be concerned about. They don't reproduce quite as fast as other species do, but there was plenty there to take from. And so, that was my comments. Thanks.

**Dave Black:** Thank you and Bryce will be followed by Jared Higgins.

**Bryce Billings:** Bryce Billings, Sportsman Fish and Wildlife. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We support the plan as presented. I sit on that group and we spent lots of time, emails, and we feel like this is what we can accept. Thank you!

**Dave Black:** Thank you. Well, Jared, we'll give you up to five minutes. Make sure you cover your topics.

**Jared Higgins:** Did you guys all get a copy of our proposal?

**Dave Black:** Maybe give one to this table over here.

**Jared Higgins:** So I'm Jared Higgins. I'm representing the Utah Houndsmen Association. We support the DWR's recommendations, with the exception of two changes. We don't support the nine tag increase on the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek South Unit. We propose a zero tag increase on that. It's recommending a 20-40 percent increase, but it also allows for a zero increase and we feel that nine tags is a little bit excessive, due to the fact that we're in drought and a low cub den survival the past year. Item Number 2 is the rigging before daylight. I don't know who these guys are that are doing that, I'm sure it's legitimate, but it doesn't make any sense from the eyes of a Houndsman because if you park on a track at 2 a.m. and you don't turn out on it until 5 a.m. or whatever legal turnout is, that bear's running that whole time and he's in a different area code. So, these guys that are doing that are probably dumping out on the bear too, if they're hunting all night which falls under the perimeters of the existing law. You can't hunt before the legal hunting hours. We do have instances where we go pick up dogs, we throw 'em up on our rigs. There's not going to be any way for them to tell whether we're rigging bear or transporting dogs. It's not going to be prosecutable. There are other things you could be rigging for then, too, as far as coyotes, coons, etc. How do they differentiate what you're out there doing? We propose that you just stick with the law that you have in place, no hunting before legal hunting hours and that's it. We would also like to thank those that participated in the Bear Committee meetings, hosted by the DWR, as well as thank the DWR. We'd like to thank those that serve and participate in the RAC and the Wildlife Board meetings. We are grateful to have our voice heard, along with the voices of others, and appreciate the public input process. Thank you for reading our considered proposal. Respectfully, The Utah Houndsmen Association.

**Dave Black:** Jared, quick question. You indicated that you felt that the nine tag increase was too much. Did you have a recommendation for it?

**Jared Higgins:** Yes. We're asking for zero on that. It falls within the perimeters of the plan. It could be as high as 20 to 40, but it could also be zero within those perimeters.

**Dave Black:** Thank you. That's the end of our comment cards so we'll close that section. Let's look at comments from the RAC

#### **RAC discussion and vote:**

**Brayden Richmond:** Ill further comment on my question earlier on the Beaver Unit. You know, this is my back yard and that's the unit I'm familiar with---the unit I'm on. We also had a comment here from

the public. The amount of bears on the Beaver has gone up significantly. I've lived there 11 years and the population has gone up significantly. The two units in Utah I spend the most time on are the Beaver and the San Juan Units. The San Juan has 148 permits and the Beaver has 20. Per the amount of time I'm out in the field, I'm not seeing significantly less bears on the Beaver than I am on the San Juan. I average probably about a bear every day and a half on either of those units. So, to decrease tags on the Beaver makes me real nervous. In addition to that, the counts we're seeing come in right now, our fawn population is really low. We've got some concerns with our deer. I would like to be aggressive in the other direction actually on that unit.

**Dave Black:** Okay, thank you. Any comments down here? Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** I'd like to second what Brayden said and also on the Book Cliffs, I'm getting a lot of reports on that end on their increase on their bear and so I recommend that we keep the plus nine and increase Beaver and the same on the San Juan. All the reports that I'm getting, there's a significant increase on all of those areas and it's funny because when you did your chart on depredation pay-outs, most everything coordinates with the increases that I'm hearing about from the counties.

**Dave Black:** Okay, let me make sure I heard you right. You recommend instead of a decrease, an increase by one over the original?

**Tammy Pearson:** Yes.

**Dave Black:** Okay. Any additional comments? Mike.

**Mike Worthen:** Yeah. I would go along and encourage support of the Utah Houndsmen Association on rigging and also the number of increase holding down to zero as they indicated.

**Dave Black:** Okay. Brian?

**Brian Johnson:** I just have a comment. We should have talked about this during the question part. Are we seeing on that increase of nine tags...were those nine tags spot/stalk? Were those bait? Were those just tags? How are those getting distributed?

**Darren DeBlois:** No those are just tags. They don't have a spot and stalk season on the Book Cliffs. Just quickly, the reason they're recommending an increase on the Book Cliffs is they're out of objective. They're high on their male harvest and they're low on their female harvest, so we're out in a good direction on both of those. The plan recommends an increase in permits between 20 and 40 percent, so doing the math; they should've increased between 11 and 23 tags on the Book Cliffs. They're trying to hit it right in the middle because they took those seven archery tags and they distributed them among the different hunts, and those would obviously be a little bit higher success. So, they're trying to shoot for middle ground on that, but that's why that recommendation was made the way it was. Hope that helps.

**Brian Johnson:** So the thing that I don't understand is, if they're on the high side of both the male and the female, and maybe we can get some clarification from the Houndsmen Association, you say that it could call for zero or maybe help me understand that?

**Darren DeBlois:** I think there's a misunderstanding between what the Houndsmen understand and



what the numbers came in. I just don't think that they realize that's how it fell out. Normally, if one's out and one's in, you could adjust zero to about 20 percent. In this case, they're out in both and so it warrants a bigger increase.

**Dave Black:** Okay, Gene.

**Gene Boardman:** On this rigging, I think that the less regulation we have, the better it is. I don't think it will help law enforcement—this rule—because then they've got to determine whether it's hunting or whether it's going back to camp. If you're on the La Sal's and you're camped down there by old La Sal, and you're hunting clear over on the lost Beaver, you've got a long ways to go back to camp after you finish your hunt. I really think it's just better to have less regulation on that.

**Dave Black:** Riley.

**Riley Roberts:** I can support this as stands. In regards to the numbers, I don't have enough information on the increase and decrease. I would go with the biologists recommendations, for the most part. I do have heartburn on the definition on the rigging. I think that it is too hard to enforce ethics. Ethics is not something that we can regulate. It's just too difficult to do that and I think that it's probably going to open up a bigger door of hassle, rather than the way it currently stands. That's my feelings on it. I think that we've got some guys that are doing that and maybe we need to get harder with those individuals. I know that with some of the other stuff, we're happy to make some examples of some individuals that are breaking the law and not following these rules. I appreciate them trying to make it more consistent, trying to get that definition in there. I do appreciate that, but I do think that it opens it up to where it's just, it kind of has that feel of regulating just to regulate, not necessarily fixing the ethical problem that we're trying to resolve.

**Wade Heaton:** I just wanted to address the decrease on the Beaver. I recognize we're outside the management plan which calls for some action, but I think we can also agree that it's difficult numbers. When it comes to bears, it's difficult to really pinpoint where we're at. I have heard from many different people, that they feel like the numbers are increasing significantly over the last two or three years on the Beaver. I feel like what we've got is probably a little bit of insignificant data or data that is probably outside of what's statistically valid. I'm having a little heartburn with a decrease of two on the Beaver as well. I propose that we just leave it where it is currently.

**Dave Black:** Anybody else? Brayden, do you have comments?

**Brayden Richmond:** I'm almost ready to make a motion if I could ask one question real quick?

**Dave Black:** Before you do, give me an opportunity just to summarize and we might want to break the motion up.

**Brayden Richmond:** Let me ask this question and then I'll turn the microphone off for a minute. Going back to the Beaver, how many permits could we do and be within plan? There's always a range. What would keep us inside of the plan on the Beaver?

**Darren DeBlois:** It could be between zero and five. I think Dave shot right in the middle there, but zero is within the plan.

**Brayden Richmond:** Okay, so we could not increase and be within the plan?

**Darren DeBloois:** Right. You could leave it as is.

**Brayden Richmond:** I just wanted to be clear of things.

**Dave Black:** Okay, alright Ver? Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** It's me. (laughs) I do want to say that I support the Houndsmen on their second one. I think you try and out regulate this and the ethics and the law enforcement is going to be working 24/7 trying to figure this one out. They need some time off.

**Verland King:** Yeah, I agree with the second one of the Utah Houndsmen and I don't want to go on record saying the decrease of bear killing. We've had a lot of trouble in Wayne County. Maybe Wayne and Garfield kind of run together over there. We've had a bear get into Will Talbot's sheep twice last summer and we had a bear kill at least one cow that we've found. So, when you've got depredation payment by county, Wayne doesn't even show up there. That's because we didn't get paid for those, I guess, but that's the problem. It's hard to verify when you've got a lot of country you're looking at. The other thing is the increase of the permits. Twenty on the Plateau of Boulder, if you feel good about that, well, spot and stalk times 15 percent—that's three bears and there's a lot of bear out there. I've talked to several guys with trail cams on baits that have seen 5 to 7 different bear come into that bait and the same thing on the Fish Lake. There's a lot of bear out there and you need more aggressive on taking them, whether it's a female or a male, but we need to kill maybe more females. You know, if they live 20-30 years that makes up for the low reproductive rate. That's a lot of stuff they've got to eat, and I know it's not all livestock, but your elk and deer will take a hit too. Thanks.

**Dave Black:** Okay, thank you. So what I would like to do, I think, is just break up these three items separately and then we will address the recommendations all together. The three items would include the nine tag increase on the Book Cliffs, the rigging, and the recommendations for the Beaver. So, let's-and if you don't want to make a motion on one of these, then that's fine and we'll move onto the next one, but if you do, we'll address them separately. So, the first one let's look at is the nine tag increase on the Book Cliffs.

Verland King made that motion to support the 9 tag increase on the Book Cliffs. Tammy Pearson seconds. Passed 11 to 1 (Gene Boardman opposed)

Mike Worthen made the motion to not support the change to rigging rule. Rusty Aiken seconds. Passed unanimous.

Brayden Richmond made the motion to keep the permits on the Beaver the same as they have been. Brian Johnson seconds. Passed unanimous.

**Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented Riley Roberts seconded. Motion carried unanimous**

**Pronghorn Unit Plans (action)**  
**-Teresa Griffin, Wildlife Program Manager**

**Dave Black:** Okay, we will move on to the next agenda item, which is item #6, the Pronghorn Unit Plans and Teresa will be presenting.

**Teresa Griffin:** Alright, so we will be going through the Pronghorn Unit Plans. So, the statewide Pronghorn Plan was presented and approved by the Wildlife Board last fall. Unit plans are now being presented in accordance with that plan. Typically when we do the statewide plan, the following year we will do the unit plans. With this agenda item and the next one, the moose, these unit plans have never gone through the system before, so this is the first time for these unit plans. With the unit plans, they will not be presented again unless there will be a major boundary change, a change in the population objective, or if there is a new unit that will be presented. All other changes to the unit plans will be approved by the Division of Wildlife Director. The reason for that-these unit plans are really quite similar to the statewide plan aside from the boundary, the objective. Anyway, from the statewide plan, just to recap, we now manage all units and sub-units for a three year average age of harvested animals between a two and three year old, and taking trends in account, we will use archery and muzzleloader hunts to distribute hunters and provide additional hunting opportunities. The population goal and objective; for the population management goal, we would like to manage pronghorn to their population objective and within the caring capacity of the available habitat. The statewide population objective, of course, is just a sum of all of the unit management plans. The population objective and estimates statewide for what we are recommending, the sum is 210,555 and we currently estimate our population to be at 17,355. We will just go through these region by region. You can look over each of the units. The sum for the Central Region, the population objective, they want to manage for 2,200 animals in three different units and they currently estimate that they have got 1,000 pronghorn. In the Northeastern Region, the population objective for five units is 42,075 and they estimate that they've got just over 3,400 animals. For the Northern Region, they have six units up there and they want to manage for 2,430. They currently estimate that their population is at 2,035. For the Southeastern Region, they have six units also, the population objective for those combined is 4,000 and they currently estimate that there is just over 3,600 pronghorn. For the Southern Region, we've got the Southwest Desert, the Fillmore Black Rock, the Beaver, Mount Dutton/ Paunsaugunt, the Plateau which is the Parker Mountain herd, the Kaiparowits, Panguitch Lake/Zion, and the Pine Valley. Those combined, we want to manage for 8,650 pronghorn. We currently estimate that we've got just over 7,100 pronghorn. For transplant sites, the sites were listed in the statewide plan in table 4, but we are proposing a few additional transplant sites. Those are the North Slope, Antelope Flat, Bear Top, Clay Basin, Connor Basin, Death Valley and Goslin Mountain. If that is approved, we will amend table 4 in the statewide plan to include these sites. As far as habitat improvement, we want to still work to improve water distribution and maintain existing water developments, conduct treatment projects to improve (inaudible) production and also identify migration routes and corridors and any other barriers that may impede pronghorn. On that note, over the next two weeks, we will be putting some radio collars on pronghorn out on the Southwest Desert, Pine Valley, and the Beaver. So, we are doing that. In conjunction, the BLM has pitched in some money, so we appreciate that and that will help us learn a little bit more, especially with some of the green energy projects that they've got going on out there. That's it.

**Dave Black:** Thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC? We've got some down this way. Let's start right here with Nick.

## Questions from the RAC:

**Nick Jorgensen:** Teresa, will you just expand a little bit on water distribution so that I understand that? Increase it by doing what?

**Teresa Griffin:** So for pronghorn, it's a couple of different ways. Jim Lamb up on the Plateau Unit, he's done projects to improve clay liners in existing ponds. A lot of it in pronghorn habitat is going to be water developments such as guzzlers, so artificial water sites.

**Nick Jorgensen:** Thank you.

**Dave Black:** Gene.

**Gene Boardman:** We like to hunt pronghorn and we have drawn a few tags over the last few years. We've never been asked anything about to determine age on our bucks, so how is this age objective being determined?

**Teresa Griffin:** That's a great point Gene. We collected age several years ago. We did for a period of time, and then we stopped for a while. We will start again, collecting teeth. So, that will start up again. But, there was a period of time that we were not collecting teeth. We will start again now that we are managing on an age objective. Prior to that, we weren't managing on an average age.

**Dave Black:** Okay. Sean, did I see your hand? Who else? Verland.

**Verland King:** Okay, when you count these pronghorn, do you count all of them, or do you count adults? Like on the buffalo, they're not a buffalo tail, they're a yearling.

**Teresa Griffin:** We count all of them and then we add in a multiplier for citability. We count all of them. We do try to classify them, especially bucks, but every animal counts. Then, we times that by a factor to add any animals that we may have missed.

**Verland King:** Okay, so I was wondering because, I think you counted 700 on the Parker Mountain, 700 and something last spring and now you've got 1,400.

**Teresa Griffin:** That we have or that we counted?

**Jim Lamb:** We counted a few more than that, Verland, and then we added in production for this year. So, that's where we came up with that estimate.

**Verland King:** Okay, while you're there, we were figuring that there were like 1,500 or more. Do you have an idea what happened to that 500 that-

**Jim Lamb:** We put some radio collars on those a year ago, in December, to see if we could get a handle on what mortality is out there to help us get our model to fit what we observe on the ground. There are some disparities there. Our model indicates that we should have more pronghorn out there than we actually can find. What we found in the first year of our collar deployment is that hunters can kill pronghorn. Another knock, they don't die much. I thought that as dry as the summer was, we would have

some losses, but we didn't. It's a little bit of a mystery.

**Verland King:** As open as the winter was, I thought you would have a loss.

**Jim Lamb:** There's doing very well, but there aren't as many there as we anticipated.

**Verland King:** And the other question was, you were talking about habitat improvement. We hauled a lot of water out on the Parker Mountain last summer and spring and fall. Does the DWR have a program that will take part of the sting out of that?

**Jim Lamb:** In conjunction with the Parker Mountain Grazers, in the last six years, we've put \$120,000 into pond repair, cleaning and lining with clay to help those ponds hold water when we get it. But, we don't purchase or haul water. But, we have put that much money into trying to make more water available across that whole mountain.

**Verland King:** Okay, so is that just the Parker Mountain? What about the BLM and the Forest?

**Jim Lamb:** We were able to do a couple of ponds on the BLM, but ponds that fall within the Sevier River drainage, we have a real struggle with the water right to do much with those ponds, and we haven't been able to do any ponds on the Forest yet with that money. It's all been on the state land block.

**Dave Black:** Okay, any other questions on my right? How about on my left? Wade.

**Wade Heaton:** So, admittedly I'm no pronghorn expert, but I have to ask, I recognize Southwest Desert as a huge unit. 3,200 animals is a huge number. I guess number one is why is it so high? Number two, is can we sustain that?

**Teresa Griffin:** It is a huge unit. It pretty much goes from Cedar City to Delta and to the Nevada Boarder. Even when you-Jason can speak to it-but, even when you fly, there is just so much country that is still available.

**Jason Nicholes:** I've done a few calculations on that objective. That is one pronghorn for every 651 acres of pronghorn habitat. That is fewer pronghorn per acre than any other unit in the state. If you look at some adjacent units, it's like one pronghorn for every 250 acres. So, one for every 650 is still low.

**Wade Heaton:** Sure, no that makes sense. So, if they're, like every other wildlife species, I'm assuming that they congregate in certain areas, are we impacting some of the grazers? Are they congregating in some areas and having real impacts and causing problems?

**Jason Nicholes:** Not that I'm seeing and not that I am hearing from the producers.

**Dave Black:** Comments down here? Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** I thought someone else was going to talk. You're just happy Gibb's not here right now, because he would argue with it. The Southwest Desert is my backyard. It's also a lot of BLM permits. I hear a lot about Southwest Desert. I think that our biggest impact is not only just per acreage, but you add the horses on top of that, and your elk numbers and whatever else, that's a huge number, so I

agree with you, Wade. I personally, we have got on our place this summer, I counted over 350 head running on our-but we're the only water in the valley right there during the summertime, because that's where the cows are. Right now, when they're all herded up, you'll see 50, 60, 80 or more in a bunch. It is a huge amount.

**Dave Black:** Okay I think we're ready for a motion. I guess the question that I have for Kevin or somebody is what's on the table? Are we talking about the objective if we agree with it or if we have a motion that we think it might be too high? Can we bring that up now? Is that what we're doing?

**Kevin Bunnell:** Yeah, so this is each of the unit plans, and so the two parts of the unit plans that will come to the RAC are these numbers, the population objectives, and then if we had a boundary change on a unit that would also come through the RAC. So, we're not presenting any boundary changes right now. Right, Teresa? This is just- so what you are approving is the set of numbers, which are the population objectives that Teresa has presented.

**Mike Worthen:** With no tags or anything like that?

**Kevin Bunnell:** No, this is just the plans and the objectives. We won't set tag numbers until April.

**Dave Black:** Okay. So is that clear? Alright, we are ready to entertain a motion.

**Questions from the Public:**

**Comments from the Public:**

**RAC discussion and vote:**

**Brain Johnson made the motion to accept the Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented. Riley Roberts seconded. Motion carried 10-2 Tammy Pearson and Verland King oppose**

**Dave Black:** Let's move on to the next item then. Item #7 is the Moose Unit Plans, and Teresa will also present.

**Moose Unit Plans (action)**

**-Teresa Griffin, Wildlife Program Manager**

**Teresa Griffin:** Alright. So, it's kind of the same deal here. The statewide moose plan was presented and approved last fall by the Wildlife Board. Now, the unit plans are being presented in accordance with that plan. Again, unit plans won't come back through unless we do a major boundary change, a change in the population objective, or if a new unit plan is being presented. All other changes will go through the DWR Director for approval. So, we've got 10 unit plans that are being presented, none of which are down here. We've got-I won't read them to you. For the statewide plan, objective one says we want to increase hunting opportunities as populations allow while maintaining a quality hunting experience and we manage for a three year old average age of harvest of bulls. We use sub units to maximize hunting opportunities and distribute hunter. Here are the population objectives and estimates in the state. We would like to manage for 3,400 moose statewide and we currently have an estimate of just over 2,500 animals. Alright, the moose transplant sites will occur in accordance with table 5 in the statewide plan. We would like to and a few additional sites and those are on the Kamus Unit. We've got Shingle Creek,

Beaver Creek, and Norway Flats. On the North Slope; Dahlgren Creek, Dowd Mountain, Elk Park, Henry's Fork, Sheep Creek Lake, and Spirit Lake. And then, on the South Slope; Charlie's Park, Lightly Peak, Lone Park Reservoir, and Mosby Mountain. If approved, we would amend table 5 in the statewide plan to include these sites. For habitat improvement, we want to preserve and regenerate Mount Mahogany, aspen, and riparian vegetation, implement projects through the WRI to benefit moose, and maintain populations at appropriate densities to maintain the habitat quality. That's it for moose.

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

**Nick Jorgensen:** Teresa, just for me, WRI?

**Teresa Griffin:** The Watershed Restoration Initiative that we get funding for projects.

**Dave Black:** Okay, thank you Nick. We'll go this way.

**Wade Heaton:** Just out of curiosity, what is our current moose trend? What's our population trend?

**Teresa Griffin:** The trend? I don't know.

**Kevin Bunnell:** So the trend in the trend in the most recent years, and Darren may be able to add some to this as well, has slowly started to increase. We were in a downward trend and moose, especially Shiras moose, were in a downward trend nationwide from about the early 2000's through probably 2010/2012. We've put a lot of research into moose in Utah. There are some disease issues with moose, parasite issues that limit moose production, and those are really cyclic and driven with weather, so we went through a bad timeframe, probably a decade or more. But, I think that moose have started to stabilize and maybe increase a little bit now.

**Teresa Griffin:** Thanks Kevin. I have very limited moose experience. We had one in Richfield once, and that's about it. (Laughter)

**Dave Black:** I think we can move to a motion. Do you have a question, Rusty?

**Rusty Aiken:** Is the population, Teresa; is that the same as the last plan, or an increase or decrease?

**Teresa Griffin:** You know what, we've never actually done the unit plans before, and so this is just what we're taking a stab at managing for.

**Rusty Aiken:** What about the statewide? Did you have the 3,500?

**Teresa Griffin:** Yeah and that's just compiled the unit plans, but this is the first time that we have ever taken moose and pronghorn plans through, so we've never had those population objectives set before.

**Rusty Aiken:** Do you have conflicts with livestock with moose in the state?

**Teresa Griffin:** Not that I'm aware of.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Conflicts with moose are usually when they're coming down into town. Park City,

places along the Wasatch Front, Morgan, when we get moose down amongst people.

**Dave Black:** Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** Just a quick question, what is your moose transplants-how many are you looking at on that? Is that this next year or what's your plan?

**Teresa Griffin:** I think it's more as it becomes available. Kevin, take a stab at that.

**Kevin Bunnell:** So Tammy, because of the state of our populations, I don't see us doing any moose transplants within the next year or so. There was a time, like in the Ogden Unit, when we were moving a lot of moose out and actually sending them to Colorado. So, as our populations cycle back through and we do some habitat improvements and we get our populations increasing again, those are places that we would like to move moose to in the future. I don't see that happening within the next couple of years.

**Tammy Pearson:** Yeah I was just wondering (inaudible)

**Kevin Bunnell:** There's no population objectives, if those transplant areas aren't part of the current unit plan, then that unit plan would come through. As I looked through that list, there are already moose in those areas, so this is to try to just redistribute moose within units that already had moose.

**Dave Black:** Brayden, do you have a question?

**Brayden Richmond:** Yeah I do. I don't mean to prolong, but just a question- these were the first times we are actually having population objectives and unit plans. I'm curious on the Ogden where it is 70 over the objective, the objective is 450 and the estimate is 520. That would imply that it's significantly over objective. How is that objective established and are we seeing problems on that unit because of that high number?

**Kevin Bunnell:** Brayden, I can talk to that and Darren may add some more. What we're seeing on the Ogden Unit is degraded habitat. We need to reduce that population and let the habitat recover before we start building again.

**Dave Black:** Okay, I think I'm ready for a motion. Gene.

**Gene Boardman:** I see on these moose transplants, Beaver isn't listed. Are there any moose on Beaver?

**Teresa Griffin:** There is currently not, but that is-on table 5 of the statewide plan, it is listed as a potential site. We've got a little spot there on the Fish Lake and then on the Beaver, so if the time came, we would do a unit plan for those units and they are potential transplant sites. We currently don't have any on the Beaver that we are aware of. Every few years, someone will spot one on the Fish Lake Unit.

**Gene Boardman:** Okay if we did get moose on the Beaver, it would be a long time before we had the hunt-able population. Meanwhile, they'd be quite a high maintenance species to keep there. So, I have a hard time seeing Beaver as a good alternative as far as hunting goes. Maybe the esthetic value of people going out and observing moose maybe, but I don't see that that is viable for hunting and it would take a lot of effort and money to ever get it that way.



**Dave Black:** Okay we're ready for a motion.

**Questions from the RAC:**

**Questions from the Public:**

**Comments from the Public:**

**RAC discussion and vote:**

**Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Moose Unit Plans as presented. Wade Heaton seconded. Motion carried unanimous**

**Dave Black:** Okay, we're ready to move on to item #8 CHA Rule Amendments, Avery Cook.

**CHA Rule Amendments (action)**

**-Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader**

**Avery Cook:** Hi, I'm Avery Cook, the Upland Game Projects Leader for the Utah Division of Wildlife. The first presentation that I will be going through today is some changes to the Commercial Hunting Area Rule. For a little background on CHA's, in the state there are areas of private land where privately raised pen reared game birds are released for hunting purposes. These areas provide some additional hunting opportunity for the Utah public with about 19,000 annual hunter days, that's the numbers from this last season. We currently have 76 registered CHA's within the state. These CHA's are regulated by the Division of Wildlife because they have potential impacts on both wintering and breeding wildlife, for both other game birds and other wildlife species in the state. There is potential for disease transmission from these high density pen rearing areas to both wild populations and to commercial poultry producers. There is also potential for lethal take of some of our resident game birds that are similar in appearance to hen pheasants. So, CHA's in the state can be permitted to release pheasant, chucker, and quail species. There are about 90,000 pheasants release each year, about 16,000 chucker, and about 2,000 quail amongst those 76 CHA's. The changes that the Division is proposing today are primarily to streamline and simplify the administration of the program. Basically, less paperwork and less of a burden on the operators applying and also less work for the DWR in processing those so that we can get them turned around quicker. So, these rule changes should eliminate some redundant applications, allow for digital mapping, simplify the annual reports, make some updates to boundary marking requirements, clarify some other rule language and also make a couple of changes to some disease requirements. So, the first proposed change is to update map requirements. Currently, the rule required paper, USGS maps and county plat maps. We are proposing changing the rule to allow us to accept digital maps so that people could either draw the polygon online on our website or send us a digital file with that boundary. Also, we would require boundary verification for renewal applications. As the rule currently sits, there's no boundary mapping requirement on renewals, but sometimes, we'll get 20 years worth of renewal applications with no verification of the map. So, all this would do is we would be able to send out a map with the renewal application so that the operator could just verify that we have the correct boundary and what we've got matches what's on the ground. The second change would be to update acreage requirements. Currently, each CHA is limited to 1,920 acres or three sections. We are looking at changing that acreage requirement to nine sections or 5,760 acres. We've got a number of CHA's in the state that exceeds that current acreage cap and as a result, the operators just have to turn in two or three

applications for an area that is essentially operating as a single CHA. We're just trying to reduce redundant applications there. We would retain the 180 acre minimum size for a CHA. We had some comments that the current requirement of needing to be posted every 300 feet was a bit excessive, so we're looking at changing that signage interval to every 300 yards, and that would match with the CWMU rule. Currently, the pieces of a CHA have to be one contiguous piece. We're looking at updating the rule to remove that requirement for contiguous tracks, but change that where each track must still be a minimum of 180 acres and all pieces of a CHA must fit within a 10 mile diameter circle. So, a few examples of how that would play out there, that left most one, would just be one big block. Obviously, that would fit within that 10 mile diameter circle. The second example there is just a number of smaller blocks spread out. We've got some commercial hunting areas in the state that are either separated by a road or corner to corner, but currently you have to turn in two applications, for again, what's operating as a single CHA. That would allow those applications to just come in as a single application. In that third example, if the two blocks you had did not fit within that 10 mile diameter circle, there would still have to be two separate applications. That fourth example is just kind of a more realistic example of a CHA in the state where they currently have a big block of land. They have to turn in three applications. Under the new rule, they would just have to turn in a single application. In the current rule, there is a provision for a season extension that is basically conditioned on not impacting any other wildlife. As a result, we're never really able to approve that season extension, so we're looking at removing that unused provision that we can't really use from the rule so that people aren't wasting their time requesting it and we do not have to spend time saying why we can't approve it. Under the current rule, the application dates, we just have a single application period per year. We're looking to just change it so that there would be rolling applications for new CHA where an operator could turn in an application anytime of the year. As far as shooting hours go, there is a provision where if the CHA is adjacent to a water fowl management area, that they're bound to basically water fowl rules, so a half hour before sunrise to sunset. We're proposing to change that to be consistent with other resident game birds in the state, so a half hour before sunset to a half hour after. Then, we're looking at adding even influenza and micro-plasma to the disease testing requirements, which is currently just salmonella. This is to make this rule consistent with the Department of Agriculture rules for importation of birds into the state. This would only apply if the birds are coming from a non-national poultry apparent plan improvement sources. Part of this is from merging disease concerns that we've heard both from the agricultural community, the Department of Agriculture, and our state wildlife veterinarian. Especially with avian influenza, we have avian influenza present in the state and in our water fowl populations. There is potential for transfer to these high density pen reared bird operations. So, we want to have this in place to minimize the risk of either transferring disease to our wildlife populations or to poultry producers within the state. Also, we're proposing the updates from reporting requirements. Currently, the rule requires reporting by date. We're looking to change that just to require season totals to simplify reporting. Then, the rule currently requires all of the mortality on a CHA for non hunting reasons be reported and we're proposing to change that that the mortality would only need to be reported for unusual cases of mortality, such as sickness, disease, bad feed, or other unknown causes. Also, to have those disease, sickness, bad feed, and other unusual mortality reported immediately so that we could get on top of it before those disease outbreaks had a chance to spread or get out ahead. With cases of bad feed, we had an incident a couple of years ago where there was some bad poultry feed from a producer up in Northern Utah that killed a bunch of our- both day old birds and some other CHA commercial growers had a bunch of birds die off, so we didn't hear about it until about five months after the fact, whereas if we would have been able to hear about it earlier, we would have been able to work with the Department of Agriculture and hopefully prevented some of that. There are also a few additional wording revisions that don't change the rule, but clarify the meaning of a few statements in there. Thanks.

**Dave Black:** Thank you. Any questions? Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** Okay, so on your little plots that you had there, does each one of those have to be 180 or the total of each?

**Avery Cook:** So the minimum block size would be 180 acres.

**Tammy Pearson:** Okay, so on each one of those parcels right?

**Avery Cook:** Correct.

**Tammy Pearson:** So not everything combined?

**Avery Cook:** Correct.

**Dave Black:** Okay, any other questions? Comments? A motion? Tammy?

**Tammy Pearson:** I should recuse myself, though, because I have a family member that does this.

**Dave Black:** Go ahead and make a motion.

**Tammy Pearson:** Are you sure? It's not going to come back and haunt me? (Laughter)

**Questions from the RAC:**

**Questions from the Public:**

**Comments from the Public:**

**RAC discussion and vote:**

**Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the CHA Rule Amendments as presented. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried 11 -1 ( Tammy Pearson abstained)**

**Dave Black:** Alright, we'll move on to item #9, which is the Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal from Avery Cook also.

**Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal (action)**

**-Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader**

**Avery Cook:** The next presentation will be the greater sage grouse population augmentation for the Sheep Rocks Mountain and Sage Grouse Management Area. Just a little bit of background on sage grouse in general and in the Sheep Rocks in particular, we've had accounts recorded back from the late 50's and over that time period, you see a consistent cycling of the population every 9-10 years, we've got a peak and a trough. Over the long term, we see a slight gradual decline where those highs are a little lower and those lows are also a little lower. As a result of that, range wide, sage grouse have been petitioned number times to be listed under the endangered species act. But, due to proactive conservation measures, both within Utah and throughout the rest of the range, especially here in Utah through our

Watershed Restoration Initiative and all the habitat restoration through research and through our conservation plan, they were deemed as not warranted for listing in 2015. However, we do have one population in the state that is not doing well. If you look at our populations on a statewide basis, which is that blue line on the graph, you can see that there kind of at that normal cyclic behavior where they've got those regular peaks and troughs, and then that orange line is the Sheep Rocks. They were cycling with the rest of the population in the state up through 2011/2012 when instead of coming back up out of that last peak, they continued on a downward trajectory. As a result as that kind of decoupling and the Sheep Rocks population declining, we implemented quite a few conservation measures, both habitat improvement projects within the Sage Grouse Management Area, some additional predator control and also a sage grouse augmentation that we transplanted into the area. So, the Wildlife Board approved that for 2016, 2017, and 2018 and over those three years, we moved 120 sage grouse, which was broken up into 90 females and 30 males, and as a result of that work that we've done and those transplants, we've seen the trend in that population reverse, and it's going back up. I'm here today just to request an additional five years extension to the translocation release site in the Sheep Rocks Sage Grouse Management Area. So, as a state sensitive species, there are a few requirements for translocation. One is having a management plan, and that's in place and second, is to pass the requests through the resource development coordinating committee, and that is done through the RDCC and there were no comments returned. The final step is the Wildlife Board approval. So again, we're just requesting the Sheep Rock Mountains Sage Grouse Management Area, which is there in red, be approved as a transplant location. We will be planning on getting birds from the Parker Mountain and/or Box Elder. Those two populations are genetically similar, they are very robust populations, and they're geographically close enough that we can logistically do it, but far enough away where the birds won't just fly right back. So, we are requesting to transport and release up to 40 sage grouse per year. We won't necessarily do all five years. We'll be monitoring the population through counts. We also have one more year of a research study where we will be collaring the transplanted birds, and then we'll continue monitoring those birds until their radio collars have run out of batteries. Thank you.

#### **Questions from the RAC:**

**Dave Black:** Thank you. Questions? Mike.

**Mike Worthen:** Yeah on the birds that you transplanted up in to the Sheep Rocks, what percent are staying there? I'm sure that there are some that take off and go wherever, but you've got to be having a pretty good impact.

**Avery Cook:** Yeah so I don't have exact numbers on how many are there. Probably over 90% are staying there. They do have quite big movements from when they're first put down in the Sheep Rocks, but often, they'll kind of circle and then come back to the release site. We will be releasing them on active leks so we'll try to release them when there are strutting males on the leks so they kind of home in on that area and come back.

**Mike Worthen:** Okay.

**Dave:** Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** Okay, so my family, my husband was crazy, he loved birds and he was really into this

kind of stuff and passed it on to my son. So, we've raised every kind of bird imaginable. We've sold birds, and the one thing that I have noticed, and this is just kind of a common sense thing and I don't know if this is something that would help you guys out, have you ever tried to do the temporary nets and then feed them and keep them in that area instead of just turning them loose?

**Avery Cook:** Soft release?

**Tammy Pearson:** Uh-huh.

**Avery Cook:** So, we have not done a soft release as far as putting our flight pens and stuff. We do try and do a kind of softer release where we will, on this plan, we'll catch them one night, hold them a day, put them on the lek where there will be strutting males. If there's not strutting males, we're planning on putting out decoys and recordings and then have a slow opening of the release box so that they walk out onto the lek. Some past research has shown that to be effective.

**Tammy Pearson:** Okay, because I know that some of the stuff that we've turned loose- and this seems silly, but we used to raise peacocks and those suckers will find their way home, I don't care if you're 1,500 miles away. You turn them loose and they will find their way home. It's just like the homing pigeons or whatever else and I don't know if that's a possibility to throw up some of those fly pens that are just a temporary thing to hold them for a few days or a week or something.

**Avery Cook:** Luckily, they're not quite as good at finding their way home as homing pigeons. In this population in particular, it's pretty isolated, so we do see almost all of them staying at the release location, because it's kind of an island of habitat. They usually do these little circles and they realize that there's nothing else out there for them and come back.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Tammy, I would agree with you completely if we were having a hard time keeping them there, but 90% of them are staying, so it's kind of one of those things if it's not broken, don't fix it.

**Dave Black:** Okay. Sean.

**Sean Stewart:** Can you offer any insight into why that population, what did you guys see out there, why didn't it recover back in 2012? Usually it's a complicated answer, but is there something in particular that you noticed.

**Avery Cook:** For this population, if you look at the threats to sage grouse, you can basically check every one of them off out there, so it's kind of a death by a thousand cuts. We've had habitat loss, both from fire and invasive as far as burning out the sage grouse and then getting displaced by pinion and juniper encroachment. When you get to such a low population level, predation has a larger relative impact. More human recreational use is causing a disturbance; there are quite a few factors out there.

**Dave Black:** Okay any other questions? Comments? Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** So this is one of the state designated areas, right? Or is this a federal designation on this lek?

**Avery Cook:** This is on one of the state designated sage grouse management area.

**Tammy Pearson:** So the new Sage Grouse Plan just came out at the end of Thursday or Friday or something. Is that going to affect any of this?

**Avery Cook:** This should not be affected by the federal plans.

**Tammy Pearson:** Okay, the way I understand it is that they're giving more authority to the state and local on their own management. What we've been fighting all along, but I just wanted to see where we are at there.

**Avery Cook:** I have not had a chance to completely review the latest draft of the plan.

**Dave Black:** Okay, I think we're ready for a motion.

### **Questions from the Public:**

### **Comments from the Public:**

### **RAC discussion and vote:**

**Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept the Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal as presented Riley Roberts seconded. Motion carried unanimous**

### **Other Business**

**-Dave Black, Chairman**

**Dave Black:** Okay the last item is to look at the 2019 RAC schedule. Does this require a motion or do we just talk about it.

**Kevin Bunnell:** So the schedule that we have put down here kind of mirrors what we did this year where we bookend the year with Beaver and Cedar City with the first two being in Beaver. That puts one of the Big Game RAC's in Beaver and one of the Big Game RAC's here in Cedar City with the April and November, and then in-between, we go to Richfield and Washington County. We've been in Hurricane in the past, but it could be another location in Washington County, and that's for the- usually when we do the fishing regulations because it's probably the largest concentration of fishermen in the region. The standard starting time would be 7:00, but we stray from that on half of the occasions, so 5:00 start times for April and November with the Big Game RAC's and then a 6:00 start time in December like we did tonight. Is that agreeable to everyone or are there any changes that anybody would like to propose that we talk about? Does everybody feel okay about it? Okay, we'll put that out as our RAC schedule for next year. Thank you.

**Dave Black:** Okay, so if you'll look at the bottom of the agenda, there are no meetings in January, February, or March, so the next time we meet will be in April in Beaver.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.**

**Southeast Regional Advisory Council**

**John Wesley Powell River History Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah**

**Dec. 12, 2018**

*Motion Summary*

**Approval of agenda and minutes**

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

**2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

**MOTION: To keep the current rigging laws unchanged  
Failed 5-6**

**MOTION: To keep the current (2018) bear permit numbers for the Book Cliffs unchanged  
Passed 10-1**

**MOTION: To eliminate bear pursuit seasons on the La Sals  
Failed 2-9**

**MOTION: To eliminate pursuit permits for out-of-state residents on the La Sals  
Failed 1-10**

**MOTION: To limit the number of dogs allowed for spring bear pursuit permits on the La Sals to eight dogs per handler, equal to permits for the summer pursuit season  
Failed 5-6**

**MOTION: To accept the remaining 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented  
Passed unanimously**

**Pronghorn Unit Plans**

**MOTION: To adopt a population objective of 300 pronghorn on the La Sal/South Cisco unit  
Passed 6-5**

**MOTION: To accept the remaining Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented  
Passed unanimously**



**Moose Unit Plans**

**MOTION: To accept the Moose Unit Plans as presented  
Passed unanimously**

**CHA Rule Amendments**

**MOTION: To accept the CHA rule amendments as presented  
Passed unanimously**

**Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal**

**MOTION: To accept the Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal as presented  
Passed unanimously**

**Southeast Regional Advisory Council**

**John Wesley Powell River History Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah**

**Dec. 12, 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 Sitterud · Elected official

Jeff Christensen · Agriculture  
Jace Guymon · Public at large  
Eric Luke · Sportsmen  
Darrel Mecham · Sportsmen  
Darren Olsen · USFS  
Kirk Player · Public at large

Helene Taylor · Agriculture

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

**Total public attendance**

7

**Others in attendance**

Kevin Albrecht, Wildlife Board member  
DWR personnel: 9

---

**1) Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

- Trisha Hedin, RAC chairwoman

Trisha Hedin: OK, let's get started. I was told that I am two minutes late. So thank you for coming. If you have never been to a RAC meeting—I think everyone has been. These are all veterans, they know the process. Thank you for coming and we hope we have you interact tonight.

2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

Trisha Hedin: We're going to start with approval of the agenda and minutes. Do I have a motion on that?

Kent Johnson: Motion to approve.

Trisha Hedin: Motion to approve by Kent Johnson. Do I have a second? I have a second from Dana Truman. All in favor? Looks like it is unanimous.

**VOTING**

**Kent Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as written**

**Seconded by Dana Truman**

**Motion passed unanimously**

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

- Trisha Hedin, RAC Chairwoman

Trisha Hedin: Next, we have a Wildlife Board meeting update and that will be given by me. I will try to be as efficient as possible because there was quite a bit that went on.

The first thing that came to mind was the statewide mountain goat management plan. There was quite a bit of comment that went into that. It eventually did pass unanimously. I will make a comment that there was many of voiced concerns about non-native species and also comments that the BLM and Forest Service hopefully would be very involved in the future in any management plan decision.

Next was the statewide bighorn sheep management plan and there was quite a bit of feedback on that. Everything was really positive—kind of a combination of sportsman and agriculture being very involved. It was decided, that there was a move to add an action item that the Division give a progress report as that management plan moved on and that lethal removal process would be put in place in an MOU at every board meeting until it was completed. Does that make sense?

Chris Wood: They want an update on the MOU at every single board meeting until it is complete.

Tisha Hedin: They moved to support the management plan as it was presented and passed.

Let's talk about bucks, bulls and once in a lifetime. There was a move to add an action log that the Division attempt to define primitive weapons. That was put into place. There was a move to approve the Barney Top limited-entry archery-only elk hunt. That move failed. A move was made to add an action log that the Division review the Barney Top limited-entry archery elk hunt proposal. That passed unanimously.

There was a move made to include the once-in-a-lifetime archery sheep hunt on

Newfoundland and Zion units only and the season dates would have to be approved by the Division. That did pass unanimously. That was quite a big deal.

There was a move made to return the Monroe unit into a spike-only rifle hunt. I was to bring this up. I made some comments regarding this. So basically, they disregarded our proposal to address the spike hunting pressures. There was lots of support for the spike hunts. Basically, quite a bit of talk about that. In that, they basically threw Monroe back as a spike hunting unit.

Chris Wood: Doesn't it add a spike hunt to other hunts that are on the Monroe as well?

Trisha Hedin: Right. Because they didn't have spike hunting.

Chris Wood: They didn't have a spike hunt so they are adding on to the other hunts that are currently on the Monroe.

Trisha Hedin: So we had voiced some concerns about the multi-season spike hunt, and that was disregarded and then we added spikes back to the Monroe unit.

A move to approve extending the east boundary of an archery hunt unit of the Green River as proposed by the Division. That passed unanimously.

A move to accept the balance of the bucks, bulls and once in a lifetime, and that passed. There was quite a bit.

The CWMU management plan was passed 5-1.

They made a move to approve the dedicated hunter rule amendments and that passed.

Waterfowl recommendations passed unanimously. So you didn't stay for the e-bike discussion (talking to Chris Wood). I can't remember but I think a part of that proposal was to allow e-bikes. Is that correct? Do you remember, Kevin? I didn't stay for that very last little piece.

Kevin Albrecht: So on the e-bike, there was a lot of discussion. The Division's proposal was to eliminate the e-bike. There was a lot of people that came in support of the e-bike and a lot of clarification that maybe didn't come through the RACs. And a lot of that clarification was the classes of e-bikes. Basically, the class of bike that is being used out there is in that 10-mile-an-hour range. A lot of the discussion that may be worth the RACs talking about, the class 2 and 3 which aren't being used and probably aren't affordable to be used. With that discussion, the legislature has already acted on that to determine what those are and approve to that level. So the Wildlife Board made the motion to approve that class 1 bike.

Trisha Hedin: Thank you. That was it. It was a long meeting. Are there any questions?

#### 4) **Regional Update**

- Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood: Good evening, thanks for being here. Merry Christmas. Happy holidays. There's a little cup on the desk for you. You can take that home. You can steal your neighbor's color if you don't like the color in front of you. There's candy for you too.

Take it all home. I'll go through each section and tell you what we're doing in the region this time of year.

At Joe's Valley, we have a boat ramp extension happening. It's going to be extended another 50 feet so when the reservoir goes down, we can still have boat access for fishermen and recreationists. So that is happening currently. A part of that project also is to expand the parking lot of the boat ramp. That will happen next spring. This time of year, our biologists are heading to a tri-state meeting in Grand Junction to collaborate with other agencies and partners about Colorado cutthroat trout.

Our habitat section, of course is super busy this time of year. A lot of habitat projects are going on with our federal and state partners, with our non-profit organizations. A few, just a real quick mention. Lop and scatter and a drill seed project is happening on Cedar Mesa. There's a mastication bull-hog project happening in Devils Canyon. There's a bull-hogging happening at Miller Creek. And the Trail Mountain fire and the Coal Hollow fires are being seeded right now. Every county in the state, really, there's seed flying and dropping and machines running. It's kind of wrapping up. Once there's too much snow on the ground we have to stop with the exception of flying seed. That should wrap up this month and then additional projects will start happening again in the spring.

Law enforcement has been busy as well. These pictures are from Morgan. He does a great job taking pictures. They're helping our wildlife section on capture work. We have several capture projects going on with bighorn sheep and mule deer in the region. We have an officer who's the safety officer on every single one of those captures. They're also working the trapping season and doing winter range patrols. Up there are some statistics about what we did for AIS work. So that's Aquatic Invasive Species or quagga mussels. That's what we did at Lake Powell this year. We stopped over 12,000 boats. We did over 2,500 decontaminations and we actually found encrusted boats, 52 of those boats. We're doing what we can to protect the waters of Utah from the infestation at Lake Powell.

Morgan and Walt are our conservation outreach section. They're gearing up for some clinics. The tentative date for our predator clinic that will be held this year in Price is February 9<sup>th</sup>. We'll teach the public how to hunt coyotes and trap bobcats. Then we have an ice fishing clinic at Lloyd's Lake on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The 2019 guidebooks are now available. The hunting application guidebooks are coming soon. Right now, is the turkey application period.

Our wildlife section. There's a collared doe. They are capturing deer for our migration studies and we're also capturing bighorn sheep to do some disease profiles and disease testing. We also have a cougar study going on in the Cache, the Manti and the Book Cliffs. That'll help us understand cougar population dynamics and mortalities, home ranges and things like that. Later this month or I guess currently going on is deer classifications. That's all I have. Any questions?

Kent Johnson: I have something that I just thought of when you mentioned the bighorn sheep. There's domestic sheep on the flats just east of Thompson right now. The other day I saw a couple bighorn rams right down next to the town of Thompson. They were right there by their water treatment thing.

Chris Wood: Noted. We'll let Brad know of that situation. I'll have him contact you for more information. Thank you.

Jeff Christensen: Do you want to give a brief update on the buffalo issue in Range Creek?

Chris Wood: Yes, I just got an update from Brad. This fall, we've built two fences in Range Creek to prevent the bison—to slow them down—from coming into Range Creek. Those bison jumped the fence in one area or they went around the fence. We weren't able to build the entire fence line this year and it doesn't really tie in to two canyon walls either. It ties in to one canyon wall then goes across the bench but the fence line ends. So the bison both figured out how to jump the fence in some areas and also go around the fence. The Department of Ag and some of the livestock operators built the fence another foot higher, is that right?

Jeff Christensen: 18 inches.

Chris Wood: We did get a helicopter in there the first time and we pushed them all back to the tribal ground. The tribe was not ready to round any of them up but they did use their resources to push them back out of Range Creek, across the river, and back into their canyons and back on top of the mountain on their land. Unfortunately, the bison came back just a few days later. At one time, I think we had 150 bison in Range Creek. I just got an update from Brad today. We contacted the tribe to allow them to push the bison again and haze them out of Range Creek again. They couldn't come for about three weeks so we did bring in a few hunters who harvested bison. Of course, you're not going to do that big of a dent or any dent at all in the population by just harvesting a few. But we did give the opportunity to a few hunters who harvested bison. The last few days, the helicopter was able to come. They were a few weeks out but they were able to come eventually and they pushed the bison through Range Creek, up the river, up the canyons, back up on top and we're hoping this time that they are able to send about 60 to 80 off to slaughter. We haven't heard that exact number yet but, in the past, they have been able to send a bunch off to slaughter. That's what we're hoping because the answer to this problem is a reduction in the population of tribal bison on their land. Did I miss anything, Jeff? There are some fences or gates going up on the Ute side of the land—Florence Canyon and Chandler Canyon—to prevent them from even crossing the river. We hope those deter some movements across the river. That'll make four total gates or fences. They are doing habitat projects. They are trying to reduce their number. And they have too many wild horses to which they acknowledge.

Jeff Christensen: Are they still actively hunting? I know your numbers are small but are they still actively trying to kill a few?

Chris Wood: Us or the Utes?

Jeff Christensen: You guys.

Chris Wood: I think our hunts have ended for right now. With this last push I think that stops our hunt. If the bison come back and there is still access into Range Creek, we'll call another hunt. If you remember, this RAC approved the hunt that we're offering. It comes from the alternate list of the people that put in for the unit next to Range Creek. If they harvest the animal, they lose their points. If they don't harvest an animal, they don't

lose their points. It's kind of a win-win for them. So we'll call another hunt if the bison come back and if there is still access into Range Creek. At some point, in the winter, usually about this time even sooner, Turtle Canyon and Range Creek become inaccessible.

5) **2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Program Coordinator

**Questions from the RAC**

Trisha Hedin: I just want to reiterate, if you are in the audience and you want to make a comment, please fill out a comment card and bring it up to Morgan or Chris. Are there any questions from the RAC?

Darrel Mecham: I'm at a disadvantage because my e-mail cratered and I didn't get anything on any of this. This year on the La Sals we had a fellow who rolled a pickup who was maintaining a bear camp and no one had a bear tag. Yet, they were discussing bear hunting with a rancher, catching bear and they were mountain lion hunting. Have you guys done anything to address any of that?

Darren DeBloois: We're going to need to do that in the lion rule.

Darrel Mecham: Well, now you have a three-year run on this bear plan so—

Darren DeBloois: We need to address that with lions because, you're right, they're "chasing lions." Yeah, we definitely need to address that with the lion rule.

Darrel Mecham: I kind of like your definition on the times. I spent time on the La Sals this year, more than usual and routinely heard dogs turned out at 4:00 a.m., 3:00 a.m. They weren't rigging, they were running, letting them go. The other thing that really bothered me on one occasion on the west side is, I personally saw a small bear baited up by an old dead tree with over 20 hounds. I just turned around and rode away, I didn't even want to see how that ended. Something needs to change. That's disgusting.

Gerrish Willis: Is this the comment period or question period?

Trisha Hedin: Yeah, let's keep to questions and we'll come back.

Gerrish Willis: When you require locations of bait stations, are you requiring them to have a GPS coordinate? And how do other people know where those bait stations are? Is there a map available so hunters know that they can not start hunting with their hounds within a certain distance of a location on a map? How are you going to regulate this whole thing? It looks good on paper I'm just wondering what the details are.

Darren DeBloois: The way it works currently is that a person has to register their bait stations with our regional office. We don't make a map available to the public of those

locations because people then know where everybody has their bait station and we want to avoid conflicts. What the regional office can do is when someone comes in with a new bait station, they can say, you are within a half a mile of somebody else. The person can still decide if they want to place their bait there or not. But we can kind of give them a heads up. We are working towards centralizing that so we have one central map for the whole state. That's a work in progress. Eventually we would do that but, yeah, it's paperwork with the region.

Gerrish Willis: Maybe I wasn't clear. So if somebody has a truck load of hounds, they let them go and there's a bait station 100 yards away, you know where it is but the houndsman doesn't know. How are you going to fix that problem?

Darren DeBloois: That's why we changed the language to intentionally. Because there is the potential for someone to not know that and release.

Gerrish Willis: It's the same result in the end whether it's intentional or not, isn't it?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, if the concern is that the dogs are picking the bear up off of a bait. You're right, there isn't much of a difference, but we need to be careful with those locations. They can be used in a lot of different ways. So we do protect those locations. We don't currently make that available to a houndsman. They wouldn't know in the field. But I take your point.

Jeff Christensen: On your nuisance tags for crop damage, are they going to charge them for that tag?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah. Well, it will be similar to lions. I think for those damage tags, there isn't a fee. Because the intent is to handle that bear that's a problem.

Jeff Christensen: What is the logistics behind not allowing them to keep it? Isn't that considered a wasted animal?

Darren DeBloois: They have to contact us within 48 hours. I'll check the rule. Then we pick it up. They can request it after the fact and that would be up to the regional supervisor whether or not we would allow it.

Jeff Christensen: I just think that's a waste of an animal.

Chris Wood: It's usually skinned and then it goes to auction.

Darren DeBloois: We salvage the hide.

Jeff Christensen: I'd like to see a hunter be able to keep the animal. I think that's a wasted animal.

Darren DeBloois: We do that too. We can contact a hunter and say, hey we've got a problem. We do that regularly as well. This is really just an additional tool. We always would rather have a sportsman.



Jeff Christensen: As a landowner I'd rather see a hunter harvest it and be able to keep it versus it going back to the state for sale.

Darren DeBloois: That's still an option.

Eric Luke: Along them same lines, as I look at that graph you showed for the depredation payouts, three of the counties that were the highest are in the Manti-La Sal unit. How many bears have been killed on the Manti by Wildlife Services? How many, typically annually are killed?

Darren Olsen: Maybe just clarification on why the cost. Is it for depredation or what other?

Darren DeBloois: It is. So this doesn't reflect crop damage this is strictly livestock. With bears, it's sheep primarily. There are a handful, less than 10 confirmed cattle losses to bears. This is all sheep. There's a lot of sheep on the unit and there's a lot of bears on that unit. I can get how many they kill. I'll try and pull it up quick.

Eric Luke: I'm just curious because, along the same lines as him, if the Division is having to take care of that many bears, we're missing out on a huge opportunity for sportsmen.

Jeff Christensen: Also like you said that's 75 percent of what the value should be. Those guys aren't getting reimbursed for 100 percent. That's not square. When these hunters could be taking them.

Trisha Hedin: I think they do bring in sportsmen quite a bit to take care of them. That's why he had that one graph that showed how sportsmen, that number has gone way up.

Eric Luke: How many are actually taken by Wildlife Services?

Darren DeBloois: Guy showed me. So last year 37 on north and 30 on the south.

Eric Luke: That's a lot of bears that sportsmen could be taking.

Darren DeBloois: We really do put an effort towards making sure that sportsmen can take those bears.

Eric Luke: With that, I see that on the Manti—

Guy Wallace: That's in the last three years. That's not just last year. That's three-year totals.

Darren DeBloois: So 10-ish per year on each.

Darrel Mecham: Is this is just bears or depredation?

Darren DeBloois: This is just bears.

Jeff Christensen: If you guys up your numbers in those areas where you are having problems, does that reflect on the other direction on your payouts?

Darren DeBlois: It has in the past. I think the confounding factor is, we've been growing bears. So we've seen a subsequent increase in damage. One difference between bears and mountain lions for example, is usually you've got an individual animal that seems to be doing the damage. If you can address that specific individual animal, a lot of times the problem will go away. Sometimes, they can do a lot of damage in a short amount of time. I think we had one last year that, it didn't kill all the sheep but it piled them up in a drainage and they all suffocated. So that was counted. That was all bear damage, that was all included because it was caused by a bear. We try to get hunters on it but we need to be timely at the same time and make sure that the producers are getting helped quick. Usually, if you can remove that one bear, you can solve the problem. I think most of this is due to increasing bear population.

Darren Olsen: So I guess with that, if we're going from a one year to a three-year plan, how do you respond if there needs to be an increase? There's a rule that you can't increase more than—

Darren DeBlois: We wouldn't change the permit recommendation but again, we can always call a special hunt if we've got a specific problem we're trying to address. We do that regularly now. So if we've got a bear that's causing damage, we can get some hunters from the alternate list and have them go and try to take that bear. We do that quite a bit already. They have to take the bear that they tree. They can't tree it and say, it's small and we're not going to take it. We do that and can continue to do that. We just wouldn't adjust the permits available through the draw until the next cycle.

Dana Truman: How are you monitoring the bear populations during that three-year cycle? What if we, on these larger increases and success rate increases?

Darren DeBlois: We'll still be looking at the animal harvest indices in the plan. We also have this population reconstruction that we can look at. In addition to that, we have bears collared and we look at birth pulses. One thing you'll notice this year is that we didn't change permit numbers on the La Sals and the San Juan. The straight plan would have required that but since we haven't seen production on those units due to the drought, we're actually maintaining permits at the current level. So there's those considerations too. Again, the population doesn't fluctuate a lot and over a three-year period we can make those adjustments at the end of that period and still be OK on it in terms of overall populations.

Jeff Christensen: So your safety valve is only on the bottom end of that, correct?

Darren DeBlois: Yes. If we see a crash, that's how I'd anticipate seeing a—but again, it's not inconceivable. If we see a real spike in damage and feel like we need to add permits, we could run that through the Board as well.

Dana Truman: So can you clarify why you're increasing the numbers on a few of the

units? Is it just higher population or higher depredation?

Darren DeBloois: It's based on those plan parameters. So depending on where the harvest falls, we kind of get a window of permits that we need to adjust. The district biologists in the regions have discretion on that. If they've got livestock concerns or crop concerns, they may recommend on the upper end of those permits in addition to the other tools that they have.

Guy Wallace: The increases that we have on the North and South Manti are primarily in response to the high number of Wildlife Services removals we had. As far as the criteria for reducing permits, we're kind of within the parameters because of those high numbers that were removed. That's why we've recommended an increase on those two units.

Dana Truman: I don't know if I had the wrong number. I thought my sheet said 27 but your presentation said 20 of an increase.

Jeff Christensen: Can you go back to our area on your increases?

Dana Truman: Central Mountains, Manti North—I was confused. Twenty spot-and-stalk, but the thing I was looking at had 27.

Eric Luke: So the number 68, is that an increase of 27?

Guy Wallace: No, that's an increase of seven on the North and 9 on the South. The other 20 is in those spot and stalk.

Eric Luke: So the 27 is a combination of both?

Guy Wallace: Correct.

Darren DeBloois: I can see how the slide's confusing. It makes it look like we're only adding 20 but there are some. I should have made sure that was part of the slide. You're right.

Eric Luke: So with that many bears having to be killed by Wildlife Services and we've only added 20 spot-and-stalk permits which are anticipated at 10 percent, you're only talking two bears.

Darren DeBloois: Plus, the additional 7 and probably half of those.

Jeff Christensen: So why was there such a big increase on the Book Cliffs where there's really no livestock concerns at all as far as I know?

Darren DeBloois: The Book Cliffs were above objective on their adult males in the harvest. In a good way, they killed more adult males than what the plan calls for and they were low on their females, like 20 percent. So in the plan if they are out in a positive way—

Jeff Christensen: So there's a trigger in the plan that created that?

Darren DeBloois: They should have increased between 11 or 23 permits and they increased nine but they also put seven archery-only tags back into the mix and the success would have gone up. That's why they did so many.

Kirk Player: Can you go into a little bit more where the idea to even going to the three-year cycle has come from? Is this something that other states in the bear group are doing? Is this something that other states have done and has worked well? Or is it just like, we did it once and it kind of worked so we're going to try it again?

Darren DeBloois: It's based on bear biology. You really should be looking at longer slices for these animals that don't reproduce quickly. You really shouldn't be making dramatic changes every year, so when they met to put the plan together that was hooked into the mix. That was the recommendation cycle. Again, we've gotten away from it. Issues come up and I think the temptation is to try and revisit things more often than was intended and there's also been some turnover in this position so I think we kind of got out of sync on what year we were in. It's a little bit of everything.

Kirk Player: Is that a common practice across other western states?

Darren DeBloois: It depends. I think New Mexico does something similar. I'd have to look but, yeah there are other states that do it that way.

Kent Johnson: I heard from several houndsmen and they have concern with the new rigging rule. The question that seems to be the common thread in all of them is, how is that going to be enforced? What's the exact criteria? They were concerned about, they are done for the day and they load their dogs and they are tied leashed on the back of the side by side and they are headed into camp, technically they are in violation of the rule.

Darren DeBloois: They have to be doing it in pursuit. Maybe we ought to have one of our officers talk about that. I think they can probably answer it a little bit better than I could.

Dennis Shumway: Dennis Shumway, Southeast Region, San Juan/La Sal sergeant supervisor, law enforcement. I try to be reasonable in the approach. Myself and the other officers down there understand that we work with people. Houndsmen are a great tool and in fact we use them repeatedly for different things. So we try to give a good knowledge of their sport or their activity and try. I'm not going to abuse it, it makes sense that I understand by watching them, by observing their actions and what they are trying to do. I don't know if that makes sense. Four in the morning, bear's on a box, driving slow, all of the signs of somebody trying to rig bear, it's pretty simple to understand that. Dogs in the box, headed back to camp, talking to them, pretty simple to understand. A lot of it's just dialogue, observation, in no way trying to put them in a corner to say at any time, you're moving with dogs, you're rigging. That's not the case.

Kent Johnson: I'm asking the question on behalf of people.

Dennis Shumway: We're trying to stress is that, you've got dogs in your pickup and

you're driving around, that's not. It's the same idea if you put your lab up on a box and you're driving around. That lab isn't rigging bear. So it's not a trained hunting dog. The action is pretty simple, it's if you observe it and you can make sense of it and you articulate what they are doing. A judge isn't going to listen to you when they can argue, I was driving 40 miles per hour, all my dogs were in the box, no collars on and if I were to cite him for that it's pretty easy for me to be beat.

Eric Luke: How big of a problem is that? Because, to me that doesn't seem to be that big of a problem. I understand you've got some recreational campers that are disturbed from the barking hounds.

Dennis Shumway: The real problem isn't from campers. It's other houndsmen. That's where the complaints come from. It's not campers hardly at all. It's competition between houndsmen that's causing the whole idea of introducing this.

Eric Luke; Do you think this will fix that? I actually see it being maybe just the opposite. I guess my concern would be, you know, if you limit a certain time, you're going to have houndsmen stacked up on a certain road waiting for that time and there's going to be more conflict and more issues by doing that.

Dennis Shumway: Right. Because certain roads are better than other roads, absolutely. I agree but there's conflict in any wildlife activity. So I don't know how it will play out. I don't. But right now, it is conflict between—that's where the complaint comes from.

Kirk Player: Just to confirm, Dennis. So as a conservation officer, you see this as enforceable as written?

Dennis Shumway: Do I see it as enforceable? Yes.

Trisha Hedin: Any other questions from the RAC? Questions from the audience?

### **Questions from the audience**

Guy Webster: How many complaints from houndsmen have you had on the rigging?

Dennis Shumway: Several. I don't have a number for you?

### **Comments from the audience**

Brett Behling, Utah Farm Bureau: Thank you, that is the essence of my comments. We sure appreciate the efforts that you've made to factor in the impacts to grazing. We recognize that with bighorn sheep MOU that you're working on. We just express our gratitude.

Our poor sheep industry. We're really concerned that they'll be going out of business. Some of the losses that we've seen on depredation were probably only reflecting 20 or 25 percent of the actual losses. As you know, we're working on trying to

improve that process but we have so many guys that are trying to switch their sheep permit to cattle permits.

One of the biggest factors is depredation. As you know, bears are a big problem for our sheep guys. So as you address this, we are concerned about the three-year time frame. If there's ways to address these problem bears which we know you've written into the plan, we express appreciation for you guys thinking of ways to take care of these problem bears. Because if we lose those sheep, and they go to cattle, as Darren and others know, as we work with Jason Kling and some of our other forest managers, sheep are a vital tool to manage that range. When you only have cattle as the species of grazing, they're not grazing the same plants that the sheep are. So we don't want to lose the sheep industry and we're in real jeopardy of losing that. I cannot tell you the losses. We've been at predator meetings the last month with the Department of Ag and Food and Wildlife Services. We also express concern that Wildlife Services, they have their hands full, they have a lot of work on their plate, and we would love to have the sportsmen take as many bears as possible to help our ranchers. We appreciate the help that we've received and we express appreciation to folks on a state level too that have been working with us. Those are my comments. We appreciate the help that we get from you guys and hope the sportsmen can take all the bear that you can allow them to do.

Brett Guymon: Is the number of depredations on a certain unit one of the triggers in the management plan to increase or decrease harvest numbers?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, it is something we take into account. Absolutely.

Brett Guymon: My second question is on the three-year plan, is that specific to just the number of tags? Can you still make other changes in the proclamation that are not specific to numbers or does that lock in the entire proclamation?

Darren DeBloois: It would keep the guidebook consistent for that time period again with those safety valves. If something comes up that we need to address, we can still do that.

Brett Guymon: I talking specifically about, say for instance, if you see a problem with the rigging issue.

Darren DeBloois: For those kinds of things, we'd wait until the cycle. Because it's not biologically driven it's more of a social thing.

Guy Webster: On behalf of Utah Houndsmen Association, we agree with the plan with two major exceptions. First and foremost, is the Book Cliffs increase. The plan does allow for an increase but it doesn't require an increase. We're already seeing an increase with losing the fall spot and stalk. Those tags are going to go in to the general season with a much higher success ratio. So there's already going to be more bears killed on the Book Cliffs without the increase. Also our cub survival and stuff are a concern. Statewide, looking at things, we're agreeing with this but there's already 145 bear increase. We're concerned with that but we're going to go along with it. We are watching it guarded because we know that the cub survival has been brought into question the last couple of years due to the drought and what effects is going to be. We ask, you know, the Manti we're seeing 27 extra permits so we think that will address and we're in support of

that.

The other thing in the rigging. Talking to all of our groups, we've had numerous discussions with houndsmen throughout the state. We see it as the rule is already there. If you're turning dogs loose out prior to those hours, you're in violation of the law. What our members are concerned about is somebody that wants to travel, they only have a 4-wheeler. They don't have a box to put them in. Their means of getting somewhere is up on a box, a platform. Myself, a side by side. I can put some dogs in but I'm going to have some dogs out. If I'm traveling somewhere that's going to take me a half hour to 45 minutes to get to where I'm planning on hunting, I'm going to be in violation of this law. We're not advocating people going out and hunting at 2:00 a.m. and I think that those instances are few are far between. They're getting exaggerated. But there are guys that want to be able to get up and get headed somewhere and the Book Cliffs for instance, where I hunt, a lot of the areas where we're hunting, you're not right there camped in the middle of it. You're having to travel 20, 30, 40 minutes, 50 minutes to get to where you're going to hunt. It's going to be a violation. Also if I run into somebody else's dogs on there, I'm not going to throw them in my box not knowing who's they are. They've come out of a canyon, I'm going to put them on top of the box. We've already got the law in effect if you're turning lose, you are in violation of the law. This is something that's just extreme. It's not illegal to rig dogs coon hunting all night long. So we're going to have the same situation, are we hunting coons or are we hunting bears? In reality, if I want to go rig, I can rig from inside the box as well as I can from outside the box. So merely saying that I can't put them on top, you're just telling me where I can or can't put dogs but you're not going to affect my success ratio. If I'm wanting to violate it, I can do it with inside the box with as much success.

Cody Webster: I tried to send an e-mail out hopefully everybody got it. Obviously, Darrel didn't because his e-mail crashed. There are some concerns that I have that I stated. The Book Cliffs increase, I think is a terrible idea. They state that it was because of the high male proportion in the harvest. Well, I'm at fault. I killed a big old male, but I also spent the whole hunt on the mountain and I know that that unit is not doing good.

The rigging rule, there's loopholes around the way they're rewriting it and all they are going to do is leave it up to interpretation of an officer then you're going into a bunch of gray area and you're going to create a nightmare.

And the three-year plan—if the three-year plan thing is a great idea, well let's keep what we had for the last two years. Thank you.

Shane Thompson/SFW: I'm in agreeance with Guy on this rigging rule. I think it would be really hard to keep that policed. I don't know how you'd regulate that. These guys are pretty good at what they do. I've hunted with them off and on and I think they police themselves a little bit. I don't know that trying to make this a law is going to be any good.

Another comment on the three-year plan. I think we need to keep it on an annual basis. I really do. I think that going that way, every year, I don't know how much more work it is for them but I like the one year, keeping it in check one way or another. It can help or hurt. I don't like the three-year plan.

Another comment on the gentleman on the baiting. You're going to have conflict on some of that. And it comes to the guy that's doing to baiting. He wants to go out there and do it really easy, close to a road. He's asking for a houndsman to hit his bait station just by rigging it. If you get away from the road and get a little bit harder to set your bait

station up, you're not going to have that conflict with these guys rigging past your bait. So I've heard this conflict about guys complaining about their bait station getting rigged by houndsman and it's just because they're so close to a road. When you're on a trail or a road you're making your bait station easy. It's kind of a no-brainer. You're going to have hounds hitting your bait station. That's one comment I was going to make to you.

Gerrish Willis: Are you suggesting that maybe the bait stations regulations that bait stations be further from roads, further from camp grounds?

Shane Thompson: I don't mind, a guy can set up his bait station anywhere, as long as they approve it. But some guys are complaining that the houndsmen are hitting their bait station, it's just lack of getting away from the road. Because a bear is going to cross that road and go to that bait station and they are going to hit them more frequently. It's all up to that guy setting up the bait.

Trisha Hedin: At this time, let's take comments from the RAC.

### **RAC discussion**

Kent Johnson: I'll go first. With the bear increase on the Book Cliffs, my observation, like everybody else that's been on the Book Cliffs, is anecdotal. We don't collect the data but I agree. My observation over the last couple of years is I've seen less bear sign and a lot fewer bears. I spend a lot of time in the Book Cliffs. I don't think I would agree with increasing it at all. I think the idea of going to a three-year plan is probably good and maybe we ought to go the next couple of years and maybe watch the Book Cliffs close. If it still warrants an increase, then maybe so. Like Guy Webster pointed out, we're moving some of the spot-and-stalk permits into the regular hunts with hounds and with bait and that's going to increase hunter success. The spot-and-stalk hunts are typically pretty low success, I think they said 10 percent and the other hunts are higher up around 50 percent. I think we ought to leave that alone.

My other comment is with rigging. While I agree with the Division's position that it's something that needs to be nipped in the bud, so to speak, I don't believe it's something that's all that enforceable. There's just too much that's left up to what somebody feels at the time. I don't see any real way that that can be enforced specifically because it's legal to rig for coons. Coons are run at night. We have racoons everywhere in Utah. I see racoons out in the desert in the flats, miles and miles from the nearest water. It puzzles me, but I've seen them there. So there's coons on the mountain too. If somebody's out rigging at night and they get pulled over, all they can say is, I'm looking for coons. I don't see it as an enforceable law. And because of that and the problems that would arise from trying to do it, I kind of disagree with that rule. I don't know all the particulars. I'm not in law enforcement so I can't speak to it, that's just my personal observation on it that's not something we ought to do.

Trisha Hedin: Other comments?

Kirk Player: On that rigging, from what I've gathered, someone can correct me if I'm wrong, it wasn't a proposal that originated from the Division itself, it was from other



houndsmen. So we're basically dealing with one faction of the houndsmen against another faction of the houndsmen. One says they want it, one says they don't. So obviously it is a problem enough that someone brought it up and it wasn't just one of the Division guys sitting behind a desk coming up with a crazy idea. That's one thing I think we need to keep in mind. The other thing, that's why I point-blank asked Dennis, I've never been a conservation officer, if he thinks it's enforceable then that's good enough for me.

Darrel Mecham: I'll address the rigging thing too. I think that a lot of the rigging thing, I've kind of been involved with it a little this fall helping out the DWR was in the restricted pursuit and that's a training season on the La Sals, it's not a hunt. Everybody that they have is there and you have them separated by a long way and they all have dogs up. I think maybe an easier thing to show that you don't have the intent to go, pull your collars off. Pull your track collars off, pull your shock collars off. That way if somebody sees you and it doesn't look like you're rigging, it doesn't look like you're going to dump your dog and go. They'll have to show the intent there.

As far as the plan, the thing that bothers me with the plan is you've got a fish hook on your bear numbers drop. You know, on one stat you've got your permits numbers going up and you've got your fish hook coming down and more and more permits. Maybe a three-year plan is not such a great idea. By the time you get done with three years, even though you've got your safety valve, I think you're going to be killing too many bears. I didn't see a cub this spring. You know, there just wasn't much there. I just don't see a reason to raise the Book Cliffs tag numbers. I don't see it. Now, I don't know the Manti. Defer to those guys that are over there, I have no idea. And the depredation. But there, there's nothing there. I just don't see it.

Eric Luke: I have a couple of comments. As far as the rigging, I think that we're addressing one problem and creating another in doing this. I don't think it's a good idea. I agree there is a problem there but I think that the people who are creating the problem are going to continue to create a problem. Just like Guy mentioned, they can go and not put their dogs out and still be out there at 2 or 3 in the morning and they are not breaking any law. If we designate a specific time, we're going to have houndsmen stacked up on roads and then there's probably going to be a bigger conflict than there is. That's the way I see it happening.

I can't speak to the Book Cliffs because I don't spend any time on there. I do think that if we are moving tags from the spot and stalk into the general season, there's definitely going to be an impact there. So I'm not sure that that increase is, maybe we need to wait a year to see what that does.

That brings me to the three-year plan. I don't like the idea of it for a couple of reasons. Number one, if we go to a three-year plan, we don't have the option to address something like that. The other thing that really concerns me particularly with the Manti where we need to increase permits, if we go to a three-year plan, we have a limit in the plan that says we can only raise 10 percent. Well, if we are only raising 10 percent every three years, we're shooting ourselves in the foot. That depredation payout is going to continue to climb. By going to a three-year plan, that 10 percent restriction that's in there is a huge hinderance on a unit like the Manti.

Gerrish Willis: For those of you that are new to the RAC, I'm sorry this is going to sound

like a broken record but I've given this spiel once before. I only have experience with houndsmen conflicts with recreationists in the La Sals. Though I spend quite a bit of time down in the Abajos, I don't see the same problem because the number of recreationists there is a lot lower than the La Sals which is close to Moab, close to nirvana. Everybody wants to go there and do all their stuff. A lot of the problems I see is with the pursuit hunts and particularly, I mean I love Colorado, but particularly with houndsmen that come over from Colorado with 20 dogs and they are running all over the place. They really irritate a lot of people and they create a problem. It's a user problem. Typically, the RAC looks at user problems as conflicts between different sportsmen and I think you need to recognize that the bread and butter here of having people hunt and what not, you need to keep the non-sportsmen happy. Or at least not piss them off too much. So in the regulations it says, the board may restrict if there are user conflicts with other recreational activities. I think the La Sals is an example of where this is a problem. I would recommend that the pursuit hunts be eliminated on the La Sals completely. Also that the Wildlife Board really look closely at the revenue that comes from these Colorado hunters and ask is it worth it. Because they are coming over here to do their thing and I think they are giving the Utah houndsmen a black eye because they are charging up and down the roads, dogs everywhere. During this pursuit, they've got all these dogs out there running around and making a lot of racket, raising a lot of dust and creating a lot of problems and it is irritating people. It's irritating the non-sportsmen. I just think you should consider that. Get rid of the pursuit all together in the La Sals and then in general if those Colorado hunters go somewhere else to do their pursuing, do you really need them? Do you really want them? What purpose does it serve? How does it serve the wildlife interests in Utah to have these guys come over here?

Darrel Mecham: I'm just going to say one thing about what he said. I'm not going to say that I agree with it all but he speaks the truth. The number of non-hunting recreational users on the La Sals is blown by hunters like you wouldn't believe. There are a lot of Subarus on the La Sals. There really are. I'm just telling you straight up, this problem is going to come up and bite us whether we like it or not. I honestly don't know what the solution is going to be but I know it's coming. There's a yurt on every mountainside and people and trails and bike and events. It's unreal.

Trisha Hedin: That's why I don't hunt in the La Sals anymore.

Gerrish Willis: The regulation says that the Wildlife Board will take care of it, Darrel. But in La Sals, we know there's a problem and they haven't done anything. But the regulation says, it doesn't say that they will it says they can and I think they should.

Trisha Hedin: Any more general comments? Then, I'm going to start herding us in a certain way.

Kent Johnson: Begin your activities.

Trisha Hedin: OK, I will begin. So lets start with, some of this stuff might not go anywhere and that's fine I'm just taking some general comments. Let's talk about rigging. Currently the Division has a proposal on the table to define rigging and limit when the dogs can be out. Do we have a comment on that? Do we have a motion on that?

Are we OK with what the Division is proposing?

Gerrish Willis: I'd like to echo what was said before that I think the conservation officers have enough common sense to be able to differentiate and I think that the rigging rule as written probably needs to be tested in the field for a while, so I'm in favor of it.

Eric Luke: I have a comment contrary to that because I've had experience and I have no doubt that officer Shumway is a good guy and probably would handle those things in a very good manner. But I also have been on the other side and have seen where some of the conservation officers will take it to the letter of the law and the guy that's driving down the road to get somewhere will be cited. There are both sides to that.

Gerrish Willis: Have them drive 45 miles per hour then.

Kirk Player: Do we want guys going 40 on our dirt roads?

Eric Luke: Slow down to make a turn. I'll make a motion, we can vote on it and if it doesn't pass, we'll do something else. I make a motion that we keep the rigging laws the way that they are they are now.

Trisha Hedin: So we have a motion by Eric Luke to maintain the current rigging laws as such, not to be manipulated by the new plan. Do we have a second on that? Seconded by Jace Guymon. All in favor? Five in favor. And all opposed? I have six opposed, and that was Darrel, Dana, Sue, Gerrish, Todd and Kirk. Motion fails.

So I had some discussion on the three-year plan. So it should be understood that currently we manage bears—

Chris Wood: Let me clarify that and correct me if I'm wrong, Darren. Currently the bear management plan runs from 2011-2023 and in the plan that was passed in 2011, we said we will make recommendations every three years. We've been doing more than that because of some turnover in the position. So what Darren is saying is, we'd like to just follow the plan and do it every three years from here forward. Is that correct? So any motion based on that would be amending the current plan. We would be asking the Wildlife Board to amend the current plan.

Trisha Hedin: If we're all OK with it, I can move on.

Kent Johnson: Probably better move on. Do you move a motion?

Eric Luke: I'm not ok with that. I don't like that.

Trisha Hedin: Darren, can you speak to the biology on that just one more time?

Darren DeBloois: The current plan as Chris mentioned, passed by the Wildlife Board requires three-year cycles. That's what the plan requires. We've gotten away from that and it's partly because of some turnover in this position and just not passing on that institutional calendar. We've also had requests from groups to address things midstream and we've done that through the public process. So what we're asking tonight is that we

get back to the plan. That's the plan that the Wildlife Board passed and that's really as an agency where we need to be. We need to be making recommendations according to the plan that was passed by the Board so that's why we are recommending that.

Kirk Player: While you're up there, compare and contrast the biological difference. I think at least me, you look at most things through the eyes and ideas of the ungulates, you know. So what's the difference between the bear biology and the ungulate biology that makes it every year?

Darren DeBloois: Bears have much steadier population trends over time. Populations aren't sensitive annually. So we're talking about a bear population that's probably at a peak, at least in the recent past. I know that there're some concerns about keeping permits high but this goes the other way too on a three-year basis. If we decrease permits according to the plan, those would stay in place over time too. Over time, it all balances out with bears. In order to replace themselves a bear only has to have one successful litter in its lifetime. If they live 20 years, you can see that over long periods of time those populations are safe and we don't need to be tinkering with them every three years. That's the justification in the plan. That's why that three-year cycle is in the plan.

Eric Luke: So there's no limit on what you can decrease on tags, right?

Darren DeBloois: It depends on what the harvest numbers come back in. So if you're for example, high on your female harvest and you're low on your adult male harvest, the plan requires a reduction between 20 and 40 percent in tags. That gives you a window. At a minimum you can decrease 20 percent and at a maximum you can decrease 40 percent within a three-year period. What we've been doing is doing it every year for the last few years and the plan didn't intend for us to make adjustments. You only make adjustments every three according to the plan and that's what we're trying to get back to in this recommendation.

Todd Thorne: If it's an administrative error on the Division's part by adjusting populations every year, why do we need a motion to go back and follow the plan?

Darren DeBloois: It's a little bit of both. I think it's not just us losing track. We've also had, in a public process people can bring things forward and the Board can request us to do it as well. So it's been a little bit of a combination. But I think that just to be transparent and in full disclosure we felt like we need the public to understand what we're doing and just let everybody know that we've realized that we've gotten out of sync and want people to weigh in.

Todd Thorne: I think that public information is important but follow the plan and I think it would be more of an informational thing that we got out of sync for the public's information, we're going back a following the plan. We already created the rule and it was already approved So we have to go by the three-year because that's what it states.

Darren DeBloois: We're going to recommend to the Board that, we got out of sync with the plan. So it's an action item but again, in order to change it and require an annual, the Board is the ultimate arbiter. But in order to go annually, we'd have to amend the plan.

But it's the Boards plan. We recommended it, but the Board adopted it.

Todd Thorne: The Board adopted the annual plan or the three-year plan?

Darren DeBloois: The three-year plan. The current plan, the way it is.

Eric Luke: But the Board already adopted that in the past?

Darren DeBloois: Yes, they have. Again, we're just saying that we've gotten out of sync, we need to get back on this three-year cycle. That's where we should be according to the plan.

Trisha Hedin: We should let this lie. So lets talk about the Book Cliffs numbers really quick. Do I have a motion regarding that?

Kent Johnson: We should do it separate, I think. I would make a motion that we leave the Book Cliffs permit numbers right where they're at from 2018.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Kent Johnson to leave the Book Cliffs numbers at the 2018 rate.

Kent Johnson: Leave the Book Cliffs numbers at the current level.

Trisha Hedin: Do I have a second on that? I have a second by Jace Guymon. All in favor? Everybody except for Gerrish, who is opposed. So just one opposed, 10 in favor. Do we have any other motions?

Gerrish Willis: I'd like to make two motions. My first motion is to recommend to the Wildlife Board that they eliminate pursuit hunting in the La Sals.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Gerrish Willis to eliminate pursuits in the La Sal unit. Do I have a second on that?

Sue Bellagamba: I will second it.

Eric Luke: It's got to come up for discussion. My concern, I know there's a problem but my concern is if you eliminate the pursuit permit on the La Sal, all you do is move the problem to the Book Cliffs or somewhere else.

Trisha Hedin: I agree with that. I'm sure you understand that the La Sals is a disaster.

Eric Luke: It is.

Trisha Hedin: It's such a small range with so many people.

Eric Luke: The people that are there, I get that but to do what you're requesting isn't going to, it'll help the problem there but it's going just move the problem elsewhere.

Gerrish Willis: What is the problem elsewhere? Too many pursuit hunters? If there's nobody else around but a bunch of houndsmen who are training their dogs.

Eric Luke: There's recreationists elsewhere as well.

Gerrish Willis: Not to that—

Eric Luke: Maybe not to the extent that there are on the La Sals but there are recreational people on every unit.

Gerrish Willis: OK. I've got another motion, too.

Jeff Christensen: We've got to vote on this one.

Gerrish Willis: I understand what you're saying.

Trisha Hedin: So we had a motion by Gerrish Willis to eliminate pursuits on the La Sals and we have a second by Sue Bellagamba. All in favor? I have two in favor. All opposed? Nine opposed. So Sue and Gerrish [were in favor].

Gerrish Willis: So I have a second motion and that is to eliminate pursuit permits—I don't know if you can do this on a regional basis or if it would have to be done statewide—but to eliminate pursuit permits to out of state residents.

Dana Truman: So is that to only allow residents to have pursuit? OK.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion on the table by Gerrish Willis to eliminate nonresident pursuit hunts. Do I have a second on that?

Eric Luke: I'll second that.

Trisha Hedin: OK, I have a second by Eric Luke.

Kent Johnson: Point of order, I'm just going to bring that up just now. I don't think it's legal to do so. I'm not an attorney. But I would venture a guess that lawsuits would abound.

Darren Olsen: That's why the Division has a good attorney.

Darren DeBloois: Our attorneys interpret that as illegal. It violates the commerce clause to eliminate all nonresidents. We had this discussion and that was our attorney's, it makes them really uncomfortable.

Eric Luke: Can you limit it to one?

Darren DeBloois: That makes them nervous too. We did talk about this. The only solution that they would be comfortable with would be capping. So we already have restricted pursuit on those units, we'd have to set up a restricted pursuit season for spring

because there's already currently restricted. So that would cap residents along with non-residents and it would be a 90-10 split. When we discussed this in the group, the houndsmen would prefer not to have a cap on resident pursuit opportunity. So I don't know if you can do much with that but that was kind of where we wound up.

Eric Luke: So if you cap the nonresidents, you'd have to cap the residents?

Darren DeBloois: That's what Marty and Greg, our AG's office representatives came up with. That was their advice to us.

Darrel Mecham: As far as the La Sals goes, it's going to self-resolve really soon. It's going to blow apart.

Dana Truman: It sounds like a lot of people recognize there's a problem there. So instead of saying we want it eliminated, haven't we asked the Division of Wildlife to look into options of how we can maybe eliminate or reduce that and put that pursuit hunting somewhere else and kind of give us some options.

Trisha Hedin: Can we ask for an action log to just have the Division look seriously at what's going on in these hunts on a social level?

Chris Wood: I'm the wrong person to ask.

Jeff Christensen: We've got to vote on this. It's been seconded.

Eric Luke: If it's illegal, we can't.

Jeff Christensen: It's still something you've got to do.

Sue Bellagamba: Unless you withdraw your motion.

Gerrish Willis: I'm not withdrawing my motion.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Gerrish. Did I ask for a seconded.

Eric Luke: Yeah, I seconded it.

Gerrish Willis: I realize this is kind of like a message motion.

Trisha Hedin: So all in favor of eliminating the nonresident pursuit hunt on the La Sals? So I have one in favor. All opposed? Ten opposed. So the one in favor was Gerrish.

Gerrish Willis: I have one more motion. To eliminate some of the problem, if we're not going to recommend that they eliminate pursuit hunts and they are not going to recommend that they get rid of the out-of-state pursuit permits, I would like to recommend to the Wildlife Board that pursuit hunters be limited to seven hounds each.

Eric Luke: I believe there's already some laws regulating that, isn't there?

Dennis Shumway: In the summer it's restricted. Not in the spring.

Eric Luke: So there's already a law in place for that.

Gerrish Willis: How come you see like 20 and 25 hounds at a time then, if they're already limited?

Darren DeBloois: They're limited to eight per handler during the summer season. There are no pack size limits on the spring season. We made this change several years ago because of the concerns about all the recreation going on in the La Sals. We felt like the summer season was when we were getting most of the conflicts with other user groups so we didn't make any changes on the spring season at that time. That is one thing that we've done in the past to try to address these concerns. But if you have multiple handlers, it can be more than eight dogs. It's eight dogs per handler.

Gerrish Willis: When does the spring season start?

Darren DeBloois: It's in March.

Gerrish Willis: OK, I would like to modify my motion then. I would like to recommend that the spring pursuit hunt have the same limits on number of dogs as the summer pursuit hunt.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we have a motion by Gerrish Willis to limit the amount of dogs during the spring pursuit hunt to replicate the summer hunt, so eight dogs per handler. Do I have a second on that?

Sue Bellagamba: Is that in the La Sals or across the board?

Trisha Hedin: OK, restricted pursuit units.

Eric Luke: Say that again.

Trisha Hedin: Restricted pursuit units.

Darren DeBloois: So there are currently no restricted pursuit units in the spring. They are only in the summer So I think you'd have to probably set that up somehow. Or you could just limit the number of dogs. But it would be helpful for us if you decide what units you want to do that on.

Eric Luke: Are the summer restrictions for just certain units?

Darren DeBloois: Just Book Cliffs, La Sals and San Juan, currently. So if you want to do it in the spring, it would help me if you'd tell me what specific units you want.

Trisha Hedin: Just in the La Sals?



Gerrish Willis: Well, I'm not that familiar with the conflicts up in the Book Cliffs but you say there's a lot up there.

Eric Luke: With me, I think the biggest problem is the La Sals.

Gerrish Willis: OK. To clarify my motion, this is applied just to the La Sals.

Trisha Hedin: OK. So do I have a second on that?

Chris Wood: Can you clarify the motion on that?

Trisha Hedin: So the motion was to limit the amount of dogs that a handler can have to eight in the spring restricted pursuit hunt on the La Sals. Do I have a second on that?

Sue Bellagamba: The spring season?

Trisha Hedin: The spring season.

Eric Luke: Just on the La Sals.

Trisha Hedin: Do I have a second on that?

Eric Luke: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: I have a second by Eric Luke. All in favor? OK, five in favor. All opposed? Six. The motion fails. The opposed: Kirk, Jace, Jeff, Todd, Kent and Darrel.

So do I have a motion for the remainder of the Division's recommendations?

Jace Guymon: I have a question before we make a motion on it, then we can wrap it all up. Just on the depredation issues, the major one is the Manti so looking at it, last year our sheep areas we got them on the top of the Candle and there's no roads. We've got sheep on Skyline Drive that drops off vertical down to the bottom of the canyons. No houndsmen are cutting that road. So basically all of our bears are getting killed out of non-sheep areas by the hunters. The locations on the depredation, are they happening in those areas like Skyline Drive and the top of the Candle, places where houndsmen aren't taking bears? Is there a way to address that without just throwing tags onto the unit?

Darren DeBloois: That's one of the reasons we're asking from hunters a GPS location of where that kill takes place. We're also asking that from Wildlife Services so we can start to build a geo reference database of where these bears are actually being taken. That should give us, if we need to split a unit up or something to try to address specific problems. Right now, all we are asking for is a drainage and that isn't quite fine scale enough.

Jeff Christensen: Did we get any headway on the Book Cliffs numbers? Did we make a motion on that?

Kent Johnson: Yeah, you even voted for it. It's a long night, I'm with you. We've got to

move on. I make a motion to approve the remainder of the Division's recommendations for bear.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so I have a motion by Kent Johnson and a second by Kirk. All in favor? Ten in favor. All opposed? Oh sorry, you didn't have your hand up at the beginning. It was unanimous.

## **VOTING**

**Eric Luke made a motion to keep the current rigging laws unchanged**

**Seconded by Jace Guymon**

**Motion Failed 5-6**

**Opposed: Gerrish Willis, Todd Thorne, Kirk Player, Darrel Mecham, Dana Truman, Sue Bellagamba**

**Kent Johnson made a motion to keep the current (2018) bear permit numbers for the Book Cliffs unchanged**

**Seconded by Jace Guymon**

**Motion passed 10-1**

**Opposed: Gerrish Willis**

**Gerrish Willis made a motion to eliminate the bear pursuit seasons on the La Sals**

**Seconded by Sue Bellagamba**

**Motion failed 2-9**

**Opposed: Eric Luke, Darrel Mecham, Jeff Christensen, Dana Truman, Kirk Player, Kent Johnson, Jace Guymon, Darren Olsen, Todd Thorne**

**Gerrish Willis made a motion to eliminate pursuit permits for out of state residents on the La Sals**

**Seconded by Eric Luke**

**Motion failed 2-9**

**Opposed: Darrel Mecham, Jeff Christensen, Dana Truman, Kirk Player, Kent Johnson, Jace Guymon, Darren Olsen, Todd Thorne, Sue Bellagamba**

**Gerrish Willis made a motion to limit the number of dogs allowed for spring bear pursuit permits on the La Sals to eight dogs per handler, equal to permits for the summer pursuit season**

**Seconded by Eric Luke**

**Motion failed 5-6**

**Opposed: Kirk Player, Todd Thorne, Jeff Christensen, Jace Guymon, Kent Johnson, Darrel Mecham**

**Kent Johnson made a motion to accept the remainder of the recommendation for bear.**

**Seconded by Kirk Player**

**Passed unanimously**

6) **Pronghorn Unit Plans**

- Guy Wallace, regional wildlife program manager

**Questions from the RAC**

Trisha Hedin: Do we have questions for Guy?

Jeff Christensen: Guy, will you go back to your, I'm concerned with your Cisco numbers. So your La Sal, South Cisco is going to be south of 70?

Guy Wallace: Correct.

Jeff Christensen: And your Book Cliffs, Cisco is north of 70?

Guy Wallace: That's Correct.

Jeff Christensen: So your current level on your antelope is 375 and you're wanting to go to 700?

Guy Wallace: We're allowing for that. Basically, we'd be allowing that herd to increase. That would be the objective and that's based on available habitat.

Jeff Christensen: What is your current objective there now?

Guy Wallace: 200. That's primarily because for years there's not been very many pronghorn there on that unit.

Jeff Christensen: Thank God.

Guy Wallace: Everybody's entitled. We had talked in the past about moving antelope to the south side but it hasn't been necessary because they've done that on their own. We've had some good production years. They increased on their own but there's still plenty of room on that South Cisco for additional pronghorn.

Gerrish Willis: I have a question, particularly in the Book Cliffs, Cisco and on the north slope. How much movement is there between Wyoming and the north slope and Colorado and the north Cisco along the same habitat? Do you have any way of knowing where those animals are moving back and forth across state lines and what affect that has to do with population estimates and how that would affect your goal as to total number of animals?

Guy Wallace: We don't have that information. We don't have animals radio collared so we've not been tracking that information. We do know they go back and forth across the Colorado line and our estimates are based on our surveys that are done annually. We do fixed-wing surveys annually and there may be some years that some pronghorn are on the other side of the line but overall we're able to track those changes in populations. It's primarily based on fawn productivity and survival. That's where we see those changes.

So you have really good years, antelope thrive in good years. Then they struggle in poor years. You see more effects to those population changes from that than interstate migration.

Eric Luke: How do antelope handle the drought? We had this really bad drought this year, how do you see that affecting us in the next few years?

Guy Wallace: We've already seen that. The highs that we saw a few years ago, we had some very high production numbers, some high survival numbers. We've already seen low numbers this year and from last summer. So some of them have already started to decline. Like I said, they are very subject to those kinds of influences, weather influences and wet years we grow more antelope than we realize and dry years we lose antelope.

Dana Truman: Are you flying annually or every other year?

Guy Wallace: You're correct on that. We used to fly annually, we have gone to every other year rotation, yes. There are some units that we fly every year. Some of them we're monitoring, we've got neck bands on some of the Hatch Point antelope. So we're looking at sightability on that so we fly that one every year. But on the others, we've gone to an alternate rotation.

Dana Truman: I noticed in all the plans it says you're going to work with public land management agencies to identify and monitor crucial pronghorn habitat, is there a plan or discussion of how we're doing that? I'm asking this just kind of in context of being directed with bighorn sheep plans to make sure agencies are involved.

Guy Wallace: We put these plans out for review by land management agencies. Probably more of the other discussion is just when we're working with the biologist from those agencies and talk about different areas that they want to see projects in or that we would like to see projects in.

Dana Truman: Do you have big game transects down in antelope habitat? Trend studies? Or is that just deer and elk?

Guy Wallace: It's just deer and elk.

Jeff Christensen: Your left deal there, those are the objectives you're wanting to go to?

Guy Wallace: Correct.

Jeff Christensen: So are they all a major increase? That's a two-and-a-half times increase on just that one allotment.

Guy Wallace: No. The others, the Cisco, is the same as it's been. That's not changed. It's always been 900.

Jeff Christensen: What about your Nine Mile increase?

Guy Wallace: That's a decrease from 400 to 300.

Jeff Christensen: I wish we had numbers on where you were going up or down on those. Your San Rafael, your 1,200, so that would be south of 6 to 70?

Guy Wallace: Yes.

Jeff Christensen: Is that going up or down?

Guy Wallace: It's actually going up for both units. It used to be 1,200 for both units and it is now split. So it's 1200 for the North and 600 for the South.

Jeff Christensen: So when you break that down, on the San Rafael, you're increasing by double. If you're breaking it down—

Guy Wallace: Well not double. We're increasing it 600. From 1200 to 1800. That one is another one that's like the South Cisco. The population has generally been very small there and then these previous years where we say the high production, we saw the numbers come up pretty good on those units. So we felt like it's capable of handling that many animals.

Jeff Christensen: You've got major problems on the north one as far as agricultural lands influx.

Guy: We do, and that's why our estimate is 1,500 and we'd like to get it back down to 1,200. We've had several hunts. We've got two doe hunts that we're trying to get those numbers back down.

Dana Truman: Do you know what happened? Back in 2013 it was only at approximately 300. I just noticed that the San Rafael was quite small and then it started to jump in 2014. Did they move more to agricultural land or did it just end up being good?

Guy Wallace: Not on the desert unit, the North San Rafael unit.

Kent Johnson: On the South Cisco and the San Rafael Desert units, increasing the population objective, is there any plans along with that for guzzlers or anything for water? Year over year, my take on why there's not been that many there, even though there's a lot of good habitat is that there is a lack of live water on both those units.

Guy Wallace: Wade, would you come talk about that?

Eric Luke: How did the private lands hunts go last year on the north?

Wade Paskett: Wade Paskett, wildlife biologist for the San Rafael Swell. What was the first question?

Kent Johnson: What are the plans for water on the San Rafael Desert and the South Cisco? If you're going to increase the numbers of pronghorn, what are the plans for

water? Both of those units have a big lack of any kind of live water.

Wade Paskett: There's a number of guzzlers out there that are in the process of going online to be repaired. The reason that we have the numbers we have is because we've had good moisture. So those numbers will be declining. So what I'm trying to say is, that's why we're over our objective on that San Rafael North. I think that those, between our two doe hunts, we've had a number of those between Wellington and Cleveland focusing on the pronghorn in those agricultural areas. So that population estimate should decrease closer to the objective especially with the drought that we just had.

Chris Wood: We have a great partnership with the BLM. They funnel a lot of money our way to work on guzzlers. We have a seasonal out of the BLM office and we work with the Price office. If there are places where you think we need additional water, we have the personnel to put in new guzzlers or maintain current ones. We have a database and there's 150-plus guzzlers in our region alone. Not just for pronghorn but other species. I want to mention one more thing. I just signed the paperwork this week. The last few years people have noticed that there are a lot of pronghorn on the wrong side of the fence along Highway 191. The sportsmen groups have put together like \$30,000 and we're retrofitting miles and miles of fence along 191 and a lot of other highly traveled roads in that area. To raise the wire on the bottom wire and make it a smooth wire so that pronghorn can get back under the fence if they get caught on the wrong side. Hopefully that will help the herd as well.

Eric Luke: The private lands hunts on the North Manti, how successful were they?

Wade Paskett: We don't have our harvest numbers yet but overall, they were successful. They were concentrated because of lack of water and so they were accessible to the hunters.

Eric Luke; Something you'll continue with?

Wade Paskett: We'll keep those hunts in place so that they are there. Even if we have to put something like five permits once we get down to objective just to keep those hunts there. If this happens again, those hunts will be in place and we can just increase tags.

Trisha Hedin: Are there any questions from the audience?

### **Questions from the audience**

No questions

### **Comments from the audience**

No Comments

## **RAC discussion**

Jeff Christensen: I think the increase on the South Cisco is pretty drastic. We run part of that world from the town on Thompson to the Dewey Road, and we're down 5,000 AUMs, grazing AUMs. And now we're going to have two-and-a-half times the number of antelope? You're 100 percent right. The only water there is the water that we're maintaining on the pond issues. To throw two-and-a-half times more antelope on it? I think it's pretty drastic. I know the country pretty well. I don't think it can handle it.

Guy Wallace: I talked about the habitat comparison that we did on the North Cisco, we looked at with the habitat and we've got about 500 acres per animal. Right now, at the objective we'd be 1,000 acres per animal for pronghorn on the South Cisco. There's quite a bit of habitat there for the number of animals that we have.

Dana Truman: Is there much dietary overlap between antelope and cattle?

Guy Wallace: In the springtime, sure.

Jeff Christensen: There's a lot because you get into those big flats in Cisco, it's all the mat salt that the cattle rely on. Especially this time of year because all of the grasses are gone. That mat salt's gone before, I'm assuming they are eating mat salt because that's the only thing there. I'm assuming the antelope are eating the mat salt.

Guy Wallace: Yeah.

Jeff Christensen: Some of the part of that world, that's all that's there is mat salt.

Guy Wallace: They eat a lot more brush as well. A lot more of the fourwing, things like that that's out there.

Jeff Christensen: But until you get down on the other end of Long Valley, there's not much of that. That entire upper end is basically mat salt.

Guy Wallace: They'll distribute themselves where they find the feed. Sage brush is a big winter diet as well. There's quite a bit of sage brush. We've not seen big conflicts with livestock and pronghorn.

Jeff Christensen: There is, we have a huge conflict going on in Icelander. It's huge. You'll go in there before you take any cows and all your Brigham Tea is gone, completely gone. All that is there is antelope poop.

Todd Thorne: With the drought cycle we're in, if you increase the permits and leave the objective permits where they were, because if we've had a couple of wet years and its increased populations so we've increased objective numbers. Now we go through more years of drought, we have these high objective numbers but we don't have the wet year to keep the pronghorn there.

Guy Wallace: With some of the units. There's only the North San Rafael and the South

Cisco that are increasing permits. Those two units for over a long period of time, we've seen low numbers of pronghorn.

Jeff Christensen: Do you think the low numbers are there because the country's not suitable for them to be there?

Guy Wallace: The numbers are there because, like Wade said, in the past years where we had good production and it was wet years on those desert areas that increased our production. We've not seen that very often at all on those areas. Those numbers are a result of that moisture that we had those years.

Jeff Christensen: The tough thing we see as ranchers is, we're held to a constant number and if your numbers are doing this, you're going up and down and now you have too many so now we've got to do a depredation hunt then those numbers crash. Now we don't have enough so let's bump those numbers back up. It kills us. We need to get on a field that we can kind of run and stay on that plane.

Guy Wallace: It's the nature of the beast with pronghorn.

Jeff Christensen: I get that, but you're managing your numbers at capacity when we need to be managing on capacity on a bad year.

Guy Wallace: There's very few of these that have ever reached capacity over a long period of time.

Jeff Christensen: Like I said, I see both ends of it though. We have the Cisco permit where the antelope are moderate and things are well, then on that Icelander where you're way over your numbers. I see where you're going to end up with that. To two-and-a-half times that, I think that's pretty reckless.

Guy Wallace: Where are you talking two-and-a-half times? Which unit?

Jeff Christensen: If you're going from a 200, that's why I said I wish you had what your current objective is, you say your La Sal, South Cisco is right now at 200. Correct?

Guy Wallace: Yes.

Jeff Christensen: And you're going to 700?

Guy Wallace: Yes. That's the objective of the plan.

Jeff Christensen: Isn't that two-and-a-half times?

Guy Wallace: Yeah. On the South Cisco?

Jeff Christensen: Yes, sir.

Guy Wallace: From 375 to 700, oh what the objective was.



Jeff Christensen: Current objective is 200 head. Now you are proposing a 700. That's a two-and-a-half times increase.

Guy Wallace: Right.

Jeff Christensen: On an issue that exactly where he said the antelope water facilities isn't there so basically, they are going to rely on stock water.

Guy Wallace: Well, I apologize, when I was looking at the 375 to 700, you're right about the two-and-a-half times.

Jeff Christensen: So you're already over objective now with your 375.

Guy Wallace: Correct.

Trisha Hedin: So Jeff do you want to make a motion specifically on that?

Jeff Christensen: I do. I want to make a motion that we stay with the current level or say go to 300, but that 700 is crazy. I'll make a motion that you go to 300 on the La Sal South Cisco.

Trisha Hedin: OK, so we have a motion by Jeff Christensen to make the population objective on the La Sal, South Cisco 300. Do we have a second on that? We have a second by Darrel Mecham. All in favor. Six in favor. All opposed? We have five opposed: Dana, Darren, Kirk, Gerrish and Jace. So it passes 6-5.

Do I have a motion on the remainder of the proposal?

Darrel Mecham: I make a motion to accept the Division's plan.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Darrel Mecham to accept the Division's plan, and a second by Kent Johnson. All in favor? It is unanimous in favor.

## **VOTING**

**Jeff Christensen made a motion to adopt a population objective of 300 pronghorn on the La Sal/South Cisco unit**

**Seconded by Darrel Mecham**

**Motion passed 6-5**

**Opposed: Gerrish Willis, Jace Guymon, Kirk Player, Dana Truman, Darren Olsen**

**Darrel Mecham made a motion to accept the Pronghorn Unit Plans as presented**

**Seconded by Ken Johnson**

**Passed unanimously**

## **7) Moose Unit Plans**

- Guy Wallace, regional wildlife program manager

### **Questions from the RAC**

Guy Wallace: For those that are interested, the Manti is part of the Wasatch Central Mountains.

Eric Luke: Why is that, why don't we separate that and make two units?

Guy Wallace: We don't have enough animals to have a unit on its own. In the plan, in regard to that, maybe you've already looked at it, this is in the plan, the Central Mountains represent a very small portion of the overall moose population due to the sparse number of moose on the Central Mountains. They aren't managed as an individual hunt unit, however, there is suitable habitat and population is reproducing. If moose populations increase on the Central Mountains, the unit will be re-evaluated on its ability to be its own unit.

Eric Luke: So to me, that doesn't make any sense because we're trying to grow moose but we're turning loose a full number of hunters that can go over and hunt the bulls on the Manti and basically kill every bull that's on there.

Guy Wallace: It's been that way for the past couple of years and they haven't done that. We've killed two bulls in the last two years.

Eric Luke: They killed two last year, three last year.

Guy Wallace: I only know of two. Does anybody know different? Wade? I was told two in the last two years.

Eric Luke: I know they killed two last year off there. And there was another one the year before. A lady killed one the year before. So I know of three.

Guy Wallace: Typically, on a survey, we see maybe 15-20 moose. That's all we really ever see. There's not a large population there and it's not large enough to be managed on a unit on its own. That's why it's that way for now.

Eric Luke: Why are we killing any of them?

Guy Wallace: To allow some opportunity rather than—we might as well let them harvest some out of there if there are some there that are harvestable.

Chris Wood: By including it, does it increase permits that are allowed for those units together?

Guy Wallace: No. The permits that are recommended for those units are not based on that.

Eric Luke: But the hunters that draw those permits, you can have all 24 tags.

Trisha Hedin: Yeah, but if there's that many limited moose, you're not going to go there to hunt if there's only 15 moose, right?

Eric Luke: But if we're trying to grow the herd, why are we killing any of them?

Guy Wallace: These are bulls.

Eric Luke: You've got to have bulls to breed the cows.

Guy Wallace: There are bulls there to do that.

Trisha Hedin: Any more questions?

### **Questions from the audience**

No questions.

### **Comments from the audience**

No comments.

### **RAC discussion**

Eric Luke: I have real concerns with the moose. Looking in their steady decline in the numbers statewide. I believe it's stated that most of that is due to predators?

Guy Wallace: Darren, do you know?

Darren DeBloois: It's actually, we're at the southern end of moose distribution in the northern hemisphere. Moose are really sensitive to dry, relatively warm winters. They get really high tick loads. Primarily, it's been driven by those heavy parasitic loads. We've seen it can really hammer the overall health of cows with calves so you don't see the recruitment. That's primarily what it is. Predators, we don't see that very often. It's mainly disease. They're also really sensitive to low selenium levels. If they're not getting selenium in their diet they can just tip over. It's a combination of those. They really like cold, snowy winters.

Trisha Hedin: Do I have a motion to approve?

Kent Johnson: Motion to approve the Division's moose recommendations.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Kent Johnson to approve the moose unit plans as presented. Do I have a second?

Gerrish Willis: I'll second it.

Trisha Hedin: And a second by Gerrish. All in favor? It is unanimous.

## **VOTING**

**Kent Johnson made a motion to approve the moose recommendations as presented  
Seconded by Gerrish Willis  
Motion passed unanimously**

### **8) CHA Rule Amendments**

- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader

### **Questions from the RAC**

Gerrish Willis: What are non NPIP sources?

Avery Cook: National Poultry Improvement Plans. So when you're getting poultry from an NPIP source, they've already been vetted for disease requirements.

Gerrish Willis: On the reporting requirements for mortality, it's a pretty comprehensive list, what would cause mortality that's not related to any of the items listed there?

Avery Cook: Just the normal mortality when raising game birds. You have a certain percentage usually die off the day-old chicks. Either getting cold or crowded, not getting to the food. Birds running into the edge of the flight pen, breaking their necks, predators getting in and eating birds.

Gerrish Willis: Thank you

Trisha Hedin: Any other questions from the RAC?

### **Questions from the audience**

No questions.

### **Comments from the audience**

No comments.

### **RAC discussion**

Trisha Hedin: Any comments from the RAC? Do I have a motion?

Todd Thorne: I'll make a motion to approve the CHA rule amendments.

Trisha Hedin: I have a motion by Todd Thorne to accept the CHA rule amendments as presented. Do I have a second? A second by Dana. All in favor? Unanimous.

## **VOTING**

**Todd Thorne made a motion to approve the CHA rule amendments as presented  
Seconded by Dana Truman  
Motion passed unanimously**

- 9) **Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal**  
- Avery Cook, Upland Game Projects Leader

### **Questions from the RAC**

Kent Johnson: As we look there and we see the period from 2012 to 2015 we had some wet years there and the statewide average was going up dramatically. But on the Sheep Rock, it was going down, do you know why?

Avery Cook: There's quite a few causes on the Sheep Rocks. We've had a lot of habitat loss due to fire. We've had a lot of habitat loss due to juniper encroachment. When the population gets as low as it is, predation has a more significant impact. There's quite a bit of recreation out there causing disturbance. Basically, most any threat to sage grouse you can find out there. It's kind a death by a thousand cuts.

Kent Johnson: My second part of that question is are we going to lose the birds that you're moving? Based on what was already causing the problem, are we just going to be throwing those birds away that you're transplanting?

Avery Cook: We've been doing a lot of habitat work out there. It's really made a lot more room for the birds and they seem to be responding to that. A lot of these birds that we're counting on the leks are produced in the Sheep Rocks so it's not just a bunch of collared birds that are going to link out. I've got a map showing all of the, most of these are pinion/juniper removal projects where we take the trees out. Sage grouse are displaced by juniper trees at a very low level, about 4 percent canopy cover you'll get the sage grouse leks extirpated. But if we remove the encroaching conifers before we lose the sage brush and grass forb understory basically create instant habitat and we've seen birds moving in to those areas.

Eric Luke: Can you go back to the graph, I had the same thoughts because statewide, right now is declining and if we're taking birds from one area and putting to an unstable unit, is it better to leave them where they are stable?

Avery Cook: We're taking such a low proportion out of where they are stable. I don't think we have any impact on the population. So those are two of our hunt units and the amount we are taking is well below the sustainable number you can take. It's about half a percent from other source populations.

Kirk Player: If I'm looking at that right, when you did start to do the translocation, it did actually improve, right? It's not like you did the translocations and then the population kept tanking on that Sheep Rocks.

Avery Cook: That's correct, we are seeing a response.

Eric Luke: Part of that improvement is the 30 males that they planted.

Kirk Player: They didn't die.

### **Questions from the audience**

No questions.

### **Comments from the audience**

No comments.

### **RAC discussion**

Trisha Hedin: Comments from the RAC.

Darrel Mecham: I make a motion that we accept the Division's plan as stated.

Trisha Hedin: So I have a motion by Darrel Mecham to accept the Division's plan on sage grouse translocation as presented, and seconded by Jeff Christensen. All in favor? Unanimous. We are done. Thank you.

### **VOTING**

**Darrel Mecham made a motion to accept the Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal as presented**

**Seconded by Jeff Christensen**

**Motion passed unanimously**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on Jan. 10, 2019, 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 April 17, 2019, 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

December 13, 2018

1. 2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments
  - a. MOTION to not increase the numbers on the Book Cliffs-Daniel Davis; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Tim Ignacio
    - i. Failed with 2 in favor and 6 against
  - b. MOTION to accept numbers as presented from the Division-Natasha Hadden, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Brad Horrocks
    - i. Passed with 5 in favor and 3 against
  - c. MOTION to accept all rules changes as presented, without the rigging rule- Daniel Davis; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Brett Prevedel
    - i. Passed unanimously
2. Pronghorn Unit Plans -
  - a. MOTION to accept as presented from the Division w exception of the South Cisco unit- recommend 475 instead of 700-Ritch Anderson
    - i. Amendment-Brad Horrocks- recommend 575 instead of 700- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Daniel Davis
    - ii. Passed unanimously
3. Moose Unit Plans
  - a. MOTION to accept as presented from the Division- Brad Horrocks; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Brett Prevedel
    - i. Passed unanimously
4. CHA Rule Amendments
  - a. MOTION to accept as presented from the Division-Joe Arnold; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Natasha Hadden
    - i. Passed unanimously
5. Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal
  - a. MOTION to accept as presented from the Division-Natasha Hadden; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Brad Horrocks
    - i. Passed unanimously



NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS  
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal

December 13, 2018

NER RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Randy Dearth, NER RAC Chair  
Rebekah Jones, Non-consumptive  
Tim Ignacio, Tribe  
Natasha Hadden, BLM  
Joe Arnold, Public At-Large

Brad Horrocks, Elected Official  
Ritchie Anderson, Agriculture  
Daniel Davis, Sportsman

Brett Prevedel, Public At-Large  
Boyde Blackwell, NER Regional Supervisor  
Joe Batty, Agriculture

NER RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Andrea Merrell, Non-consumptive

Dan Abeyta, USFS

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:

Kirk Woodward

- WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES— Randy Dearth
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

MOTION to approve agenda

APPROVAL BY: Rebekah Jones

SECONDED BY: Brad Horrocks

Passed unanimously

MOTION to approve minutes

APPROVAL BY: Brett Prevedel

SECONDED BY: Ritchie Anderson

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Randy Scheetz, NER LE Sergeant  
Kyle Kettle, NER Wildlife Specialist  
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager

Tonya Kieffer-Selby, NER Outreach  
Manager

Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist  
Avery Cook, Upland Game Proj. Leader  
Darren DeBloois, Mammals Prog.  
Coordinator

Passed unanimously

● WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE - Randy Dearth

I'll just tell you what we did there. The last Wildlife Board meeting, the deer numbers I guess the Central and Southern region checked in about half the mule deer as normal at their check stations. Those that they checked had poor body conditions. Most likely drought was the factor there. The other regions he reported were about normal. Covy Jones gave a presentation on a couple of surveys that have been completed. One of them was moving the archery hunt to overlap more of the rut. they sent that to about 3,900 hunters the overall results recommended no change. The Wildlife Board recommended a calendar be put together by the Division of possible season changes to include a little bit more of the rut and the Division agreed to do that. He also did a presentation on the survey that was done on the once in a lifetime (OIL) goat hunt, results on that were pretty positive as long as permits were not taken away from the rifle hunt or any weapon hunts. The first action item was the state wide mountain goat management plan and it was very well received as far as the committee that was put together for that. The committee was handled in the negotiation that took place there. I think everyone walked away, they may not have walked away happy, but they walked away satisfied they did the very best they could. A motion was made on that to approve the state wide mountain goat management plan as presented and it five in favor, zero opposed and one obtained, Kevin Albright abstained, he's with the Forest Service. the next action item was the state wide bighorn sheep management plan and a group of, I'm guessing 15-20 people got up on that one too and they were all very supportive of how that committee was handled and they too were very appreciative of that. They said the sportsman came together and the wool growers and agriculture came together on that and it was kind of fun to be apart of to see that happen. there was a motion made on that to approve the stare wide bighorn sheep management plan as presented and it passed unanimous 6-0. They agreed to have a management of understanding created so everybody understood how everything was going to work and they felt a little more comfortable maybe in a legal way of having that understanding. So it's going to be contemplative. Also a part of that plan allows the sheep herders or the livestock herders to take a bighorn sheep on site if its with their domestic sheep. That's one of the concessions some of them made that some of Wool Growers Association and the Agriculture guys really appreciated. There was a motion made by the Wildlife Board to have the Division report on those two things at every Wildlife Board meeting until both of those were completed. And what I mean by completed on the 'take' is having an understanding on how that is going to work if they take one. They have to report it and those kind of things. that motion passed unanimous 6-0. On the Bucks, Bulls, OIL hunts, there were several motions. One of them was on the Barney Top archery only elk hunt as we talked about in our last meeting. It's apart of, it's in the middle of the Boulder unit, and there was a motion to approve that with a class of 4 1/2 to 5 year old bulls; there was no second so that motion failed. There was another motion to approve that hunt with a 7 1/2 to 8 year old bull and that actually failed two in favor four opposed. Then there was a motion to add to the action log an item for the Division to complete a proposal to take a look at that and see if there is something that needs to be done. That motion passed unanimous 6-0. There was another motion and we talked about what was a primitive weapon in our RAC also, and there was a motion for the Division to come up with a definition of what a primitive weapon is. Is it a spear, is it a long bow, what is it? Is it muzzleloader flintlock, what is it? So that passed unanimous 6-0 and I think that was due to the RAC by the April meeting. There was a motion for the LE OIL archery only rocky mountain and desert bighorn sheep hunts; adding those unit and you'll remember the collars. There was for the rocky the Newfoundland and for the desert the Zion unit and that one passed 6-0. There was a lot of discussion over the spike rifle hunt in the different units. if you recall in ours there was a discussion whether to have that hunt any longer. The southern RAC had a motion to keep the rifle spike hunt in the Book Cliffs and it passed there. There were two other RACs that passed a motion to keep the rifle spike only hunt as it is and those two passed. There was a lot of discussion on that and when the dust all settled they added the spike hunt to the Monroe unit. Which it was taken away four years ago. So all the LE hunts they worked. That's where that ended up, that was unanimous 6-0. Then there was a motion not to have an early season deer hunt on the

Panguitch Lake unit and that failed two in favor, four opposed. There was a motion to include the additional boundary that was proposed by our RAC the NE RAC for the Uintah Basin extended archery unit. As I think you'll recall we have some land on the other side of the river and it passed unanimous 6-0. There was a motion to approve the balance of the plan and that passed 6-0. On the CWMU topic there was a motion to approve the Meadow Mountain CWMUs and they had some late applications. It was approved unanimous. Then there was a motion to approve the rest of what the Division presented and it was approved unanimous. As far as the Dedicated Hunter (DH) rule amendments was passed 5-1 as presented. The waterfowl and rule amendments was passed unanimous as presented except limit the e-bikes to class one, 20 mile an hour, which I think we talked about quite a bit in our last meeting. Then there was a topic that we didn't talk about that was presented that they voted on that had to do with the Flaming Gorge rule amendments. There was an agreement change in that which doesn't allow non-residents to purchase a reciprocal stamp between here and Wyoming. If I understand it right you can buy a Utah non resident licence and then fish in Wyoming which is lot cheaper than buying a Wyoming one and buying a reciprocal stamp for Utah. They made it so non-residents cannot buy reciprocal stamps, if I understand that right. Just for your knowledge any fisherman out there Wyoming has raised their reciprocal stamp \$20 from what it already was at \$10 so next year going forward you'll be paying \$30 for a reciprocal stamp for Wyoming. Utah's has stayed the same. You can get online right now and buy a 2019 stamp for \$10, I did it today, so you can save yourself \$20 if that's what you want to do. I think that's all the notes I had taken.

- REGIONAL UPDATE-BOYDE BLACKWELL

Some of the things going on in the region, our law enforcement are currently down an officer again, we have a hard time going longer than a year it seems. We get officers that like it in other places or need a change, so we are down an officer. It was in the Vernal North, is that right Randy? So we are down one but they've got seven guys that have made it through the rigors of the interviews and the tests and things they go through. So there's a good chance that we'll be back up again and we'll be happy when that happens. From our aquatics section, this is kind of a heads up it's not anything serious, it will be 2022-2034. I probably won't be here when this stuff goes down, it's way down the road, but it's the US Forest Service has worked with the Division and has completed an EIS and it was done several years ago. They want to get information out to the public again and the proposal is for the Division to treat numerous lakes and streams in the High Uinta wilderness area. We stared o the North Slope. We've been working hard on that and we still have some more to go. We've moved around to the South Slope. We are treating those to remove brook trout and restore native Colorado cuts and this is part of our states efforts to keep a species common, so it doesn't get listed under the endangered species act. The drainages we will be treating are down the road but there's quite a bit of stream up there and people are used to going up there. But we'll be treating it and going back the streams will be back for our sportsman. Our outreach section will be conducting and coordinating, well they'll mostly be coordinating the annual Christmas Ouray bird count this Saturday. If you interested in going out and helping to count birds and if you're interested come on out. The counts will start at 8 am until they are finished. Tonya loves the birds so she will be there. Our wildlife section, we've got our depredation issues starting to mount with the elk pushing into the lower elevations. In my estimation forage availability is more. these elk are moving down into a lot of these farmers and rancher fields and haystacks right now pretty much all across their winter range right now. The guys are working at night to help. We have quite a few tools in our bag to be able to help landowners. and we are doing things we

haven't had to do in a while and they are out there shooting and removing deer in some places where we have resident deer that are causing problems. They are shooting and removing elk in some places as well. It's one of the things we really don't like to do, no one likes to see this happening but it's one of the tools we have to use. They are being extremely responsible though in donating the meat; a lot of people this time of year are very happy to get some elk meat or some deer meat, so we are in the process. We do have a list so if any of you are interested or know anybody that is interested have them call the office and ask to be put on that list. we just go from top to bottom and make a phone call and hopefully they answer and if they want it they get it, if they don't answer we move to the next person down. Biologist have been working hard on deer capture and collars in different areas. On the South Slope and we'll be moving out to the Book Cliffs next week. if you're interested in seeing that get ahold of Clint. There's been different things on the news, there's been different videos that have come out and it's pretty cool to see. Come on out and take a look if you'd like. They are also wrapping up their classification, I think they are pretty much through that, is that right? Yeah. There used to be a time when the worked slowed down just a little bit this time of year, but not the case. The guys in this region just love work and you can't get them to not accept a project. They are a great staff.

### **2019 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments –Darren Debloois-SEE SLIDESHOW**

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:

Brett Prevedel: What's the current strategy of the three harvest strategies on the Book Cliffs.

Darren Debloois: Moderate, and light. It's split into two different units and that roadless is light.

Boyde Blackwell: Do we have a spot and stalk in Little Creek?

Darren Debloois: Yeah that wouldn't be a change that's spot and stalk only.

Daniel Davis: What do we foresee as far as the drought for cub reproduction for this year?

Darren Debloois: Bears are long lived all they really need to do is produce one liter to maturity to replace themselves. but you do see sometimes in drought conditions that they will go a couple years without reproducing. But what did you guys see in the dens this year?

Clint Sampson: As far as the dens go, last year we currently have a 31 year old female collared in the Book Cliffs and she hasn't had cubs in the past five years. The other one we acquired from the southeast region it was a capture and release and I think she's a two year old bear and we are not expecting any cubs from her this year. The southeast region had three bears that they denned and one of them had yearling cubs and the other two didn't have any in the den. So that's what we have for collars we're going to see if we can get some more. I think the plan I think Darren can speak to that as far as how many we plan to collar. As far as their body condition went that older bear is in some of the best shape I've ever seen a bear and the younger one looked extremely healthy too.

Darren Debloois: The one place we detected the lowest reproductive rates were in the southeast in the La Sal where it's been the peak of the drought down there but I think everywhere else in the state saw some reproduction. And we do plan to get more bears on there. We've committed to get more collars out.

Joe Arnold: The tags, would you have to have a big game tag to hunt spot and stalk?

Darren Debloois: We just thought timing wise it would be a good time to do it because people want to be in the field. But you could get a permit and just hunt bears if that's all you want to do.

Joe Arnold: On the Book Cliffs some of the other regions had quotas and the increase of nine in the Book Cliffs, why not a quota there; and why quotas? What's the criteria for quotas and non quotas?

Darren Debloois: It really is just a strategy. Sometimes it's difficult to get harvest on some of these units so with a quota you can put more people in the field. The region can speak to their specific strategy but they have those options in the plan so it's just kind of what's best for the unit.

Brad Horrock: I have a little concern, if you draw an elk tag in the Book Cliffs how many of these spot and stalk bear hunters could be colliding with somebody that's drawn a tag?

Darren Debloois: The Book Cliffs isn't one, other than the Roadless area, the Book Cliffs won't have.

Daniel Davis: I have a rigging question. So a little clarification on the rigging rule change or clarification. On enforceability on that, is that going to be up to a discretion of a law enforcement officer or as it's written it's pretty vague, correct?

Darren Debloois: I'd like to mention the key here is the current rule says you can't pursue bears outside a legal hunting hours and they are defined here the same. What we've added is this specific activity. Why we're doing this is we're getting complaints especially on the high units where people feel like they are not all on the same page and they are not all playing by the same rules so this is an effort to set some ground rules for the outside of legal hunting hours. Our feeling was that if you've got dogs rigged and you're trying to get a bear that you're in the act of pursuing and I guess that would be our stance here. So we're trying to set some ground rules so everyone hunting would be on the same page for what's legal and what's not. It would require an officer to make a case that they are doing it for the case of pursuing or baiting a bear. You kind of still have to do that with the current rule. You'd have to prove that they were pursuing bears outside of the, I won't put you on the spot but I think there are always cases that have to be made and you have to think about how it's going to look when you get through the process to the prosecutor.

Daniel Davis: As it's written right now the law says we can not be in pursuit one half hour before light correct? So what happens in the case that I hunt out of my side by side and I want to go eight miles outside of my camp because there is a lot of pressure around my camp. I can only fit so many dogs in the box vs. on the box and I've got to commingle. What happens at that point? My intent might not be to hunt but it's that discretionary thing for me to get from point a to point b. The other question is what happens when I'm pulling out of my camp I see somebody else's dogs that got off the chain in the night and I throw it on my box because I don't want to put it in right because it could be a dog fight or whatever...

Darren Debloois: I think in this case the discretion would come about if you are doing that with the purpose of locating a bear or if you're just moving from one site to another and our officers would have to make that call.

Randy Dearth: Darren help me understand the conflict there. Is it hunter to hunter conflict or is it public to hunters conflict.

Darren Debloois: Most of what we've heard has been between houndsmen saying others have dogs rigged all night long, they're driving the roads all night long and when people arrive to hunt they have all these canyons locked up already; they've already located their bear and they are sitting at the mouth of the canyon. Most of the time they are waiting for legal hunting hours, sometimes they are actually coming out of the canyons when people get there so those are the complaints we're receiving so this is an effort to try and address some of those concerns

to a lesser extent we do have some complaining about dogs out barking all night long, and they are camping, and wondering why people are running around all night long. So those are the concerns we've heard and this is an effort to try to address them.

Randy Dearth: What ever happened to just letting the air out of their tires type of thing?

Darren Debloois: ha ha oh yeah there's always that.

Randy Dearth: Any other questions by the RAC? Questions by the public?

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

Jaime Arrive-Ute Tribe Biologist: My question is, what's your success rate on the Book Cliffs? I see that you're proposing an additional nine so what's your success rate?

Darren Debloois: Its depends on the season. The spring and fall seasons are about 30 ish percent for the three year average. The archery hunt was about 17%. There were seven tags and we were taking about one on the archery only and that comes out to about 17. Right around there. What is it averaged all the way around Clint?

Clint Sampson: 44% total for all the tags.

Darren Debloois: That number is for three years. We can find the annual success rate, but we look at it on a three year total. We'll get that for you. The tags including archery only were nine less this year. The permit numbers were 27 in the spring, 9 in the summer, 6 in the fall and 7 archery only.

Jaime Arrive: I guess my question is the reason of increasing nine permits is to harvest more? Do you have an amount you're looking to harvest?

Darren Debloois: Yes. No, it will be similar, they are spread across the different hunts the success rate has been fairly successful so probably half of those nine would expect to be harvested. The way that the plan works it goes back to the complicated slide with all the different seasons. On the Book Cliffs with the moderate unit over the last three years our objective for five year old male bears has been above objective which is the direction we want to be and the number of females has been below. So they are both outside of objective but they are in the same direction. So the plan requires a permit adjustment between 20-40% so on the Book Cliffs that would be between 11-23 permits. So we took into account those archery tags that are going to become a little bit more successful. There are seven of those, so with those seven and the nine additional permits that's 16 so it's kind of right in the middle of what the plan requires.

Daniel Davis: Can you clarify requirement vs.

Darren Debloois: The plan requires us to recommend somewhere between 20-40% when we have those conditions over the last three years. It can be modified by reduction, that's one thing we can take into account you know if we aren't seeing a birth pulse over the past three years we can adjust that down. but the plan description is there is opportunity to be had. We are killing plenty of older age class males and that's what's available in the population. We're not taking too many females so there is additional opportunity there and on the Book Cliffs specifically we do have some concerns about big game and some impacts there from depredation so that factors in as well.

Tim Ignacio: How many bear do you figure you've got out there?

Clint Sampson: Great question. Bears are extremely hard to model their population so basically, Darren understands this much better than me because he explains it to me, but we basically try to work backwards with our harvest data. So in the Book Cliffs the percent of our male harvests is 50% so that's basically telling us that 50% of the bears killed in the Book Cliffs are males, and then the age is also over six years old which also qualifies us for an increase. Then we also look at the percentage of females harvested. Most guys are specifically targeting large males and we force their hand to harvest females or the opportunities arise to harvest females we take that into account as well. With that being a fairly low number it kind of shows us that we are increasing on our bears. And we do our best to collar females out there too and go to their den sites and monitor production that way and I know two years ago we did have one female that was reproducing and she did have two yearling cubs and then she got harvested last year. She either got harvested or the collar stopped working. I should not have said that. I'm not 100% positive. I think the government trapper actually killed her.

Darren Debloois: Because bears are so hard to count we don't estimate a total number we use indexes from the number of adult males and females in the harvest to try to figure out what's going on. If we've got plenty of females, we're not harvesting very many, we've got older age class males to do the breeding we figure we've got a stable population and that's what we're managing for.

Tim Ignacio: I've got one more question for Daniel. I know you're out there quite a bit, can we give nine more permits?

Daniel Davis: It's the worst bear season I've had out there. I'll put it at that.

Tim Ignacio: Just like the elk hunting.

Darren Debloois: It might be worth adding, we are starting a predator study out there in the Book Cliffs where we're going to be collaring lions and some additional bears and so coupling that with our deer and elk that are collared, try to look at some of those dynamics and we're wondering how bears and lions interact at kill sites and we're looking at some of that and we're looking at some of that to see how all those different critters interact.

Randy Dearth: Any other questions by the public? If you have a comment please fill out one of these cards.

#### COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC:

Rodney Smith: I'm with the Utah Houndsmen Association. We had one discussion with the proposal from the DWR. We were on the phone for several hours talking over everything. We are in support of their proposals except for two. One being we're asking for zero increase on the Book Cliffs. From talking to houndsmen I personally went out there this year, I spent a week, I didn't catch one bear. It didn't happen for me. And like Dan said, worst season he's had out there in the Book Cliffs. Someone else spent a month out there, he caught five bears. So it's struggling. We can all agree that everything is struggling out in the Book Cliffs right now. Like you said all you're friends with elk tags this year. It was not a very good year for a lot of tags this year. Also the second is the rigging. We just feel like there is not enough.. there is just too much loophole in there and people are going to come up with everything in their hat. One of the houndsmen in our conference call said you know we're just going to get a blue heeler and train him to rig bears. So also it goes back to four wheelers and side by sides, a lot of people haul their dogs out in a dog box, they don't want to hunt out of a truck, so they haul them in their side by sides. Over on Monument they want to hunt Billy Brown, that's a long drive. They want to get there and they know a good bear that's over there so I feel like there is too much leeway for people to come up and be

against rigging because it's just a lot of conflict. We already have conflicts with non residents on the Book Cliffs. Thank you for your time.

#### COMMENTS BY THE RAC:

Randy Dearth: I don't have any other ones, so we'll close the comment period and bring it to the RAC for discussion. Let's talk about them.

Joe Arnold: How's the bears in Hill Creek, Tim?

Tim Ignacio: There's the lady right there to ask.

Randy Dearth: She's not allowed to get up now Tim.

Tim Ignacio: When we was down there in the spring we didn't see as many as we usually do.

Rodney Smith: I just want to make it for the record that all of the other RACs, it's kind of nice that this is the last RAC. They voted against the rigging that was proposed. And as far as I'm aware, there was one other RAC that voted an increase for the Book Cliffs, and that was two tags. That was one RAC, the other RACs I believe did not vote for an increase on the Book Cliffs.

Jaime Arrive: So for the Hill Creek last year we increased our permit numbers, the reason we did that is because we didn't have the amount of tribal members harvesting bears. It's more of a cultural thing on our side, so if we can get people out there that's willing to shoot bears, I think that's why we increased our numbers. Prior to this year, I haven't heard back a lot on the fall hunt, but prior to this year we were seeing a lot of bears. My husband and I went out elk hunting and we seen three bears in one day, two bears in another day all in different areas. So I think they are plentiful on our side.

Tim Ignacio: Can I add to that? Where she turned around talking about culture, I think that's why a lot of the tribal members do not hunt them. That's because that animal means a lot to us. We do ceremonies for it. I know there is few of them that will hunt them and this fall I don't think there was maybe one or two taken.

Boyde Blackwell: Would it be possible for Darren to say what happened at the other RACs? Cause I think it was different than what was presented to us.

Daniel Davis: I can clarify that. So the southeastern RAC was the only one that did vote different. They did vote for no increase on the Book Cliffs, but they did pass the rigging. That's the only difference.

Randy Dearth: So Darren what did the other RACs do as far as the hunts go?

Darren Debloois: Southeastern RAC is the only RAC that did not change this recommendation on rigging. Everybody else wanted to leave it as it is.

Randy Dearth: Leave it as is.. they didn't pass your proposal?

Darren Debloois: Right. Southeastern left it, everybody else changed it back to how it was except southeastern, and they had a split vote and it didn't pass so they are keeping this recommendation. On the Book Cliffs, northern voted to only increase it by two, southern voted to increase it by zero, the other two RACs left it to our recommendations.

Randy Dearth: So it's kind of split there. Thank you. Comments?



Daniel Davis: So the current concerns we have is in 2015 we went to this more liberal strategy in harvest. We talk about a three year management plan but we've not increased these permits in the Book Cliffs. The parameters did allow, but science said that's really not the case, that we shouldn't and we appreciate that. What we did see that first year was a low cub reproduction that year. We had our highest sow harvest of over 40% that year. And what we see now in that affect which would be those mature cubs that would have been born the next year and brought to fruition are not there. So with the drought that we had.. hunting is difficult, hunting is hunting, you're not guaranteed to go out and find a bear every time you go. I'm helping the Division with this collaring of the cougars. Oh heck, slam dunk we'll get ten females, we haven't caught one female yet. So hunting is hunting right? Each year bring its own circumstance, but with the drought that we've seen and the conditions we ran the bears and caught the bears in, in all honesty it's not a cop out, it's not a keep it out of my backyard I hear those comments thrown out a lot. and that's not the case because each unit is different, they all have different situations that they deal with, habitat, access, pressure and those type of things and truly we're concerned that there is not going to be a cub production this year. Sows aren't going to be healthy enough to sustain that. If she does have yearlings this year she's going to have a hard time keeping them through the winter if they are still nursing. We're afraid that there's going to be a lot of bears that don't come out of the ground this spring. With the three year management, we're not against that, however we've been over the last three years of data that is online we've been 33% sow harvest. We're afraid if we continue that trend that sow harvest is going to increase. The thing is, it's based off of what is harvested, not how many is harvested, so it could be a small number and your percentages skew accordingly. To increase the permits we're moving seven out of the archery season already. Seven of those that was getting one field a year. So essentially we're putting 16 out. If we approve this as presented we would kill on average 44% of that and that's many more bears expected to be harvested when we're already seeing issues. Checked by law enforcement out there. Check how everything's going, take our feedback, and actually got the same feedback from them. That everyone they've checked it's not been good. So I highly recommend that we do not increase permits on a three year strategy. Now the caveats of well we can come back and change this or we can come back and do that if it's drastic. It's going to take something drastic to get that reaction a steady decline is not going to achieve that. The other concern is the rigging. The biggest concern locally with the houndsmen is the turning out early. If somebody wants to go out at two o'clock in the morning, knock yourselves out. I'm going to go ahead and wait for daylight, get a little more beauty sleep because I know I need it. So that rigging brings up a lot of issues. Right now we are currently allowed to hunt racoons 24 hours a day. There's a lot of coons in areas where there are bears around the state. What's my intent? It may be spring bear season, but I might be trying to rig coons, and hunt coons. We're allowed to hunt coyotes 24 hours, we're allowed to use dogs as well. So there's a lot of issues, a lot of legal issues that arise from that new rule which is why heavily across the state they've decided to stay away from that. The easiest rule to enforce is turning out before legal light, just like hearing a gunshot, you can't shoot before daylight. Can't turn out before daylight, or excuse me, can't turn out prior to that 30 minutes before daylight. So those are the concerns that come out. There are a lot of good changes that we are not opposed to, the additional permits, the additional opportunity; that's why we focus so much on where the true issues are and address all the questions.

Randy Dearth: I've got a question for you Daniel, if in fact the Wildlife Board approved the presentation as it's been presented as far as the Book Cliffs goes, with the archery tags being moved and a total of nine new tags, how many bear do you think we're talking about getting harvested? About 50% we're talking? Eight additional bear? What are you thinking?

Daniel Davis: Statistically off the historical data, yes. So we're looking at eight additional bear off of those 16 if we include those seven that have a very low success rate, and that initial year with a low to no fawn reproduction from the conditions of the bears that we've seen. And what's in the den this winter? We won't know until March or April. But historically it's going to be very low and those eight bears could be all sows. And just from the

effects from 2015 when we had that large sow harvest we're seeing that effect today, which is when we would see it.

Randy Dearth: Darren, if I'm not mistaken whatever the Wildlife Board does this year we're going to do it for the next three years? He shook his head yes.

Brett Prevedel: I guess I'd like to comment, I think I agree with what I'm hearing with the bears, but we are still back with the big picture of too many mouths to feed on the Book Cliffs. We had the deer discussion, we had the elk discussion, the lion debate. It's all related to something's got to give and we need to decide to let everything give like we are doing now, or I agree the bears are probably hurting, this will probably knock the bears back a little bit. But if we do that I would assume we would hope there would be positive effects elsewhere. I know we don't manage bears based on the deer herd like we do the lions but it's the same issue isn't it? In reality they still eat the fawns and the calves. So we just need to decide as a Board if we will just have everything suffer out there or something's got to take a hit because I don't think we can maintain all the species. I know Ritchie is working hard to get rid of the feral cattle and horses and that would really make our job easier. That's the way I see it, I agree with what I'm hearing, but back to the where do we give?

Brad Horrocks: I'd like to agree with that. I don't like that rigging rule, I think it's going to be quite controversial there, but I think just like with the deer, elk, lion, everything's got to give. I think we need to take care of our stuff. If they are hurting out there we need to cut back. We need to cut the numbers down. Just like we do in the drought situations with the deer and the elk trying to increase our herds. I think it needs to be hit a little bit.

Daniel Davis: So if I could speak to that, I've done a little bit of homework the last little while. I asked Dax a question but I'm not going to clarify that because I'd really look silly. I looked up all the herd data and I actually spent some time and graffed it to see where we're at. The elk herd is at an all time high in the Book Cliffs as a matter of fact. The deer herd has cyclical issues that doesn't come back to drought issues that aren't impacted. In that trend I've also did the total harvest of bears each year, total harvest of cougars each year. There's not that much of a correlation and that is true graff data off of the website for harvest data of every species. I can't put a thumb drive up there for everybody to see, but I'd ask that you take my word for it that the correlations are there. The perceptions of bears, cougars, predators affecting the herds are absolutely 100%. This is a three year change on a one year drought. That's what I ask for you to consider.

Randy Dearth: Comments?

Ritchie Anderson: I guess I have the same question, we don't know exactly what the drought is going to look like the numbers are everything I think there is no doubt about it. I think the numbers are going to be down on everything across the board. As far as reproduction rate and those kinds of things. I don't know if we increase the, if we don't increase the bear tags, do we reduce, I guess if we increase the bear number tags do we decrease the number of deer and elk tags; because you can't talk about predators without the effects and management of the prey species and that effect on them. So I don't know where everything is going to take a hit, it's a hard management year. I don't know about making drastic changes after a year like this, I'm not sure. But I think you're going to see a pretty big decline in numbers and reproduction rate the next few years probably, and hopefully that will recover but if we're going to increase bear tags, I don't know. If we don't increase bear tags we pull back a little bit on the elk and deer tags to try to compensate that. So you're going to kill maybe an additional 24 bear over the next three years, and I don't know, a biologist could tell you better what effect those 24 bears would have on the population of the prey species. If they think that's something good to do on a year like this, because everything's going to suffer. Maybe that's the thing to do, I don't know. It's a hard management year. I mean it's really hard to manage on this year. I know the elk hunters were really disappointed, the bear hunters were disappointed. I think they're going to see that disappointment maybe for the next few years. And that is if the drought changes. If the drought changes, if the drought doesn't change there are going to be a lot of

years of disappointment. And that's just the way it is and I don't think the numbers as far as for this year because of the drought, the numbers aren't as different this year as far as actual population, it's there's not water where there used to be water. They've changed where they're at basically. I've seen it on Blue Mountain big time. Where we've usually seen a lot of elk and big elk, they just wasn't there. We had to go different places to see them. They are there but they aren't where they usually are. And that's going to persist with the drought.

Daniel Davis: Just to make a clarification, the opposition is nine permits additional. There are still seven permits that are being restructured that is going to increase the bear harvest, and that's not being opposed. When the committee met and had the discussion that was agreed upon knowing those permits were going to be dispersed to those higher success hunts knowing that was going to drive the harvest up without any addition. So the opposition comes from that addition on top of that. So just to clarify. There will be an increase even if the nine permits aren't added.

Tim Ignacio: How long does it take for a bear to have cubs and how many times in a cycle. I know it's four to four and a half to have cubs, but how many years does it take to have another litter of cubs?

Daniel Davis: She'll have one every third year after that. Potentially.

Tim Ignacio: That's a long time. So for me if we are going to go and take more than we are going to take it's going to take a life cycle for them to get built back up. And like Ritchie was saying about the, we didn't take anything from the deer or the elk. As a matter of fact we left everything as is.

Randy Dearth: Ok what I'd like to do, I think we'll divide this into two different topics. Let's concentrate right now on the numbers of permits and then after we hash that one out then let's come back and discuss the rigging and hash that one out. It looks like those are the two topics that we need to hit right now. So let's concentrate on the numbers so let's keep that talking up and then we'll come back and hit the rigging afterwards.

MOTION not increase the numbers on the Book Cliffs: Daniel Davis 2<sup>nd</sup>- BY: Tim Ignacio

**Failed** with **2** in favor and **6** against

Randy Dearth: So that motion failed. Is there another motion we want to make on that particular thing?

Brett Prevedel: May I ask Darren, you said we are in the mid range of the bear management plan recommendation, what would be the minimum number that would fit the bear plan?

Darren Debloois: 11 would be the minimum, that would be a 20% increase.

Brett Prevedel: Oh I thought they said they were in the middle.

Darren Debloois: Oh sorry, the reason I said that is because this point that we are making about those seven archery only tags those were reabsorbed into more successful hunts, we kind of counted those. We expect some extra bears, so we added an additional nine, so that puts us in what we'd call 16 permits, probably more like 14 if you consider the success rate on those archery tags and that puts us right where we need to be on the plan.

Brett Prevedel: You are at the minimum of the range.

Darren Debloois: A little above, 11 would be the bottom of what the plan requires.

Brett Prevedel: We think we're at 12?

Darren Debloois: Probably at 14-16. Call it 16, we'll just add it all together.

Daniel Davis: And mind you that it is a recommended plan it's not required, they aren't required to increase or decrease permis.

Dax Mangus: We are required to make recommendations to be approved, we are legally obligated to make a recommendation to the plans that have been approved through the public process, but when you take other extenuating circumstances into consideration and that's why we didn't recommend the minimum of 11 that is in the approved plan. We recommended less than that because we realized there are other circumstances.

Randy Dearth: That was Dax by the way, next time we're going to ask him to step up to the mic.

Joe Arnold: I've got a question for Dax while we're at it, where are we objective deer and elk in the Book Cliffs where it maybe pertains to predators and bear?

Dax Mangus: Under on both about half of the deer objective. Elk objective is about 7,500 elk we're at about 6,000.

Joe Arnold: So if you was to wing a number at us what would be the bear damage, as far is it 10% likely that it affects that objective or would you say it's higher than that, lower? You know could you throw a number?

Dax Mangus: I can't throw a number and that's part of the reason we're starting this collar study. Collars on bears, collars on lions. Predator management is closely related and tied to prey management. It's so noisy I don't think I could put a number on that. I'm hoping we can get closer to that with the GPS collars.

MOTION to accept numbers as presented from the Division-Natasha Hadden, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Brad Horrocks  
Passed with 5 in favor and 3 against

Randy Dearth: Let's talk about the rigging now. I don't like it personally, that's why I was curious if the public had issues or just the houndsmen themselves between them but I can understand it would bother me if somebody had every place locked up in the morning too, but they better have a lot of dogs I guess.

MOTION to accept all rules changes as presented, without the rigging rule- Daniel Davis; 2<sup>nd</sup>- Brett Prevedel  
Passed unanimously

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chairman could I ask a question? So we had a lot of talk lately and I don't know the right person is to ask this question or if it's out of place but it seems to fit pretty tight in the topic tonight, and last month actually. We're taking a lot of pressure on predators, but what steps are being taken, it's still not very clear what we are doing with the horses and the cows. The habitat sustainment, the AUMs, the whole gamut, it seems like we are pointing the finger in a specific direction without a consideration of anything else. So can anybody answer that?

Ritchie Anderson: Do you want me to answer that? I spent pretty much the entire day with some DNR, DWR folks on this issue specifically. And I wish Jamie would have stayed because she's involved as well. Tim can kind of be aware, I'm sure he's aware. There are more attorneys involved in this deal than anything I've ever seen I think. It looks very good, very positive about what we're going to be able to do. You're dealing with so many different agencies, so many different jurisdictions. There's a lot of 'T's that need crossed and 'I's dotted. It's gonna happen. There is going to be a removal of feral horses and cattle. Maybe not as quick as we'd like, definitely not as quick as I'd like. I've instigated it, I've opened a huge can of worms, but it's a good one. It will take place. It's a possibility we could start in February. We might start kind of small. The consensus is we're going to get sued. I don't think it's going to happen, I don't think we're going to get sued, but that's kind of the consensus, but that doesn't mean that we can't do it. We have to do it. We're going to start kind of small, we are going to start here kind of south of Vernal and sweep west and south west. We only have so much budget. The state legislature has appropriated some money, but that's only so much money. And we are going to average about a \$400 per head cost. Primarily it's going to be conducted by helicopter. That's the most efficient and effective way to do it. We have gathered some by horseback off the bird refuge in cooperation with the tribal family. We can do that but it's a slow process and it can mean broken bones. Because my family has had broken bones doing that. So we see that huge pressure that's creating on habitat. So it's easy for the agencies to pull back on the permitted cattle, because they can do that really quick, pull back and say you guys can't take out this many cattle. But the problem is the number of cattle being run out there hasn't changed, and we can manage that quickly. The problem is we have got an introduction of a species that doesn't belong. It shouldn't be there. So this time we're not going to take the approach let's just hit the easiest target. We're going to take the approach they shouldn't be there and so that's what we're doing. As far as specifics I'm not going to get into that because we don't have all night but it is a huge effort. We've had meetings every week now for a while.

Daniel Davis: If funding is an issue will they accept outside source funding?

Ritchie Anderson: We can to an extent, and it depends on, yeah the Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW) or whatever could help with that funding, but it's all got to be channeled the right way through the right legal process. It's not just as easy as saying the sportsmen are going to put up \$100,000 and we can get a helicopter out here tomorrow, it just doesn't happen that way. I will tell you, and I won't get into the specifics, but over the past two years the projects I've been involved with we've removed now well over 200 horses already. And that was through a different channel, a different way, but that's 200 horses over the course of a few years. I want to take 200-500 off in the course of two weeks. And we can do that with a helicopter. The way we've been doing it, we've been making progress, we've been removing them. But it's been really slow.

Tim Ignacio: I know a few, maybe 2-3 years ago SFW put up some money for the north unit, and they ran them that way. They took probably 200 head of horses off the north unit. Because those horses were going up on the Baldies and all those areas up there. I know they are still rounding up horses. Where Hill Creek has been turned into a wilderness unit, the brand inspectors, they won't jump on it. So Jamie who was sitting there, she's had some directives thrown at her, that's why Ritchie said it would be nice if she could have sit there an answered, but I know for a fact that Dax was apart of that SFW and we got that rolling on that north unit, so if you was willing to have someone throw in to have this ball rolling maybe Dax could in the right direction.

Ritchie Anderson: So the tribe is going to be an intrical part in solving this issue, and so we've got them participating in what we're doing as far as support and what not. What the SFW wanted to do with the tribe would be up to them. Because the tribe wants to get rid of horses, right Tim? Big time.

Tim Ignacio: I know we have a wild horse initiative and I know you was saying something about 300 head and I said no, 50 for the west side and 50 for the east side. That would be more than enough and it has to stay at that.

Ritchie Anderson: So private entities could help fund, they could make a deal with the tribe to help fund the removal of horses on the tribe, and that would actually be pretty easy and that would help a lot. And I know the tribe is willing to do that, and the more horses we start eliminating there takes pressure off. There's a good opportunity for some private funding there. We talked about it today actually.

Daniel Davis: Thank you.

Brad Horrocks: Just a comment. From the county and start level the DNR they have some money allocated for this, is that how it's funneled through? Quite frankly if it wasn't for Ritchie this would not be happening. And it's probably one of the biggest benefit that we have seen around here for years if this goes through and people need to be aware that Ritchie we appreciate you, and I see it on the county level and the state level and appreciate what this project that is going to take place, it's going to be a tremendous benefit.

Ritchie Anderson: Thank you. And you've got to understand this has gone all the way up to the state legislature and now it's coming all the way back down to the ground. This process started long ago with the state legislature and Scott Chew and I'm the not a patient person, but we've got to have a little more unfortunately

Randy Dearth: Thank you..

## **Pronghorn Unit Plans - Dax Mangus-SEE SLIDESHOW**

### **QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:**

Randy Dearth: Thank you Dax, I don't know if you can answer this. I guess I've got one question from the presentation. In 2006, the population in the Book Cliffs/Cisco unit doubled. Why? It went from 366 to 464. So it doubled in one year.

Dax Mangus: I talked with Guy Wallace today on the phone the wildlife manager in the southeastern region. he did tell me that he thinks there was some movement going on, some migration of animals during that time frame. I don't know all the details on that.

Tim Ignacio: I can vouch for that, there is nothing in Ouray.

Dax Mangus: This is the Cisco right?

Randy Dearth: Yeah the Cisco unit clear on the other side of the Book Cliffs.

Ritchie Anderson: Dax I had a call this morning on the Cisco unit again. Is there a proposed increase on the Cisco unit?

Dax Mangus: So I talked with Guy a little on that and with the state code the Division was required to write management plans, or sorry, set population objectives for deer and elk. We've done that for years and in the past we've had informal pronghorn management plans that didn't go through the RAC board process for pronghorn, until right now. This is the first time we're proposing approved populations objectives that has gone through the public process. I talked to Guy Wallace specifically about the Cisco unit and in the past Guy said there weren't a lot of pronghorn there and when they set the "objective" but basically a target since this wasn't something that went through this public process, he said that to be honest we basically just threw a number in there, we didn't really do a forage analysis or anything like that. He said over time we saw numbers increase on that unit, we think that there were some in migrations of pronghorn that came into that unit and when we redid the statewide plan they went back and did a technical analysis and looked at the forage to come up with an objective that was more meaningful and that's where they came up with the 700 objective. I'm assuming there is probably some discussion about the old targets that existed before we had approved unit plans that went through the public process and I think that's maybe where the questions came up.

Ritchie Anderson: Do we know what the population is now on that unit, on the Cisco?

Dax Mangus: It looks like about 900 pronghorn.

Brad Horrocks: Can you go back to that Bonanza and South Slope?

Ritchie Anderson: So what the estimate is now to what you're objective is, is really not different?

Dax Mangus: Sorry Ritchie I was breezing past, you were asking about the Cisco and Brad was asking about the SS/Bonanza. We'll take you in the order you asked. I don't know all the information on the Ciscos but that is the conversation I had this morning with Guy Wallace the manager of the southeastern region.

Ritchie Anderson: So they think the population now is about 900? Because the call I got this morning they thought the population was about 300 so they were afraid of the objective going up to 900. Oh maybe that's the South Cisco, sorry. Ok so that's the one they were talking about there.

Dax Mangus: I'm confused, I'm not real familiar with those pronghorn units down there. The objective is 700 their current estimate is 375. The 700 objective is based on forage analysis they did down there.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok that's the one they were talking about. Thank you.

Dax Mangus: Ok Commissioner you were asking a question about the South Slope Diamond Bonanza unit?

Brad Horrocks: A comment, I spent a little time out there last year and this year and I hate to make it in a public meeting but the good days are now with the antelope hunt out there. This is unreal for our area. It's kind of hard to give up your deer points to put in for Bonanza antelope tag, but it is tremendous.

Dax Mangus: We've seen in the past 3-4 years really good growth in our pronghorn populations in the region. Unfortunately after this year I think we'll probably take a little dip. I talked with Amy the biologist for the Bonanza unit and she's a little concerned just with forage availability out there. She said there's not much to eat; the horses are eating it all I guess. We had a lot of conflicts out there this year, we had drought conditions out there on the range, a lot of pronghorn in fields. I can't blame the pronghorn if you look out there in the desert then you look at an irrigated fertilized field. We removed a lot of pronghorns, we issued a lot of mitigation permits to private landowners this year. But you're right it's great time to be hunting pronghorn, we'll just cross our fingers and see how long it lasts. Hope it rains.

Brad Horrocks: If you'd like to go look at nice good antelope, you're not going to find any better than what's out there right now.

Randy Dearth: That's good to know.

Brad Horrocks: No it's not, I shouldn't have told you.

Ritchie Anderson: Dax is it proposed on the South Cisco to get up to objective that there be an introduction or just let...

Dax Mangus: I'd have to look at that table in the plan to see if there are any introduction sites in the South Cisco. I don't know.

#### COMMENTS BY THE RAC:

Ritchie Anderson: One of my concerns on the South Cisco with one of the individuals I talked to this morning is some of the ranchers took a zero use on that range this year because of the conditions. I don't really want to see a double increase even though they do share some habitats, some forage; antelope and cattle and sheep do. They don't share all forage but they do cross over some. I guess I'd like to see on that unit maybe not a double increase in objective number, maybe a smaller increase, at least until we hopefully pull out of this drought.

Brad Horrocks: How long will it take to get to that objective? Five years?



Dax Mangus: A herd can grow really fast when the conditions are good, we've seen that over the years where sometimes in the matter of a couple years numbers can really increase really really quickly. It depends on conditions, if you had really good conditions really great range conditions it can happen quick within a few short years. We should have Darren talk to this, I know he had a lot of fun managing pronghorn in Rich County when they really exploded on him.

Randy Dearth: Yeah they typically have twins if I remember right.

Dax Mangus: If conditions are right they can grow really fast.

Joe Arnold: Dax on the management plan, it's been under objective for like ten years right? Because we're trying to get to 21,000 and it's at 17,000. Is that something that you'll lower the objective or why have we not been able to maintain why we're 4,000 short?

Dax Mangus: I think that has to do with drought cycles and a lot of times those objectives are based on looking at the availability, maybe looking at an average of good years and bad years. It seems like there is always somewhere in the state where it isn't having a good year, you have something happen. The Division tries to manage towards those objective but sometimes on units where you're under objective you might still have some doe hunts, landowner doe hunts because you get disproportionate use on agricultural lands so there are different obstacles that come up that sometimes prevent you from managing to the objective.

Randy Dearth: Any discussion? If I don't hear one I'll entertain a motion on this particular topic.

MOTION: Ritchie Anderson Amendment: Brad Horrocks SECONDED BY: Daniel Davis

MOTION to **accept** as presented from the Division w exception of the South Cisco unit- recommend 475 instead of 700-Ritch Anderson

- ii. Amendment-Brad Horrocks- recommend 575 instead of 700- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Daniel Davis
- iii. **Passed unanimously**

### **Moose Unit Plans-Dax Mangus-SEE SLIDESHOW**

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:

Brett Prevedel: Last spring I seem to remember we increased permit numbers on moose because we wanted to harvest them at a younger age and I thought we talked about managing them for three year old because they were dying from what I guess are unknown causes, natural causes. So I thought we lowered that last spring. We didn't have a management plan, I thought we targeted that age when we did the permits.

Dax Mangus: I know we issued additional permits, I can't remember the exact details of the conversation...

Brett Prevedel: It's because the bulls were dying before we could harvest them. They weren't living to an old age.

Dax Mangus: We have a lot of disease issues and additional shortage issues in moose.

Brett Prevedel: So that's my only question where this targets four year old, I thought we predicted that last spring.

Dax Mangus: Some of this is based on analysis done by folks Randy Larsen and Brock doing an analysis. They looked at antler size and age. Sometimes the common thought is its a linear relationship based on age, the older these animals get the bigger they get. They found it's not necessarily a linear relationship there. You know with antelope a lot of times by the time they are two three years old they are pretty much as big as they are ever going to be and...

Daniel Davis: Antelope we went three, moose we went four.

Tim Ignacio: And I know when we were doing that increase it's because we were getting over populated and starting to get the ticks or whatever it was, because when they were laying down on the presentation they were leaving a lot of blood spots.

Dax Mangus: That's right a lot of parasite problems, winter ticks. We've done some studies in the region on the Wasatch and on the North Slope, a lot of issues with moose.

Brad Horrocks: What are we doing for habitat in our area here? Is there places we need to really do more habitat, are we done, is the population about as good as we're going to get, or what's the plans? I want more moose.

Dax Mangus: I don't think you're alone in wanting more moose. We really are at the southern fringe at what is moose habitat, we're kind of right at the margin where we're at. The moose are a species where with the harsh winters we worry about our deer and elk, those are really good for moose, helped with some of those parasite problems. Moose are a little bit tricky, a lot of our best habitat is higher elevation stuff especially in the Uintas. We've had really good success doing a lot of habitat work on winter ranges, on lower elevation lands, on BLM lands. It's a little harder in some of our higher elevation lands to get some of that habitat work done. If you go over to the Wasatch unit to the west that is in our region, the Dollar Ridge fire did some things that will be positive for moose with getting some regeneration in some of that higher mountain community. We do have some issues with finding the right tools to do habitat work for moose. We don't have a ton of moose and it is kind of difficult to specifically target great projects for moose.

#### COMMENTS BY THE RAC:

Randy Dearth: Anybody have any heartburn with this one? I'm not seeing any I'll call for a motion.

MOTION: Brad Horrocks      SECONDED BY: Brett Prevedel

MOTION to **accept** as presented from the Division- Brad Horrocks; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Brett Prevedel

iv. **Passed unanimously**

**CHA Rule Amendments –Avery Cook-SEE SLIDESHOW**

**QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:**

Randy Dearth: I've just got one question, how many of these CHAs are we talking about? 10's or are there 70-80s or hundreds of them?

Avery Cook: 76.

Randy Dearth: 76 thank you.

Avery Cook: That does included some of the CHAs that are broken up into multiple applications.

Randy Dearth: I assume that when you had that circled up there on the right where you had those different parcels that there are roads or something dividing those? Because they looked to me like they were continuous.

Avery Cook: Yeah I guess that might not have been the best example that one is up against acreage caps, but there are others that do have roads and stuff breaking them up.

Joe Arnold: Is it a requirement to release an extra amount of birds in case there are some wild birds taken through this? I mean is the idea just to provide hunting opportunity or is it to maybe establish a little bit of upland game maybe taken accidentally through non seasonal things September and January?

Avery Cook: Yes so I guess commercial hunting areas are not to establish hunting populations, but when there is a CHA in the area we basically leave some, you compensate for some wild birds that might be shot.

Joe Arnold: Is that a percentage that they.. like the local one here I am a member to that so just curious on the Pleasant Valley Hunting Preserve, cause there are local birds as well in that area.

Avery Cook: I think it's 80% but I would like to double check that.

MOTION: Joe Arnold            SECONDED BY: Natasha Hadden

MOTION to **accept** as presented from the Division-Joe Arnold; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Natasha Hadden

v. **Passed unanimously**

**Sage Grouse Translocation Proposal –Avery Cook-SEE SLIDESHOW**

**QUESTIONS FROM THE RAC:**

Randy Dearth: Thank you Avery, I guess I have a question. I assume there's no hunting of sage grouse on Sheep Rock, is that right?

Avery Cook: That's correct. The Box Elder and Parker Mountain populations are taking them from our populations but the Sheep Rocks are not.

Randy Dearth: One other question, are the ravens and/or crows a predator to these things? Do they eat their eggs? That's something I've heard I don't know if that's true or not.

Avery Cook: They are, primarily ravens. And we have contracted with Wildlife Services for some raven control in the Sheep Rocks.

Is the habitat work done along Cherry Creek Road part of this in the Vernon West Desert?

Avery Cook: I'm not familiar with that exact project. What kind of project is it?

I just noticed they tore out a bunch of junipers this year along the Cherry Creek Rd. in the Vernon West Desert, I wondered if it was part of this.

Avery Cook: Yeah it more than likely would be.

MOTION: Natasha Hadden SECONDED BY: Brad Horrocks

MOTION to **accept** as presented from the Division-Natasha Hadden; 2<sup>nd</sup>-Brad Horrocks

vi. **Passed unanimously**

Boyde Blackwell: I just wanted to take a second and thank you for giving us really good year on all these meetings. We're going to be taking a break here for a little while. We won't be meeting again until April 18th. That's when we will be doing the big game permits, antlerless permits, CWMUs. I would propose we have that meeting start at 5:30 again. The big game rule, those big game permis and big game rule can run long. I like to try to make sure our meetings end by ten, which we don't have to do, but it's good.. Everybody has family and it's good to get home at a decent hour so I would like to start at 5:30 unless there's a problem with that.

Tim Ignacio: Can we have that every meeting?

Boyde Blackwell: No, (laughs) nice try Tim. I would appreciate that though.

Brad Horrocks: We could do it over two nights.

Boyde Blackwell: I've just about done that before too. Thank you, appreciate you all.

**Motion for meeting to adjourn: Brad Horrocks Seconded By: Tim Ignacio**

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 9:10 PM**





GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MIKE FOWLKS  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** December 13, 2018

**TO:** Utah Wildlife Board

**FROM:** Staci Coons,  
Wildlife Board Coordinator

**RE:** Variance Request from Cliff Sackett for the commercial growing of Tilapia.

Division representatives discussed the above-mentioned variance request to Rule R657-3, for the commercial growing of Tilapia in Moroni, UT.

Division Representatives in consultation on this request were: Drew Cushing, Aquatic Section Chief; Chris Crockett, Central Region Aquatic Program Manager; Craig Walker, Asst. Chief Aquatics Section; Paul Badame, Asst. Chief Native Aquatics; Anna Marie Forest, Department of Agriculture; Anita Candeleria, COR Specialist and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

### ANALYSIS

The representatives evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-3. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

- 1. The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The committee expressed no concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public.
- 2. The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals** - The committee had no concerns with possible impacts on wildlife or domestic animals.
- 3. The ecological and environmental impacts** - The committee had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.
- 4. The suitability of the facilities** - The committee had no concerns with the suitability of the proposed facilities. The facility, once constructed, will need to be inspected by the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- 5. Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The committee expressed no concerns with the level of experience or education of the applicant for this proposed project.
- 6. The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, after careful evaluation, recommends that the request be approved with the following stipulations:



Page 2

December 21, 2018

Subject: Certification Request

1. The committee recommends that the facility be inspected by the Dept. of Agriculture and the Division of Wildlife Resources upon completion.
2. The committee recommends that Mr. Sackett purchase his brood stock from a Health Certified facility.
3. The committee recommends that all tilapia must be sold as dead.
4. The committee recommends that the Certificate of Registration issued to Mr. Cliff Sackett is not transferable and cannot be sold with his business.
5. Mr. Sackett would also need to become licensed as an Aquaculture Facility by the Utah Dept. of Agriculture and Food to produce tilapia commercially.

cc: Division Representatives



## Stipulations for Tilapia Variance Requests in Utah

Tilapia is the common name for nearly one hundred species of cichlid fish native to Africa and the Middle East. Tilapia have been identified as one of the top 100 most invasive species groups in the world. Because of their high reproductive rate, propensity to exist in high densities, omnivorous diet, tolerance for marginal water quality, and the lower trophic level which they occupy, Tilapia pose a significant threat to sport and native fish populations in warm water habitats in Utah. Blue Tilapia (*Oreochromis aureus*) can survive in temperatures as low as 45°, a winter temperature commonly found in desert regions of Utah or in warm springs.

Under Rule R657-3-23(30), Tilapia are classified as prohibited for collection, importation, and possession in Utah. Therefore, a variance issued by the Certification Review Committee is necessary for an individual to collect, import, possess, or propagate Tilapia in this state (Rule R657-3-36).

The UDWR Aquatic Section provides the following recommendations for the Certification Review Committee to consider in evaluating requests for variances involving Tilapia aquaculture or aquaponics operations in Utah.

1. Live Tilapia may not be transferred from approved facilities and operators may not sell live fish.
2. Persons requesting a variance for Tilapia aquaculture must submit a business/operational plan to the UDWR (See attached form).
3. Tilapia operations will not be approved within the 100 year flood plain in the following drainages:
  - a. Green River
  - b. Colorado River
  - c. San Juan River
4. Tilapia operations will not be approved within the following drainages:
  - a. Virgin River Drainage
  - b. Portions of the Provo River Drainage (See map for restricted areas)
5. The species of Tilapia brought into an aquaculture facility must be pre-approved by the UDWR. The fish must have species and disease certification completed before delivery.
6. Tilapia must be delivered directly to the applicant's facility. Transporting vehicles may not stop at any waterway while in possession of Tilapia. Water from the transporting vehicle must not be drained, released, or exchanged into any waterway.
7. Only indoor recirculation aquaculture systems will be approved. Effluent must flow into a sewer or septic system (septic system may have a gravel leach field as part of septic system) where there is no connection to a waterway (streams, springs, ditches, lakes, etc). The facility will be a self contained recirculation operation.
8. Operators must acquire a performance bond to establish financial responsibility for state reclamation efforts if it becomes necessary for the UDWR to restore sport fish and/or native species to potentially affected drainages.
9. The UDWR reserves the right to deny any COR applications if sensitive native species may be negatively impacted, or if any of the stipulations above are not met.



Management Plan  
For  
Tilapia Aquaponic/Aquaculture Facility

**Introduction**

**All questions must be answered completely and all accompanying information must be provided.**

Please provide information on the company/facility/individuals that will oversee the management and responsibilities of the facility, including contact information. Please indicate fish culture experience and attach resume(s).

Clifford Sackett: 801-953-9321 Teri Sackett 435-262-7178 PO Box 444 Moroni, UT 84646

Cliff and Teri Sackett of Moroni have 30 plus years of farming and fish experience. Clifford has been interested in growing things from the time he was a child gardening at his grandmother's knee. He started his first fish business 20 years ago and helped develop an innovative filtration system which will be utilized in our Aquaponics business.

Teri grew up on a farm in Emery County and learned from her father, a Master Gardener. She helped with the fish, accounting, and clerical needs of Cliff's fish business. Together their skill sets uniquely qualify them to ran and operate this exciting new venture.

Identify source of the Tilapia including contact information. Tilapia must be certified disease free. Tilapia must be delivered directly to the facility. Live Tilapia may not leave the facility.

Source: Lakeway Tilapia Phone: 865-262-8289 and email: [info@lakewaytilapia.com](mailto:info@lakewaytilapia.com) Located 236 Red Fox Ln, Rutledge, TN 37861

Please describe the strain/species of Tilapia to be managed. Blue Tilapia or mixed lots of this species are not permitted to be cultured in the State of Utah.

Species: Wami (*Oreochromis Urolpeis Hornorum*)

Does the source verify the species provided? Yes

Provide a description of what water temperature requirements they need to survive and reproduce. Survive: 60 degrees F - 85 degrees F Reproduce: 85 degrees F

Provide diet information for the Tilapia: Pellet Feed

Describe how they reproduce: Nesters



Are they fertile or sterile? Fertile, however, the temperature they need to spawn is 85 F with a PH level of 8.0. They need a relatively stress free environment and a defendable area for the male to keep other fish away. In the aquaponics facility the water is kept at a PH closer to 6.0 with water temperatures closer to 78 F. High stocking density of half a pound per gallon makes for a higher stress, more competitive environment and does not allow for spawning to take place. Also, 98% of the fish in our aquaponics system will be male.

How will sterility be verified? N/A

Describe the existing/current/future market for Tilapia from your facility.

Local Markets including grocery stores, restaurants, and oriental fish market. The tilapia market has been growing 15%-30% a year.

Please describe your bookkeeping process to account for Tilapia acquired, held, produced and marketed.

The Tilapia will have an 'acquired' invoice with the number of fish that arrive. As fish die they will be marked off. When they are processed they will be recounted.

Describe the proposed location for the facility (flood risk, earthquakes, proximity to waterways, UTM coordinates, nearest city or town, etc).

39.5949899, - 111.6064036. About 2 Miles south of Ft. Green. Approximately three quarters of a mile east of highway 132.

Flood Risk: None

Earthquakes: Seismic level C

Proximity to waterways: Sanpitch is 6 miles south approximately; Fish Hatchery is 5 miles North West approximately; Salt Creek Canyon is 8 Miles North West approximately.

Are there warm water springs, rivers, lakes in the vicinity? No. There is a little pond by highway 132 which is approximately 40 feet in diameter

Please provide a Google map of the area. (See Attached)

### **Facility Design**

Describe your water supply and water rights (please include water temperatures and water chemistry)?

Water supply is a well with water rights. The water temperature inside the facility will be kept at approximately 78 F with a PH of 6.8.

Describe management procedures to ensure Tilapia cannot escape (chemical treatment, effluent must be to a sewer or septic system (gravel leach field as part of the septic system))?

We will use a septic system for any water that is discharged. There will be a gravel leach field. However, our water is re-circulated within the system, enabling us to reuse and recycle 98% of the water.



Will the facility be indoors?

Yes, the Tilapia will be inside a secured facility with surveillance monitoring.

If the facility is outdoors it must be covered.

Will it be a solid cover? N/A

Will it be a netted cover? N/A

Will the fish be held in raceways? No

Circle tanks? Yes

Earthen ponds No

Will the fish be held in other types of holding containers? Fiberglass (Circle Tank) and solid concrete tanks

How many brood fish will be held on station? Zero

What is your expected production in pounds? 17500 lbs/month

What is your expected sales in dollars? Approximately \$31,500 - \$65,000/month

### **Company/Facility Exit Strategy**

Please describe plans to dispose of Tilapia if the facility is closed:

The Tilapia will be killed and either sold as food or ground up into fertilizer

### **Ecological Damage Assurances**

Tilapia has been identified as one of the top 100 most invasive species in the world. If Tilapia escape from this facility and cause damage to native or sport fish populations or their habitats, it will be your responsibility to restore the damage incurred as a result of the escapement. Please describe your restoration plan to ensure full recovery of adjacent areas and habitats to include financial bonding, participation in chemical treatments, and fisheries restoration, and any other actions you will take to prevent escapement and to address impacts.

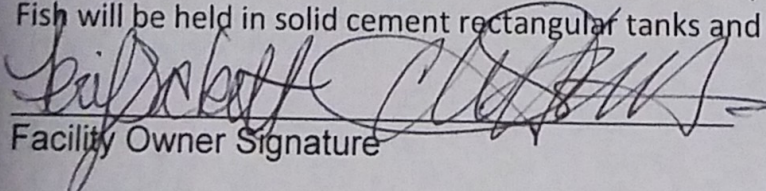
We will carry a bond if required. The bond will be for poisoning, seining and re-establishing native fish.

### **UDWR must be notified IMMEDIATELY by the COR holder if escapement occurs.**

All Certificates of Registration (COR) are non-transferable. In the event the facility is sold or transferred to a different entity, the new owner must apply for a new COR. The existing COR becomes invalid.

Please describe other pertinent facts relating to your proposed Tilapia operation.

We will have an indoor, fully secured, recirculation aquaculture system with video surveillance. Fish will be held in solid cement rectangular tanks and a round fiberglass holding tank.

  
Facility Owner Signature



Google Maps

North to Fountaingreen 2 miles

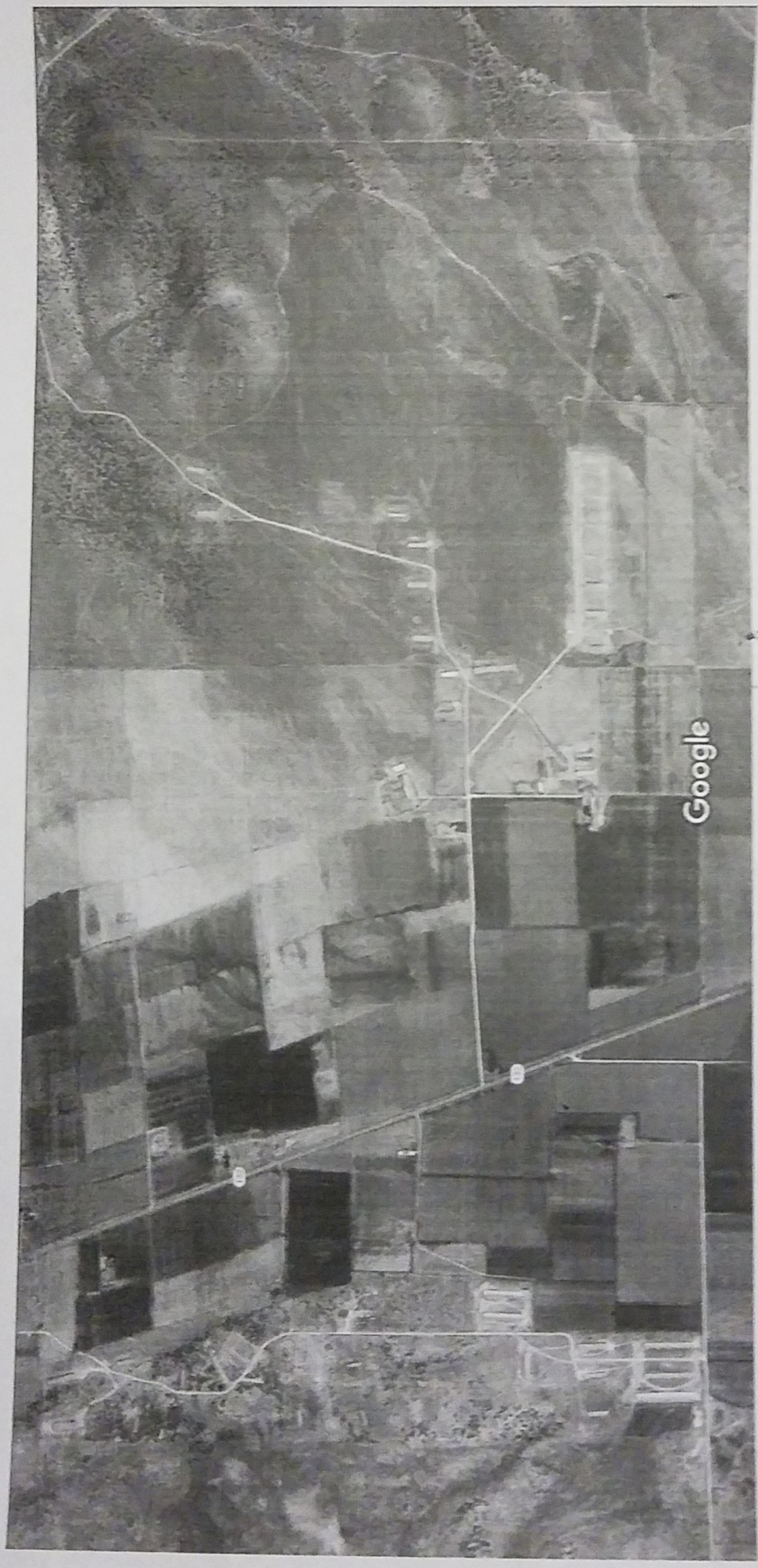


South to  
Warren  
5 miles

Imagery ©2018 Google, Map data ©2018 Google 1000 ft



Google Maps



Imagery ©2018 Google, Map data ©2018 Google 1000 ft

---

## LAKEWAY TILAPIA



865-262-8289  
[mark@lakewaytilapia.com](mailto:mark@lakewaytilapia.com)

236 Red Fox Lane  
Rutledge, TN  
37861

December 14, 2018

Cliff Sackett  
Mountain Valley Pastures

Dear Cliff,

As you and I discussed over the phone, I will assist you by getting a current health certificate so that you can import tilapia from our company to your commercial facility in the state of Utah.

Sincerely yours,

Mark Kehrl

---