

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 6, 2019, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/CgYt57-6HF0>

## AGENDA

**Thursday, June 6, 2019 – 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>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Wild Turkey Transplant List<br>– Dax Mangus, Upland Game Coordinator                            | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments<br>- Drew Dittmer, Herpetologist | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. R657-12 Rule Amendments – Statute Change<br>- Phil Gray, Wildlife Licensing Specialist          | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Wildlife Board Stipulations<br>- Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General                            | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Other Business<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman<br>• Elect Board Chairman and Vice Chairman         | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

**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 Taylor  
Action: Under Study  
Status: To be presented at every board meeting until completed  
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.

Spring 2020 – Target Date – Bear Issues

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division reconvene the working group to explore better solutions on the spring hunt, number of hounds in the field, and non-resident permit challenges.**

Motion made by: Kevin Albrecht  
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Pending  
Placed on Action Log: January 10, 2019

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**

**May 2, 2019** - Chairman Woodward asked Licensing Coordinator Lindy Varney to assemble pros and cons of moving the application deadline to after the permit recommendations are made. This is to be an informational item for the November 2019 RAC's and Wildlife Board meetings.

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

May 2, 2019, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/0aZnaT68GLs>

## AGENDA

Thursday, May 2, 2019, Board Meeting 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<br>Bighorn Sheep MOU Report – Jace Taylor<br>Primitive Weapon Definition – included in recommendations<br>Barney Top LE Archery Only Elk Proposal Update – Covy Jones<br>Elk Season Structure – Calendar View – Covy Jones<br>Book Cliffs Committee update – Dax Mangus | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. R657-5 Big Game & R657-62 Draw Applications Rule Amendments<br>– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2019<br>– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2019<br>– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments<br>– Mike Wardle, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. 2019 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations<br>– Mike Wardle, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. R657-44 Big Game Depredation Rule Amendments<br>– Mike Wardle, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. R657-41 Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule Amendments<br>– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. 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.*

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
May 2, 2019, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Summary of Motions**

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

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

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

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 Wildlife Board Meeting.**

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

**Bighorn Sheep MOU Report – Jace Taylor**  
**Primitive Weapon Definition – included in recommendations**  
**Barney Top LE Archery Only Elk Proposal Update – Covy Jones**  
**Elk Season Structure – Calendar View – Covy Jones**  
**Book Cliffs Committee update – Boyde Blackwell**

4) R657-5 Big Game & R657-62 Draw Applications Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the rule amendments for R657-5 Big Game and R657-62 Draw Applications as presented with the inclusion of shotguns as a primitive weapon.**

5) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2019 (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation for Pine Valley with an increase of 300 tags for the 2019 general season permit numbers.**

The following amended motion was made by Karl Hirst and failed for lack of a second.

**MOTION: I move that we keep the 20/20/20/40 allocation – same number of weapons, same number of hunters – but reallocate the number of general season tags to the early rifle hunt to address the overcrowding.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we keep the Zion sheep rifle tag numbers the same as in 2018 – 11 – with the addition of three (3) archery tags.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we decrease the deer tags on the Manti unit by 500.**

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 4 to 2. Kevin Albrecht and Karl Hirst opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we decrease the South Cache elk unit from 53 to 40 tags.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Northeast RAC's recommendation to increase to 50 instead of 150.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we adjust the recommended increase on the South Slope Yellowstone unit general season deer tags from 150 to 100.**

The following motion was made by chairman Woodward.

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division research the possibility of moving the application deadline to after establishing permit numbers.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the 2019 Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

5) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2019 (Action)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed 4 to 2. Kevin Albrecht and Karl Hirst opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we create a new hunt on the North Beaver unit, using existing boundaries, and reallocate the statewide 150 permits to the unit with season dates of August 1-11.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we compromise on the increased permit number of 1,000 on Chalk Creek East Canyon antlerless deer by cutting the numbers in half proportionally for each hunt (250 private land only; 50 private land archery only; 100 public draw archery only; 100 public draw ALW).**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2019 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented.**

6) R65-3 CWMU Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Rule Amendments R657-3 as presented by the Division.**

7) 2019 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the 2019 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

8) R657-44 Big Game Depredation Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Big Game Depredation Rule Amendments R657-44 as presented by the Division.**

9) R657-41 Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we maintain the one-year program and permit conservation groups – their employees and agents – the authority to purchase an auction tag at live, public, well-advertised auctions at whatever bid price and accept the remainder of the rule amendments.**

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
May 2, 2019, 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 Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Steve Dalton
	Karl Hirst
	Donnie Hunter

**RAC Chairs**

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

**Division Personnel**

Mike Canning	Mike Christensen	Steve Newren	Dax Mangus
Ashley Green	Paul Gedge	Phil Gray	Jace Taylor
Justin Dolling	Staci Coons	Drew Dittmer	Mike Wardle
Kevin Bunnell	Thu Vo-Wood	Bruce Johnson	Covy Jones
Boyde Blackwell	Greg Hansen	Chad Bettridge	Darren DeBloois
Jason Vernon	Marty Bushman	Matt Briggs	Kent Hersey
Chris Wood	Faith Jolley	Paul Washburn	Jim Christensen
Drew Cushing	Lindy Varney	Ben Wolford	
Robin Cahoon	Randall Thacker	Torrey Christophersen	
Rick Olson	Teresa Griffin	Dave Beveridge	
Ben Nadolski	Guy Wallace		
	Randy Wood		
	Riley Peck		

**Public Present**

Bryce Pilling	Mat Farnsworth	Bill Christensen - RMEF
Bret Selman	Joe Moore	Sierra Nelson – UT Woolgrowers Assoc.
Ken Clegg	Colten Richens	Ben Lowder – UT Archery Association
Lee Tracy	Ken Strong	Troy Justensen – SFW
Tyler Farr – UHA	Mitch Herzog	Jon Leonard – Hunts for the Brave
Steve Sorensen – SFW	Mike Christensen	



**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
May 2, 2019, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
<https://youtu.be/0aZnaT68GLs>

- 00:00:28** Chairman Woodward called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, introduced Board and RAC members, and reviewed the meeting process.
- 00:02:04** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.**
- 00:02:24** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 10, 2019 Wildlife Board Meeting.**
- 00:02:58** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**  
The following action log items were discussed:
- 00:03:43 **Bighorn Sheep MOU Report – Jace Taylor**  
00:05:05 **Primitive Weapon Definition – included in recommendations**  
**Barney Top LE Archery Only Elk Proposal Update – Covy Jones**  
**Elk Season Structure – Calendar View – Covy Jones**  
00:19:13 **Book Cliffs Committee update – Boyde Blackwell**
- 00:24:43** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**  
Mike Fowlks updated the Board on winter condition effects on mule deer, big game capture, legislative bills and appropriations, staffing changes, and aquatics production and management.
- 00:34:00** **5) R657-5 Big Game & R657-62 Draw Applications Rule Amendments (Action)**  
Covy Jones presented the rule amendments.
- 00:41:58** **Board Questions**  
The board asked for clarification on where this fits in the hunt schedule, weapons inclusion/exclusion, COR bighorn sheep removal, and two hunt option.
- 00:47:01** **Public Questions**  
Public questions accepted at this time.
- 00:48:35** **RAC Recommendations**

Central and Southern RACs had stipulations. The RACs passed the amendments with varying dissent.

Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

**00:50:58 Public Comments**

Public comments accepted at this time.

**00:56:53 Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC motions. The board asked for further clarification on the thought process in determining weapons.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the rule amendments for R657-5 Big Game and R657-62 Draw Applications as presented with the inclusion of shotguns as a primitive weapon.**

**01:01:13 6) Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2019 (Action)**

Covy Jones presented the 2019 recommendations.

**01:27:14 Board Questions**

The board asked for clarification on why the presentation did not provide specific numbers and units, and discussed Pine Valley at length.

**01:48:13 Public Questions**

Public questions accepted at this time.

**01:55:11 RAC Recommendations**

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

Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

**02:03:57 Public Comments**

Public comments accepted at this time.

**02:16:53 Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC motions. The board discussed the South Cache elk unit.

**02:24:52** The Board discussed Pine Valley and addressed crowding issues.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation for Pine Valley with an increase of 300 tags for the 2019 general season permit numbers.**

The following amended motion was made by Karl Hirst and failed for lack of a second.

**MOTION: I move that we keep the 20/20/20/40 allocation – same number of weapons, same number of hunter – but reallocate the number of general season tags to the early rifle hunt to address the overcrowding.**

02:32:16

The Board discussed the Zion sheep recommendations.

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

**MOTION: I move that we keep the Zion sheep rifle tag numbers the same as in 2018 – 11 – with the addition of three (3) archery tags.**

02:35:33

Manti discussion.

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

**MOTION: I move that we decrease the deer tags on the Manti unit by 500.**

02:39:23

South Cache elk tag numbers discussion.

The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed 4 to 2. Kevin Albrecht and Karl Hirst opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we decrease the South Cache elk unit from 53 to 40 tags.**

02:41:32

The Board addressed the Beaver unit with no motion made.

02:45:43

The Board discussed the South Slope Yellowstone unit.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Northeast RAC's recommendation to increase to 50 instead of 150**

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

**MOTION: I move that we adjust the recommended increase on the South Slope Yellowstone unit general season deer tags from 150 to 100.**

02:49:13

The Board talked about the Thousand Lake unit with no motion.

02:50:28

The Board discussed adding an action log to look into moving the application deadline after established permit numbers. The Chairman requested Lindy Varney look into the Southern RAC's request.

The following motion was made by chairman Woodward.

**MOTION: I move that we add to the action log that the Division research the possibility of moving the application deadline to after establishing permit numbers.**

02:56:10

The Board opened a discussion on the Central RAC's proposal to look at the elk plan. No motion was made.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the 2019 Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**03:00:16 LUNCH BREAK**

**03:47:26 7) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2019 (Action)**

Covy Jones presented the antlerless permit recommendations.

**04:06:43 RAC Recommendations**

Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

Central and Northern RACs unanimously passed the recommendations. Southern and Northeast RACs had stipulations and passed the remainder unanimously.

**04:09:33 Public Comments**

Public comments accepted.

**04:14:10 Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC votes. The Board and RAC asked for further clarification on the North Beaver unit.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Byron Bateman and passed 4 to 2. Kevin Albrecht and Karl Hirst opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we create a new hunt on the North Beaver unit, using existing boundaries, and reallocate the statewide 150 permits to the unit with season dates of August 1-11.**

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

**MOTION: I move that we compromise on the increased permit number of 1,000 on Chalk Creek East Canyon antlerless deer by cutting the numbers in half proportionally for each hunt (250 private land only; 50 private land archery only; 100 public draw archery only; 100 public draw ALW).**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2019 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented.**

**04:41:56 8) R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments (Action)**

Mike Wardle presented the rule amendments.

**04:49:38 Board Questions**

The Board asked for clarification on depredation assistance and acreage qualification.

**04:51:30 RAC Recommendations**

Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

Northern, Northeast, and Southern RACs unanimously passed the amendments. Central RAC passed it 9:2.

**04:53:17 Public Comments**

Public comments accepted.

**04:57:09 Board Discussion**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Rule Amendments R657-3 as presented by the Division.**

**04:57:40 9) 2019 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**

Mike Wardle presented the recommendations.

**05:02:45 RAC Recommendations**

Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

All other RACs unanimously passed the recommendations. Southern RAC had one abstention.

**05:03:19 Board Discussion**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the 2019 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented by the Division.**

**05:03:44 10) R657-44 Big Game Depredation Rule Amendments (Action)**

Mike Wardle presented the rule amendments.

**05:06:59 RAC Recommendations**

All RACs unanimously passed the rule amendments except Southeast RAC, which did not have a quorum to vote.

**05:07:16 Board Discussion**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Big Game Depredation Rule Amendments R657-44 as presented by the Division.**

**05:07:40 11) R657-41 Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule Amendments (Action)**  
Greg Hansen presented the rule amendments.

**05:16:43 Public Questions**  
Public questions accepted.

**05:20:14 RAC Recommendations**  
Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.  
All other RACs passed the rule amendments with varying dissent, abstention, and exceptions.

**05:22:44 Public Comments**  
Public comments accepted.

**05:29:32 Board Discussion**  
The Board discussed pursuit permits and the 3-year program.  
The following motion was made by Byron Bateman, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we maintain the one-year program and permit conservation groups – their employees and agents – the authority to purchase an auction tag at live, public, well-advertised auctions at whatever bid price and accept the remainder of the rule amendments.**

**05:36:08 12) Other Business (Contingent)**  
Karl Hirst restated his motion that was withdrawn earlier in item 5. He explained that it included a redistribution of additional tags to the early rifle hunt to address crowding.

Covy Jones and Lindy Varney explained that it would be difficult and impossible to meet this proposal and include it in this year's draw.

Karl agreed to withdraw the proposal completely.

**05:39:06 Meeting adjourned.**

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
May 2019  
Summary of Motions**

**Wild Turkey Transplant List**

**All RAC's**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Wild Turkey Transplant List as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments**

**NRO**      **Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes:** For: 11 Against: 1

**CRO, SRO, NERO, SERO**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

## Motion Summary

1) Approval of Agenda

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

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

2) Approval of Minutes

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

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

3) Wild Turkey, Transplant List

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

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

4) Collection Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by AJ Mower and passed unanimously.

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



Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Public Library  
45 South Main Street, Springville  
May 14, 2019 ☞ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Ben Lowder, Co-Chair  
\*Paul Gauchay, USFS rep (for George)  
Michael Gates, BLM  
Brock McMillian, Sportsmen  
Steve Lund, Elected Official  
A J Mower, Agriculture  
Kristofer Marble, Chair  
Jason Vernon, Central Region Supervisor  
Mike Christensen, At-Large  
Joshua Lenart, Sportsmen  
Ken Strong, Sportsmen  
Alan White, Agriculture

**Members Absent**

Danny Potts, Non-consumptive (excused)  
\*George Garcia, USFS (excused)  
Jacob Steele, Native American  
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive (excused)

**1) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**

**Kristofer Marble, Chair**

Let's get started. My name is Kris Marble, I'm the RAC chair and this is my last meeting. We'll start with introductions. Before we jump into things, we'll go over the procedure for you in the audience that may need it. So, we'll go through the agenda items here and we'll first ask if there are any questions. That period will be limited to questions only. After that, we will do a comment period. If you have a comment, there are some yellow cards over on the table. Make sure you fill one out and give it to Ben. That way we've got your comments for the record. After that, the RAC will discuss and vote on any agenda items. With that, has everyone had the chance to read the minutes from our last meeting and look at the agenda? Can I get a motion for that, please?

**Ken** – I make a motion to accept the minutes and agenda.

**AJ** – I second that.

**Kris** – Passed.

**VOTING**

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

Seconded by AJ Mower.

Motion passed unanimously

**2) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational)**

**Kristofer Marble, RAC Chair**

At the last wildlife board meeting, there was a big game draw applications rule amendment. That was accepted with the additions provision that shot guns be added to the acceptable weapons list for the primitive weapon hunt. We talked about that here in this RAC. We also approved that

amendment. The bucks, bulls and OIAL permit recommendations— there were a few amendments to the recommendations. One motion that passed was to maintain the Zion bighorn sheep tags numbers and add an additional three archery only permits. Decrease the South Manti general season deer by 500 tags. Decrease the South Cache limited entry elk permit number to 40. Increase deer tags by 100 instead of 150 on the Yellowstone South Slope unit. The rest of the recommendations were approved as presented by the division.

The antlerless permit recommendations, all the divisions recommendations passed except for, the board voted to add an August 1-11 antlerless elk tag on the Northern Beaver unit with 150 tags. The East Canyon doe deer tags were cut in half. All of the rest of the recommendations were passed as presented.

The CWMU rule amendments were passed as recommended as well as the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations. The big game depredation rule amendments were all approved as presented. The conservation and sportsman permit rule amendments—the board decided to stay with the one-year program instead of going to a three-year program to give some of the organizations a chance to continue to stay in the program and maintain their status. Does that sound right Ben?

Ben – Yeah. So, there was a lot of recommendations wrapped up in that rule. The one exception that they made was, currently there is a one-year program and a three-year program with the conservation permit program. One of the recommendations was to do away with the one-year program. My understanding was that the DWR did not realize that the houndsman association is actively pursuing wanting to get into the one-year program this fall. They were there to petition that and the board decided to keep the one-year program. I don't know if it's going to go away when we hit the next three-year program. I see Greg here; I don't know if he wants to speak to that.

Kris – Thanks Ben. I appreciate that. Also, another motion that passed was that officers of the conservation organizations can purchase vouchers sold as long as it's a public, well attended auction as the purchase price. So, if it sells at public auction, a well-attended public auction, whatever that price is even if it's below market value, those officers of those conservation organizations can purchase it at that price. The balance of the recommendations was approved. That's it for the board update. Any questions?

**3) Regional Update (Informational)**  
**Jason Vernon, Central Regional Supervisor**

I have a few items I'd like to share with the RAC this evening. We'll start off with wildlife. I failed in my job at the last RAC meeting. We have a new biologist, Jason Robinson. Would you mind standing up, Jason? You probably recognize him. He was formerly the Upland Game Coordinator out of Salt Lake. He presented all of the upland game recommendations previously. With the retirement of Tom Becker in the Tooele district, we hired Jason out there and he's been there since February. He's doing a great job. We're excited for his experience and the insights he brings. Welcome. One thing that is kind of concerning to us is out on the Stansbury Mountains. I can't remember the month, January maybe, when we brought in the bighorn sheep from

Washington. We brought in 20 bighorn sheep to repopulate the Stansbury Mountains and we have collars on all of them. We have had four ewes killed and one ram killed out of that 20 that were brought in. Those were all cougar kills. We were able to go in and identify that. We've been working with Wildlife Services. They have removed two cougars off the mountain. One was just killed over the weekend, I think. One of the ewes was killed this weekend. The Wildlife Services is going to go up and try to find that cougar and remove it as well. It's kind of concerning that 1/4 of the animals we put up there have been killed by cougars. It's something to consider moving forward.

We're still finishing the sage grouse counts. With all the snow this year, it was difficult to get in to some of the locations. With the information we have it looks like the populations appear to be fairly stable from what they've been in the past, very similar to last year. We're happy with that.

In our habitat section, I think we're all aware of the fires that we had last fall with the Coal Hollow fire, the Bald Mountain and Pole Creek fires. The division has several wildlife management areas throughout this county and Sanpete, even in Wasatch county that we hold as grass banks that don't get grazed on an annual basis. To kind of mitigate, help those livestock permittees, we've provided emergency grazing on some of those WMA's to help them this summer.

Our aquatics section, we're just putting fish out in rivers and lakes. We've stocked Kokanee in Jordanelle. We stocked tiger muskie in the Yuba reservoir. There's going to be some more tiger muskie going into Jordanelle as well. One of the new things that they have out there is the fish planner app. It's a pretty neat app. It's similar to the hunt planner app for big game. It's an interactive map app. You can go out and click on the waters and reservoirs. It has up to date information on what fish are there, how the fishing is, it's online on our website. If you're going to go fishing, I'd recommend going on there and checking it out. It's a really great app.

Law enforcement, just a couple of things, it's been a pretty busy fall as far as cases. So, they are wrapping up a lot of the fall hunting cases and going through some of the revocation cases at this point. Shed hunting season is going strong right now and as a result, people are starting to stumble across dead heads so we've got a lot of calls for officers to go identify them and make sure they are legitimate to keep. I know often times they are able to keep those. I think it's been pretty successful that way. We do have some new officers. I'm going to have them stand up and introduce themselves. They are not going to be in this region so if you do mind standing and saying who you are and where you're headed. (can't hear introductions) Thanks guys, I appreciate you doing that for me. We have a few other officers that are going to be coming online. We have some districts in our region that are empty right now. One of the new officers is going to be filling the Park City district. We'll be glad to get him. That'll leave our Salt Lake district vacant at this point in time. I do have one other thing I want to bring up. We have three of our RAC members, that this is their last meeting. They have fulfilled their terms. I've got some gifts over here for them. If you'll come up, Mike, Kris and Alan. (Presentation of gift to Mike, Kris and Alan made by Jason Vernon). With that, that's all I have. Thank you.

**Kris** – Alright, thank you. I know I have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you and I will miss being here and being a part of this process.

**Ken** – Just one comment. Today was the special needs fishing day at Salem Pond and we did 1600 kids. Scott Root cooked 2700 hotdogs for the kids. You can see he ate most of them. Anyway, it was great to be involved with those kids.

**Jason** – Just a follow-up I was at the event today, if anything is sure those kids are going to be there and have a good time. The other thing that is sure with that event is the Ken Strong is going to be there out helping them hook their fish on their lines. I saw that again today. Every year he is there helping those kids make sure they catch the fish. So, compliments to you again Ken for being there this year.

**Kris** – Thanks, gentlemen. Are there any questions on the update?

**4) Wild Turkey Transplant List**  
**Dax Mangus, Upland Game Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

**Kris** – I've got a quick question for you. Do you know what percentage of birds that are trapped are conflict birds?

**Dax** – Pretty much all of them. Everywhere we trap, is where we have birds on private lands that are doing some type of property damage or presenting some type of a nuisance or conflict.

**Mike** - After watching the Wood Hollow fire and the Pole Creek fires on the Nebo, it decimated turkey populations. Is there a trigger within this transplant list that the DWR could use to augment flocks that are destroyed by natural disasters or do they have to wait the five years to come back?

**Dax** – So, we propose this every five years but there's nothing that precludes us from being able to modify it during that period. It's something that I don't know that we need to do every single year but if we have extenuating circumstances it's something we could revisit.

**Questions from the Public**

**Waylon Pritchett** - I have a few questions. Of these proposed transplant site, are all of them on public land? None are private, is that correct?

**Dax** – There are just a couple on private but the majority are on public land. The rationale behind that is typically the birds that are coming from private lands are situations where there are conflicts so we try to move the birds to areas where they are less likely to have conflict again. So, most of these are public land. There's just a couple that are private.

**Waylon Pritchett** – And all transplant sites have been identified as suitable turkey habitat?

**Dax** – Yeah. They are really close adjacent to what is considered suitable habitat.

**Waylon Pritchett** – OK. So, they'll occupy suitable turkey habitat.

**Dax** – That map layer... the line that we've drawn to identify turkey habitat, it evolves a little bit. You have things like fires and other things that change it a bit and our biologists on the ground revise that periodically and make assessments.

**Waylon Pritchett** – OK. Thank you very much.

### **Comments from the Public**

none

### **RAC Discussion**

**Alan** – I would like to know, before you transplant any on private land, are all of the surrounding landowners notified?

**Dax** – Currently, we don't have any formal mechanisms in place to do that. That's one of the reasons why we're reluctant to add a lot of private land sites. Because there can be conflicting opinions on turkeys. One landowner might really like them and one might not be as comfortable with them. We haven't been releasing turkeys on private land areas. Talking with our regional staff as we went through these sites, that was one of the things that we asked our regional staff to do... if there was... just because a site is on this list doesn't mean that we have to move turkeys there it just means that we can move them there. That's one of the things that we asked the regional staff is to make sure that if we are going to move turkeys to an area where it has potential to affect neighboring landowners to have those discussions with those landowners. It's not formally in the process.

### **VOTING**

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

In Favor: Ben, Paul, Michael Gates, Brock, Steve, AJ, Mike, Joshua, Ken, and Alan.

Opposed:

Abstained:

Motion passed unanimously

## **5) Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments**

**Drew Dittmer, Native species coordinator, Herpetologist**

### **Questions from the RAC**

**Steve** - As far as catch and release of reptiles or amphibians goes, how does that play into state parks or national parks?

**Drew** – This permit would not allow you to capture reptiles or amphibians in a national park. That is a totally separate thing.

**Steve** – And state parks?

**Drew** – I don't know how it does in state parks. Greg will have to answer that.

**Greg Hansen** – So, hunting in general is prohibited in a lot of our state parks. The general 15-minute rule that Drew went over where you can capture an animal, take pictures of it and enjoy it for the time being, that would still apply in the state park. There wouldn't be any prohibition against that. I'm actually going to call J. Shirley up to make sure I'm on the right path. Is that kind of a general summary? One of the reps on the stakeholder group was actually one of the land managers at the Red Cliff reserve and the primary concern down there is habitat degradation and trying to keep people out of sensitive areas. If they are tipping over rocks to look under, they need to make sure that the habitat is left in a good condition. We have some provisions in the rule that kind of regulates that aspect of the sport. I think in state parks in particular, you'd be looking at that initial 15-minute option. You can still enjoy wildlife there; you just can't take it home.

**Joshua Lenart** – Greg, that same question but does that apply to the invasive species also that might occur in the park?

**Greg Hansen** – So, the state in general does not have wildlife management authority on national parks. I think you'd be subject to federal regulations in the national parks. The state park... you're putting me on the spot with a question I did not anticipate. J. do you have any thoughts on that? We've been working on this for a year and you guys just came up with a question that hadn't been brought up yet.

**J Shirley** – It would be a guess, but I guess that the same (unintelligible)

**Greg Hansen** – Between now and the wildlife board meeting on June 6<sup>th</sup>, I'll get you an answer.

**Brock** – So, if it's more than 15 minutes - say I catch a snake and I bring it back to camp and I have a picture box that I put them in to take pictures of them and then I take it back and release it... then I have to have something else?

**Drew** – Technically I'd like you to have the permit for that scenario. I would prefer if you just log that on INET. I definitely understand if you've got a picture box and you want to take a photo of it. I've done that myself. There are officers that may or may not chose to come after you for that.

**Greg Hansen** – That 15-minute exception actually has some provisions in there that you can't move it from the site that you capture it. You can't take it back to your camp without that education course and permit depending on the species that you're after. Take the course, get the permit, report the data and we'll have a much better idea of the status of these species.

**Drew** – And I should say that there are several members of the user group that said they would buy this permit even though they don't intend on taking things home. They want to pay in to the management of reptiles and amphibians.

**Mike** – What is the anticipated cost of the permit?

**Drew** – It'll be a \$10 application fee for now. It'll probably go up. We're gauging the interest with this first round.

**Greg Hansen** - As you are aware, we are restricted on what we can charge for licenses and permits based on our legislative fee schedule. We also don't have a great idea of what the interest or participation will be whether it warrants a separate fee or not. We don't want the fee to be an initial barrier to getting this program up and running. We'll run with the \$10 application fee for now. Those more owner certificates of registration we have fees established for those already.

**Ben** – Just a comment regarding the capture of species and moving them to a camp, you're going to want to keep an eye on Brock. I've watched him capture deer and move them several miles before releasing them. Just a heads up. (HAHA)

**Joshua Lenart** – I have just a question out of pure curiosity. Did you have anything to do with the DWR's recent social media post about eating bullfrogs?

**Drew** – I had nothing to do with that. I read about it and would have like to weigh in a bit. They are delicious.

**Joshua Lenart** – I had two thoughts. One, I love to see when the division encourages eating of invasive species. It kind of helps educate the public of the fact. And two, those are massive bullfrogs. I want to gig some where ever they were.

**Drew** – They can get big when people don't pick on them.

**Ken** – Back to turtles, and I may have missed something here on the snapping turtles. What was the ruling on those?

**Drew** – Please do not re-release them and kill them on contact if you see them. They're not native to Utah.

**Ken** – Ok. I know where a big one is. I was just curious.

**Drew** – Get rid of it.

### **Questions from the Public**

none

### **Comments from the Public**

**Matt Jepson**, Stake holder group – I mostly just wanted to introduce myself and a little bit about the stake holder group. Drew covered things, in fact, a few notes that I had to cover, Drew covered it pretty well. My name is Matt Jepson and I represent a group of stakeholders that was described in this presentation. The stake holder group was a really well-balanced group. I'm an attorney by trade. In the daytime, I'm an attorney for the Department of the Interior. I do a lot of regulatory law. Of course, I'm here today on my personal capacity as a naturalist enthusiast. It was fun to see this group interface with the division. It was a very collaborative process. I really

commend the division for the work that they did on this. For the way that they listened to this group. I think that there was a lot of content in this rule as it's proposed that is really smart. It comes from academic folks, from enthusiasts, from commercial interests who were all sitting together and who were all on the same page when we were done with things. So, obviously, some things needed more discussion more than others. I don't know that the rule is perfect but we think that it's in a pretty good place. It's definitely progress. The rule as it existed, the one that I have here, the 30+ pager, I'm a father of three boys and they didn't have a chance of understanding what this was. They love reptiles and amphibians. They love to be out in the field and find things. Every once in a while, they like to bring something home and raise it. In trying to relay this to them as a father and as an attorney even, it was really difficult. So, this really simplifies the approach. It brings it into alignment with more of the states. It's a simple bag limit approach. It's an automated approach, which before with a COR, people who wanted to keep something, if my son wanted to bring home a snake, he would have to submit something and then wait and sometimes a very difficult one-week window in some ways more difficult in my opinion than big game drawing for things in different counties, it's a vast improvement that way. Now there is a license, the users are treated like other resource users. There's a license in place. I will note that if there was one that was the equivalent of a fishing license fee, there was no opposition to that from the user group. That makes sense to us. I think that the change, the simplification, the bag limit approach, it makes a lot of sense. As I said, I just really wanted to introduce myself, if there are questions as you go on and you have your conversations that we as a stake holder group can help answer, I'd love to do that. Thanks.

### **RAC Discussion**

**Kris** - Who are the key stake holders in this committee?

**Drew** – The key stake holders are the individuals that showed up to the table.

**Kris** – The stake holders, the groups that represented the constituents they represented...

**Drew** – So, Matt is definitely one. There's a guy from Great Basin National park that doesn't live in Utah that was really informative. There's another individual named Mark Hazel who's been really active. He used to work for the division part time but now he's a cancer researcher. Those are the guys that I talked to the most.

**Kris** – Who did they represent?

**Drew** – Themselves and the activity, their family in some cases.

**Kris** – I was just wondering interests that were involved in making that. If there was public input, if there was...

**Drew** – We sent out packet out to several counties and towns and we got feedback from police departments, and some other county commissioners and we did alter some of the regulations before it came here because there was some concern about husbandry of venomous species. So, they received all of this well in advance to showing up here. If you're talking about stake holders that are oppositional...



**Kris** – No, I wasn't going that direction. I was just kind of wondering what interests were represented as far as...

**Drew** – Like Greg mentioned one of the individuals was a guy that works on the Red Cliff Desert reserve. He supports the rule and was very involved in saying that we need a rule so that the activity is governed and regulated. He definitely has concerns about the management of that reserve but he still also wants people to be able to engage in this activity in a meaningful way.

**Greg Hansen** - Just one other addition would be that we've also consulted with Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, they have oversight authority on the importation and disease certification requirements in order to bring critters into the state. They're comfortable with the rule in its current format. We've also consulted with representatives from the Department of Health and they didn't exhibit any concerns with the proposed rule either.

**Steve** – Let's assume we are building a pipeline and I'm familiar with the Current River pipeline that was built down through Washington County and the challenges that the pipeline contractors had with gila monsters and also with the desert tortoise. Does this in any way, shape or form with those endangered species, is there any mechanism within this that some of these group certified people or stake holders can handle those endangered species in a developmental or a lands development...

**Drew** - We have conservation agreements that regulate both of those species. In the case of the desert tortoise, you have to be federally permitted as far as I know to handle those. I believe it's the same for the gila monster. So, we have to go through that process. As far as I know we can't use these permitted individuals. They won't have the required training. We have to go through our existing structure. Which we have for that.

### **VOTING**

Motion made by Mike Christensen, seconded by AJ Mower to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

In Favor: Ben, Paul, Michael Gates, Brock, Steve, AJ, Mike, Joshua, Ken, and Alan.

Opposed:

Abstained:

Motion passes unanimously

### **6) Southeast Utah County WMA Habitat Management Plan (Informational) Mark Farmer, Habitat Manager, Central Region**

#### **Questions by the RAC**

**Kris** – How far back do these range trend studies go on these properties?

**Mark** – On these properties, I think 1984. Some of the ones go back to 1982. I was on the range trend project for about 10 years. Some start back in '82 and I think these are '84 and '86 so we've got a lot of data on some of these properties.

**Kris** – When you're making these management plans, how much do we try to stay to the state that it was in '86? Do we try and keep it that way, do we try to over maximize the...

**Mark** – I think we are trying to move back where we'd like it to be. The juniper and piñon trees increased a lot since the mid '80's so we're moving those back a lot more. Originally a lot of these places were chained in the early '70's. Like on the Bullseye property we've been back in there bull hogging because the trees have grown back. The trees that were small enough that the chain didn't take them out, they grew back and they were pretty thick and were too big to cut and drop so we actually bull hogged a couple hundred acres in there two years ago. So, that's part of that keeping those old chaining's in the condition that we want them in. We want shrubs, we want grass and forbs. We don't want a lot of juniper. We want to feed the deer. We have plenty of cover for them with the trees we've got.

**Steve** – Down in Sanpete county we have a number of these WMA's and they all look really nice. The DNR has done a great job with them. Some of the challenges that the commissioners have in the county is with RS2477 roads, class B and class D roads. As you mentioned that there are road closures, how do these road closures integrate and dovetail with RS2477 roads?

**Mark** – So, if it is a county road in any way, shape or form, it isn't closed by us. We don't close county roads. We've already done a plan for most of your property in Sanpete County and winter closures weren't an option. They were frowned upon for some reason so we pretty much leave those roads open year-round except for on the White Hill WMA which is typically been closed and has been in the past. So, Black Hills and some other ones that are open basically year-round.

**Steve** – It is definitely a question that a lot of citizens have when it comes to the roads and the potential of vacation or closure of a particular road. Another question that I had was as far as fire management on these WMA's, is grazing a possibility, emergency grazing from ranchers?

**Mark** – So, most of our properties are grazed. I think we graze 14 or 15 properties annually. So, most of those in Sanpete County are grazed annually.

**Steve** – They are. I'm just thinking if we had to go further than that than the typical grazing. Is there a mechanism in there at least these ranchers can go into an emergency grazing situation? Visa via, fire management?

**Mark** – So, to reduce fuel, we'd just do that. These usually only graze in spring. We do that as we feel we need to and we can do that as a treatment. We could work with a rancher and say, please graze our property to reduce fire danger. We can do that on an annual basis or we can put out for bid and do it on a multiple year up to five years. Most of the properties, we do five-year grazing agreements on and renew those an additional five years later. We put them out for bid to make it fair. So, we've also got a few elk and deer. Especially elk. Grazing helps up keep our shrubs healthy but it still allows that grass to be available in the fall for our deer and elk herds.

**Steve** – I have one final question on tamarisk. Do you have any information? Do you have a way to make more dead tamarisk?

**Mark** – The only WMA that we really have tamarisk on is in Juab County. So, we don't have a lot.

**Steve** – Any in Grand or Emery?

**Mark** – Not that I've managed.

**Steve** – Ok.

**Mark** – The Southeast region has done tamarisk treatments on some of their properties.

**Steve** – If you can figure out a way to do a treatment for tamarisk that is permanent and cheap, you can retire.

**Mark** – To be permanent you have to cut and paint herbicide on the stump and that's the only way, it's not cheap though.

**Mike** – Is there a mechanism in the plan that allows for some access in the winter for cougar hunting on certain WMA's?

**Mark** – So, in the past we put a combination lock on a gate, like our Lavan WMA, we'll probably be putting a few gates on Dairy Fork and Starvation to close those during the winter. That would probably be what we would have to do if we have cougar hunters that want to be in there. They'd have to call and get the combination. We realize that is something that we do usually work with.

**Brock** – Are we reseeding from the fire?

**Mark** – We have reseeded about 30,000 acres already. We're done aerial seeding. That winter came on too fast. We didn't get it all done before the snow was on the ground. Let's hope it works. It looks good right now.

**Kris** – RAC members stay for a meeting on the new chair. On that note, meeting adjourned.

**Nominations for Chair** (this portion was not on the recording.)

Kris – accepting nominations for new chair

Ben Lowder – I nominate Brock McMillian

Kris Marble – Brock, do you accept

Brock McMillian - yes

Steve Lund - seconded

Kris Marble – any more nominations

Joshua Lenart – I nominate Mike Christensen

Kris – the majority want to vote using paper ballots

Votes were made and tallied by Kris

Kris – the new Chair is Brock McMillian (7 in favor for Brock, 4 in favor of Mike)  
Kris – Ben Lowder will continue as the co-chair

**Meeting adjourned: 8:04 pm**

**In attendance: 4 public, 18 DWR employees, 11 RAC members**

**Next board meeting: June 6, 9:00 am, DNR boardroom, Salt Lake City**

**Next RAC meeting: July 31, 6:30 pm, Springville Civic Center multipurpose room**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council**  
**May 15, 2019**  
**Academy Conference Center**  
**Brigham City, Utah**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Begins: 6:00p.m.**

**RAC Present**

John Blazzard- Agric.  
Paul Chase- Forest Service  
David Earl- Agric.  
Randy Hutchison-At Large  
Christopher Hoagstrom- Noncon.  
Aaron Johnson\_ Sportsman  
Matt Klar- At Large  
Mike Laughter - Sportsman  
Justin Oliver- At Large  
Darren Parry- Shoshone Nation  
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.  
Bryce Thurgood- Chair  
Kevin Oliver- BLM

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Erica Savage  
Justin Dolling  
Randy Wood  
Jim Christensen  
Pam Kramer  
John Neil  
Rick Olson  
Drew Cushing  
Drew Dittmer  
Brandon Baron  
Greg Hansen

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman

**RAC Excused**

Kevin McLeod- At Large

**RAC Unexcused**

Chad Jensen- Elected

**Agenda:**

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
Approval of Agenda and April 10, 2019 Minutes  
Wildlife Board Update  
Regional Update  
Wild Turkey Transplant List  
Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments  
Gunnison Island WMA Habitat Management Plan  
Presentation of Brunson Prints to Outgoing RAC Members  
Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair

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

Bryce Thurgood- Chair

Agenda Approved

### **Item 2. Approval of April 10, 2019 Minutes**

-Bryce Thurgood- Chair

Minutes approved as circulated.

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

-Bryce Thurgood- Chair

Big game permit numbers rule amendment- supported as presented and added shotguns to that. That passed 6-0.

Bucks, bulls and OIAL- There were 6 motions. The first was to keep Pine Valley deer numbers as the division recommended which passed 6-0. The Zion sheep to keep the tag numbers the same as last year on the rifle plus the three archery which passed 6-0. There was a motion to decrease the Manti deer by 500 passed 6-0. Motion to change the south Cache elk tags from 53 to 40 which passed 4-2. Motion to only increase the Yellowstone deer to 100 instead of 150 in the Northeast region which passed 6-0. The last motion is to accept the remainder as presented which passed 6-0.

Antlerless recommendations- Motion to add August 1-11 on the north end of the Beaver, 150 tag antlerless which passed 4-2. Motion to increase East Canyon to 600 instead of 1,000 that the division recommended passed 6-0. Motion to accept balance as presented passed 6-0.

CWMU rule amendment, recommendations and big game depredation rule amendments- all passed unanimously.

Conservation and sportsman permit rule- Passed unanimously 6-0.

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

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Aquatics- Delayed egg collection of Blue head sucker on Weber River. Developing the new fish trip planner.

Successfully released 28,000 tiger muskie fingerlings into Pineview Reservoir. Plan to do about 6,000 tiger muskie into Newton Reservoir.

Wildlife Section- Finished lek counts on sage grouse and sharptail. Domestic elk facility inspections. Finishing up spring deer classifications.

Outreach-Promoting a recent deep water habitat project at Rockport Reservoir. Working on opportunities to promote spring and summer fishing.

Great Salt Lake Program- Band geese in June. GSL bird festival begins May 16. Routine sampling on the GSL to look at brine shrimp production. Planning has started on Willard spur wildlife management area.

Habitat- Lop and scatter of juniper on Cache unit. Spring maintenance including fencing and weed control.

Law Enforcement- Matt Burgess and his canine graduated from Canine School. Busy working turkey hunts. Started the aquatic invasive species work. Check stations at Bear Lake and Pineview.

### **Questions on items not on agenda.**

Jerry Woodland- Wildlife harassment in the Richmond wildlife area. We have the area posted with signage around the unit. I heard helicopters flying around the area and saw deer and elk running all over the place. I can't even walk up there from January to April. I called the division and they told me they were tagging deer. That seemed like it would be much harder on deer than me walking up from my house.

Bryce Thurgood- I would assume that was probably the best time of year and most productive time of year to do those.

Justin Dolling- Yes, Jim would you come up and explain what we are trying to accomplish with the collaring program and what kind of data we are collecting?

Jerry Woodland- I can't think of any time of the year when the animals are more stressed than the first part of March.

Jim Christensen- We have several studies going on. A deer survival study and also a study of fawns from 6 months old to adulthood. We also have a neonatal survival study. We catch deer in December and March. The March capture period is when we insert the transmitters into the doe's so that when they give birth, we know when and where they give birth. On

the outside looking in, it can look real bad. I have received several calls about the helicopter in Richmond. That is an area where we have not been able to go in for quite a while to put radio collars on the deer. We are trying to get a better representation of the population as a whole. Excluding general public from the unit, we know that the helicopter does create some stress level on the deer. It is only a short period of time. If we were to allow public on the mountain, it would be constant pressure on those deer. Up to this point, we have very minimal mortality of those deer that are caught that time of year. This year, we did see some increases in mortality range wide due to malnutrition.

Jerry Woodland- It's hard for me to imagine that me walking up there , or anyone else, is going to cause anywhere near the amount of stress that the helicopter does for that time.

Bryce Thurgood- You can ask your question on the turkey.

Jerry Woodland- It seems like there is a turkey problems in the cities around Cache Valley. My proposal was going to suggest we change the turkey limit from one bearded turkey per season to something similar to what we do for pheasants. 2 turkeys per day, either sex.

Bryce Thurgood- I appreciate what these guys do on WMA's. I would rather have them up there for a few hours one day than have people up there 24/7.

### **Item 5. Wild Turkey Transplant List**

- Dax Mangus, Upland Game Coordinator

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Justin Oliver- What is the average lifespan of a turkey?

Dax Mangus- 4-6 years is pretty old for a turkey.

Justin Oliver- On our property, we usually see 10-12 toms and 20 jakes. Year after year, we always keep about that same number.

Dax Mangus- Turkeys like most upland game species have pretty high mortality. They are not typically long lived. If you want to keep turkeys on private property you need to plant berry producing plants and food sources. Open water is important as well as roosting habitats.

Justin Oliver- I feel bad asking about that since this gentleman has the opposite problem.

Dax Mangus- One of the tricky things with turkey and why these tools are important is because different people have different tolerance for turkeys. We want to have enough tools available to address those differences that exist.

Randy Hutchison- Is there any conflict between turkeys and forest grouse?

Dax Mangus- I don't know that I have looked at that. There is some overlap in food resources. It seems like the turkeys usually be at lower elevations than forest grouse in the winter when food is limited.

Bryce Thurgood- Just for the record, Jim was shaking his head "no".

### **Motion**

Motion- Randy Hutchison- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Wild Turkey Transplant List as presented.

Second- John Blazzard

Motion Passes- Unanimous

### **Item 6. Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments**

- Drew Dittmer, Herpetologist Regional Presentations

See RAC Packet

### **Public Questions**

Mike Hurst- I'm wondering who oversees all that?

Drew Dittmer- Primarily me. The reporting will be online.

## RAC Questions

Kristen Purdy- Prior to 2013, the RAC considered a proposal for private citizens to keep venomous snakes. During the course of the questioning, it was established that we really do not have a reliable means to survey snakes and know the status of the population. In particular, there was great concern for the midget faded rattlesnake. Also, there was some understanding that this is quite a valuable snake. We were in the position of not knowing the population status and still knowing it is a very valuable snake, if the snakes reproduce in captivity beyond the number established by the COR, then there is really the person who has the COR can't keep them. They cannot be released into the wild again and it seems as though we are back to this same issue again. Do we now know the status of the midget faded rattlesnake? is it any less or more valuable than what we knew in 2013 and what is behind the proposal to keep any venomous snake in captivity.

Drew Dittmer- For venomous snakes in general, this is going to be not open to the public. If someone wants to engage in this, they have to submit a certificate of registration and meet certain criteria we will develop in the office for that COR. Midget faded rattlesnakes are a subspecies of the great basin rattlesnake. As far as their status in Utah, great question. I don't know any rattlesnake experts that could come to consensus on that. If it is a real and legitimate species is a question. Some states treat it and protect it as a species, Wyoming particularly. In Utah, it is not specifically protected. We have at least 3 subspecies of great basin rattlesnake. We do not consider that a specific unit of conservation concern currently. If someone wants to investigate midget faded rattlesnake breeding behavior and wants to breed them in captivity, I will happily entertain their COR and develop that dialogue with them.

Kristen Purdy- Do we have a good handle on the status of the great basin rattlesnake.

Drew Dittmer- Very common.

Kristen Purdy- How about commercial value of any of the species or subspecies. Whether or not it is actually considered a recognized subspecies.

Drew Dittmer- The commercial value, I cannot comment on. It certainly would be illegal to be sold in pet stores in Utah.

Bryce Thurgood- Why would anyone want to have a venomous snake in their house?

Drew Dittmer- There are lots of things people do that we ask questions about. People like to study snakes.

Justin Oliver- If my children are out and catch a blow snake and bring it home and decide the next day, they don't want it anymore. I can release it back outside can I?

Drew Dittmer- Technically, you weren't able to do it before.

Justin Oliver- Hypothetically.

Drew Dittmer- Now you know and can raise awareness.

Justin Oliver- I didn't want to bring it home. It would have been nice to tell my kids they would go to jail if they did.

Drew Dittmer- A reason why it should be illegal, snake fungal disease is an emerging pathogen for snakes. You can get it in your pet snake, even just by purchasing food for the snake. If you re-release it, you have infected wild populations.

That is why it is illegal. I went out and caught snakes when I was a kid. It is up to us stewards and adults, who read these regulations, to understand and explain to our children why it is not allowed.

Bryce Thurgood- Has the vice chair ever been arrested at a meeting?

Justin Oliver- It is my 4 year old, come get her.

Randy Hutchison- I didn't know most of this was regulated. In order for you to collect your data, people have to know these regulations are there. How is the public going to be informed?

Drew Dittmer- We've already issued a press release. I was interviewed today. We are generating awareness. It is a niche group. The user group is made up of dozens of individuals and that will be our primary point of contact. We are giving them the structure first. We will work with outreach to develop press releases and social media that says this is a new option for people who want to buy this permit and engage in this activity.

Randy Hutchison- I doubt Justin is the only person who has done that.

Drew Dittmer- Of course. I did this and technically it was illegal when I did it as an 11 year old.

Bryce Thurgood- Two people have committed crimes, no one else admit it.

Drew Dittmer- Mine was in a different state.

Kevin Oliver- You mentioned the committee numbers. What is the estimate of COR's and permits you are going to generate out of this?

Drew Dittmer- I can't comment on how many people are going to buy permits for the bag limit species. I hope it is enough that I have to come back again and we have to renegotiate. I want to see this data and this user group brought in to the fold. I hope people want to do it. As far as COR's, right now, there is about a dozen. Most are for people who do dog aversion training. It is not always a hobby, sometimes it has a purpose.

Kristen Purdy- My dog has been to that training, it was very helpful.

Drew Dittmer- Yes, it can be.

Kristen Purdy- He was class valedictorian.



Kevin Oliver- Has there been any thought to sharing with land management agencies?

Drew Dittmer- Yes, we can do that.

## **Public Comment**

Greg Hansen- Comment letter submitted today by the user group. Could you read that?

Bryce Thurgood- Yes, sorry. I will read that. Letter from Matt Jeppson: Represent a group of stakeholders working with the division to revise the reptile amphibian rule over the last year and a half. Support the proposed rule revision.

Drew Dittmer- To correct my own error, it is a subspecies of the western rattlesnake. Great basin rattlesnake and midget faded rattlesnake are subspecies of the western rattlesnake.

## **Motion**

Motion-Justin Oliver- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments as presented.

Second- Christopher Hoagstrom

Motion Passes- For: 11 Against: 1

Kristin Purdy- I am still not comfortable with relaxing or allowing more opportunity to keep venomous reptiles.

## **Item 7. Gunnison Island WMA Habitat Management Plan**

- John Neil, Avian Biologist

## **RAC Questions**

Mike Laughter- Where exactly is this? I have not heard of Gunnison.

John Neil- (looking at map) West side of the lake.

Bryce Thurgood- This is just an informational item.

## **Other Business**

## **Presentation of Brunson Prints for Outgoing RAC Members**

Bryce Thurgood- Time to nominate new members.

Justin Dolling- 4 members leaving the RAC as of July 1st. Chad Jensen, Bryce Thurgood, John Blazzard and Melissa Wood. DWR would like to acknowledge service of outgoing RAC members.

Bryce Thurgood- Fun to meet new people and make lifelong friends.

## **Nominations of new RAC Chair and Vice Chair**

### **Nomination of RAC Chair**

Mike Laughter- Nominate Justin Oliver for Chair.

Second- Paul Chase

Nomination Accepted- Unanimous

### **Nomination RAC Vice Chair**

John Blazzard- Nominate Mike Laughter for Vice Chair.

Second- Kristin Purdy

Nomination Accepted- Unanimous

Aaron Johnson- Now that they are locked in, how long do they have to do it?

Bryce Thurgood- 2 years.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Meeting Ends-7:28 p.m.**

DRAFT

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING**  
**Beaver City Center, Beaver, UT**  
**May 21, 2019 7:00 p.m.**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Dave Black Tammy Pearson Brian Johnson Rusty Aiken Gene Boardman Braydon Richmond Riley Roberts Sean Stewart Wade Heaton Sean Kelly Nick Jorgensen	Kevin Bunnell Phil Tuttle Teresa Griffen Denise Gilgen Paul Washburn Jim Lamb Micah Evans Vance Mumford Cody Evans Tyrell Orme Dax Mangus Drew Dittmer Jason Nicoles Dave Smedley Kyle Christensen	Donnie Hunter Steve Dalton	Verlund King Craig Laub Mike Worthen

Welcome and Intro Appreciation

- **WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES- Dave Black**
  
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**  
**MOTION to approve the agenda as presented**  
**Brayden Richmond**  
**Rusty Aiken, second**  
**Passed unanimously**

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE- Dave Black**

I'll just go over some of the highlights. One of them was on the primitive weapons rule. We had a motion in the past here at our RAC to approve as presented but to require muzzleloaders to be a sidelock and that did not make it through the Board, they did recommend to include shotguns. It went as presented with the inclusion, it went through the Board as presented except add shotguns. The next one was we had a motion with the Pine Valley deer permits to remain the same and not be increased, the Board had a motion to add 300 tags which passed. So they explained to us that if we followed the deer management plan and they could actually add as many as 1,200 tags on that unit but they went to the 300. We had a motion to decrease the number of buck tags on the Beaver unit by 500 instead of 300 and they decided to stay with the 300 tag decrease as proposed. We had a motion on the bighorn sheep to, and I'm not sure if I can explain this correctly, but we had a motion not to lose those two rifle tags and let it stay the same but they increased some archery tags. (Kevin Bunnell: Keep any legal weapon tags the same and add the archery tags) That's what went through the Board as well, that passed. Brayden put on a motion that we put on an action log to consider the deadline for the applications and try to move that back to give us an opportunity to see what the tag numbers were; that actually was talked about and considered. They didn't make it an action item but they made it an assignment so that will be readdressed and reported on at a future date. The other motion we had, also from Brayden, was on the Beaver unit with the antlerless elk. He wanted to take the new hunt which was a unit wide hunt and make that for just the northern portion of that unit and that passed 4-2. I think that's kind of the highlights of the meeting. Is there anything else Kevin that you can think of?

**Kevin Bunnell:** On the Beaver elk recommendation, Teresa can you remember, did they pass the August?

**Teresa Griffin:** The early hunt, yes.

**Dave Black:** Yeah starting August 1-11 and they went with that early hunt. So with that I'll turn some time over to Kevin for a regional update.

- **REGIONAL UPDATE - Kevin Bunnell**

Thank you Dave. I guess this won't be news to everybody but draw results are out and I think that everybody has gotten their email and knows what they drew, or what they didn't draw, as the case may be. I learned some interesting things that I thought were interesting in our leader team meeting that are in relation to the draw that I thought I'd pass on. We go to extreme lengths in Utah when somebody's credit card get rejected. We had 7,000 credit cards of those that drew get denied. Which is down from what it's been in the past, that's a lower number, it's been closer to 10,000. We will try five times to get that payment to go through, then we will send an email, then we will make a phone call before it moves on. That's going above and beyond. Compare that to Arizona where they send an email out the night before they hit credit cards telling people that it's coming and if you're card gets rejected once, you're

done and they move onto the next person. I think there is probably a happy medium between those two because I think we go maybe a little farther than my personal opinion than we should. But I thought that was interesting.

**Brayden Richmond:** Did they share with you the expense of that? Do you have any idea what the cost to do that is?

**Kevin Bunnell:** I think it's pretty automated. But I don't know for sure. That would be an interesting question if Lindy Varney is ever down here that she could answer for you. Let me just run through and give you a quick update from our aquatics section, given where we are at this year we are going to schedule another ice fishing tournament on the 4th of July at Fish Lake (laughs), another perch tournament so if we could have everybody get ready for that. As you might have imagined our stocking at most of the reservoirs has been delayed because we can't get there, but the fishermen can't get there either so probably nobody has even noticed yet. But there are a lot of things that have been set back with the aquatics program. This is the time of year they are doing all of their surveys and gill netting and there's just a lot of lakes that they can't get to yet.

**Tammy Pearson:** A little local.. People are super happy with the bass in the Minersville Reservoir, I'm hearing a lot of that.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Yeah Minersville, when they did net Minersville and it came out looking really good. They reported that in our last RAC meeting.

**Tammy Pearson:** But we've been seeing it in a lot of pictures too. Nice big fish.

**Kevin Bunnell:** You know Minersville is very productive and can grow big fish. From our Wildlife section probably our biggest news is we are interviewing to replace the Panguitch biologist. We have some really good candidates and we will be holding those interviews on Thursday. Habitat section the WRI funding list should be out by the end of the month and that will get them rolling. I talked last time about our new officers, we've got new officers in Millard, Cane, and Beaver County they hit their districts in July which will leave still two open districts in Garfield and Wayne counties in the state and we will be filling those as quickly as we can. From our Outreach section free fishing day this year is June 8th so that's a day to promote people to get out an experience fishing. We will be having events at Little Reservoir, Bristlecone Pond, and Brian Head. That's a great place to send people. Oh Bristlecone is at Brian Head so we will have Little Reservoir up here in Beaver and then Bristlecone at Brian Head. Thank you for the clarification. And there are lots of dedicated hunter projects available right now, I won't document them, but there are plenty and we are getting a lot of demand now that people know that they've drawn dedicated hunter. Phils crew is all over that and ready for people to come and do their hours. Are there any questions?

**Dave Black:** We used to do an event at Grandpa's Pond down by Hurricane on the free fishing day. I think that went away with, what was his name? Yeah Lynn Chamberlain when he was doing that. I was just curious we used to go and donate some time and money and stuff. Is that ever going to come back?

**Phil Tuttle:** We could talk about that.

**Kevin Bunnell:** There was a reason why we changed there and I don't remember at this point Dave, it's been 3-4 years since we've done it there. Any other questions from the RAC before we move on with our meeting?

**Dave Black:** Okay, thank you Kevin. We are on Agenda Item #5 which is the Wild Turkey Transplant list, and Dax will be presenting for us.

- **Wild Turkey Transplant List** -Dax Mangus, Upland Game Coordinator  
See Slideshow

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

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

**Nick Jorgensen:** Yeah, I have a question. Talk to me on the first page under population status you talk about habitat or social carrying capacity. Tell me what you mean by that.

**Dax Mangus:** Yeah so carrying capacity is kind of the definition of how many animals you can have sustainably. The habitat carrying capacity which is biologically how many animals can we hold on the landscape in a sustainable fashion; they're healthy, the habitat is healthy, and they are able to sustain themselves. A social carrying capacity takes social factors into consideration. If we're talking about the Bountiful golf course and the greenskeeper up there is really unhappy about having to clean up turkey droppings off the putting greens, then we've exceeded our social carrying capacity in that area. So that's what we're referring to is a lot of these conflicts the turkeys are not necessarily over populated from a biological standpoint but the social tolerance for the birds has been exceeded.

**Nick Jorgensen:** Thank you.

**Dave Black:** Okay, Brayden.

**Brayden Richmond:** Yeah I'm just curious on the transplant sites how far will turkeys move from the transplant sites? In a couple of RACs we'll talk about sheep, sheep will stay where you put them but what will turkeys do?

**Dax Mangus:** So we have some evidence. We've tracked that a little bit. We've been putting bands, medal bands on the toms that we move and we have bands returned and some of them are really close to release sites, and some have traveled 15-20 miles up or down a river corridor. So some birds will move a long ways. One of the things we are looking at right now and we just are starting a new study we will be putting GPS transmitters on turkeys next year. We actually have a couple of turkey populations in the

state, one by Escalante and one by the Menden area where we have the transmitters on turkeys and those are birds that were not trapped and moved but birds that were just trapped and got fixed with a transmitter. This winter we'll be putting transmitters on birds that we trap and move to get a better idea. Some information on how far they'll move. We're hoping to get more understanding there and one of the reasons we want to know is we want to know if this is effective, are the birds surviving, how many are surviving, how far are they moving with proximity to private lands or other areas of conflict, are we causing problems when we move birds within a certain vicinity of other similar situations of the places we took them out of. We have some information but we still have some questions that we want to answer in that regard too.

**Dave Black:** Okay, Wade.

**Wade Heaton:** Dax, it looks like over the past 4-5 winters the numbers of birds that have been trapped and transplanted have just fluctuated wildly. What's the biggest reason for that?

**Dax Mangus:** Some of it is weather conditions when we have a more severe winter, we're much more likely to have birds concentrated into these types of areas and they are more responsive to bait. In a mild winter, not so much. There's other variables too though in some of these areas in the northern region specifically they'll have a really good year for trapping and trap a lot of birds. They'll actually put a little dent in the population, but turkeys have a lot of babies, they can have a dozen babies, so the population can really bounce back quickly. Some of it is they are actually putting a dent into with the trapping and we've been more aggressive with fall hunting in these areas as well. The Division would actually like to see those trapping numbers decrease because that would represent success for us, we'd have fewer conflicts, fewer of these situations we'd like to trap and move fewer birds and manage the populations more so through hunting. I think winter severity and trapping success makes those peaks and valleys a little bit.

**Dave Black:** Okay Riley.

**Riley Roberts:** Thanks Dax, this is really good. This is going to be probably the weirdest question from the RAC. Part of the plan is to increase public appreciation for the turkeys. How do you get somebody to like a turkey more? Is there a specific plan in place to.. I mean obviously this has got to be something social that we're talking about. Maybe something in more of the urban areas, but is there something specific that you've got in place to help people appreciate turkeys more than they currently do. I mean I know everybody loves them in November.

**Dax Mangus:** So I think the Division has made a lot of effort to reach out specifically to hunters in regards to turkeys. We have clinics in all the regions and the clinics are really popular, well attended. There's some pretty neat resources on the Divisions website for folks that are interested in hunting turkeys. In the spring we have kind of two seasons. We have the earlier season which is a limited entry season and then we've got that May season that's over the counter and unlimited permits. I think that the Division has made a lot of efforts to promote turkeys to folks that are interested in hunting turkeys. And there's probably I don't know how many specific efforts we've made to make people appreciate turkeys other than probably trapping them and moving them out of peoples neighborhoods. There's probably room for more to be done with that regard.

**Brian Johnson:** Coming from the world's worst turkey hunter, it's this guy right here. Literally 11 tags and I've never killed a bird. That being said I think you should use the color fuchsia in your adds, I think it will help.

**Gene Boardman:** Do you have any population objective or objectives for turkeys?

**Dax Mangus:** We do not.

**Gene Boardman:** Okay, what about turkey predators and their prey? Is there any time where you try to reduce predators for the benefit of turkeys?

**Dax Mangus:** You know most upland game species are very productive and a relatively short life span. Turkeys fall into that group. We don't currently take any predator control specific to turkey.

**Dave Black:** Okay, Wade

**Wade Heaton:** Sorry Dax, I know we're not talking about permit numbers tonight but just to give us an idea. Statewide between three seasons what have permit numbers done in the last five years?

**Dax Mangus:** Wade, I don't know I'd have to look it up. I don't even dare guess.

**Wade Heaton:** That's alright.

**Kevin Bunnell:** We can put that into a little perspective. Over the past five years I'd guess they probably haven't fluctuates a lot but if you look at the last twenty years we've gone from a very limited hunting opportunity to over the counter permits so if you look at it over just a little bit longer time horizon the growth and opportunity to hunt turkeys is huge.

**Dax Mangus:** And we are moving towards offering more and more fall permits that are specific to these areas where we have conflict and I know especially in the central region and the northern region they have plans and desires to get very aggressive and issue a lot of permits to try to get target birds in those problem areas.

**Dave Black:** Any other questions from the RAC. Okay, I didn't summarize the RAC procedures but if you're here tonight to make a comment please make sure you fill out a comment card. There are comment cards in the back. You'll be given the opportunity to make that comment here in just a minute, but right now if there's any specific questions that the public might have you can come to the microphone and ask those questions. Use the mic on your left.

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

**Cameron Rognem:** I'm just wondering what the process is to request a trap area for turkeys? I help manage a nature park at the confluence of the Virgin River, La Verkin Creek, and Ash Creek, and I think to use your term, we've reached the social carrying capacity of turkeys in this area. We've fielded a



number of complaints from the public in that area and I'm just curious if it's not already on your trap list what is the process to get it on the trap list?

**Teresa Griffen:** I think the best way is just to call our office in Cedar City that's our head office and you can get in touch with me, I'm the Wildlife Program Manager, biologist and landowner specialist so this time of year it's a little hard to trap them because there are so many other food sources. But especially once the snow starts to fly that's a really good time for us to start and try to target some of those birds over the past couple of years. You can always let hunters on there during the hunting season to try to disperse them a little bit. But just call our office. On the off chance that they disperse and didn't come back. Just give us a heads up and have some good communication with us we're happy to help you.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Cody and Jason, would you guys raise yours hands? Sir, if you don't know these two are the two that cover that area would you guys make sure you visit with him tonight? Since you're all here, let's just make the connection now.

**Dave Black:** I know we also received an email this week from someone who I believe is from Toquerville and Teresa jumped right on that and responded to them. They were concerned over that very thing. So I think they are more willing to work with you and see if we can come up with a solution. Any other questions from the public? Comment cards for this section.

**Comments from the Public:**

**Kevin Bunnell:** We only have one and they didn't want to comment but SFW supports.

**Dave Black:** SFW supports the recommendations as presented. Okay. Comments from the RAC?

**RAC discussion and vote:**

**MOTION to pass the Wild Turkey Transplant List as presented by the Division.**

**Brian Johnson**

**Tammy Pearson, second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Dave Black:** Okay, our next item #6 will be Collection, Importation and Possession Rule Amendments.

- **Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments** -Drew Dittmer, Herpetologist

See Slideshow

**Questions from the RAC:**

**Dave Black:** Thank you. Do I have questions from the RAC?

**Gene Boardman:** Probably most of the horned toads and lizards are taken from the wild by seven year

old kids whose families have no idea that there's any regulation at all on them. What do you do with them when they are located and is there any punishment for them?

**Drew Dittmer:** I don't foresee there being any punishment for youth trying to engage with nature, but it's up to us now that we're all informed here at the RAC that this is a new rule that we're responsible for informing children that we have regulations on the harvest and taking of wildlife at all levels the UDWR is responsible for all wildlife species. It's just up to us to help encourage people to buy that permit and do the reporting so that we really get that information. We want to encourage children to really get out there and do this activity. That's why the permit is only \$10. The course will be very approachable for young children online.

**Dave Black:** Nick.

**Nick Jorgensen:** I want to see how these regs apply to an incident I had a few years ago, rattlesnake in the backyard, grandkids down. What should I have done?

**Drew Dittmer:** This rule, we have to deter to, you have property protection. Allowances so if there is a dangerous snake on your property I believe you have the ability to kill, you don't need to buy a permit for that. Again, I would love it if you would buy the permit and report it online. It's important information for us to know. You do what you've got to do in your backyard though.

**Nick Jorgensen:** Thank you.

**Dave Black:** Sean.

**Sean Stewart:** I'm just curious, I wasn't aware, do we have large viable populations of non-native turtles?

**Drew Dittmer:** Yes.

**Sean Stewart:** Where are those?

**Drew Dittmer:** Point to water. Any Water. I was just down in Washington County this weekend and it was not a problem to find them in any of the waterways there.

**Sean Stewart:** Mostly warmer areas of the state?

**Drew Dittmer:** They can even subsist in some surprisingly cold water.

**Dave Black:** Anybody this way? Questions? Brian's dying to say something.

**Brian Johnson:** Did you say Herping? If you want this to be popular you just have to offer a bonus point and make it hard to draw and everyone would want to do this. Maybe a mentor program.

**Drew Dittmer:** We have volunteers who sign up to help UDWR employees do surveys and work for snake surveys, and other species and they can work for the dedicated hunter program. We have people

on the user group that are involved in the dedicated hunter program.

**Brian Johnson:** Is there a way to offer this.. from what it sounds like, and it sounds like is that the reporting is more valuable than the money. We don't care about the \$10 that we're getting we care more about the reporting. So is there a way to offer this free to kids under 12 so they can report what they caught? That helps the education part of it and as a dad I don't want to pay \$10 so my kids can catch a lizard. I'm just throwing that out there as something to maybe discuss or not discuss, I'm fine with it either way. But under 12 if you just advertise it as reporting, I think that it would help get the word out.

**Drew Dittmer:** So we are in early stages, we don't have a fee structure that conveniently fits this model so that's why we're having the \$10 fee. As the reporting comes in and as people buy into this process we may enter something where we have non resident applications, non resident fee structure for this. People travel with their kids to the southwestern states to go herping. Right now I would argue to maintain it as is so we get that first few years of information and then we can move to. And again the user group themselves they wanted a buy in structure, they wanted to pay into it and if we can get to a spot where people buy a licence for this then it becomes eligible money for management units which is great. But we're in early stages, we're just sizing this up right now.

**Brian Johnson:** Cool.

**Dave Black:** One thought I had is this seems like this could be a good program to maybe take into the schools to let the kids know that it's there and maybe get them excited about it. Anybody else?

**Riley Roberts:** A comment and a question. I actually learned a lot in this that I had no idea; so thank you, very well done Drew. And looking down through the first things that were coming into my mind was is there a concern, obviously you've already talked about the turtles, is there a concern about the muscles at lake powell? And pythons in Florida, and some of these other non native species, do we have a concern for some of these things coming in? Are we at that point yet with anything? Obviously if we have a lot of turtles down in a lot of the waterways. Can you educate me a little more?

**Drew Dittmer:** Sure, so Florida is going to be famous example, but we're not Florida we're not bordering on the tropics so a lot of the things that are there, don't worry about those particularly getting established here. Bullfrogs are extremely abundant in Utah, and not native. Extremely problematic. They are a reservoir host for amphibian diseases. So amphibian diseases that are causing declines in boil toads and columbian spotted frogs that disease persists in bullfrogs because it doesn't kill bullfrogs but it is in them. So it maintains it on the landscape. So there's many levels to these problems. Turtles can also harbor diseases on the landscape. They can carry ranavirus which is a disease that we don't have recorded yet in Utah but can be very worrying for some of our amphibian species. These things are really abundant on the landscape and we are worried about it. But like I said, I've only been here about six months so I'm still trying to figure out what to tackle first. As far as imported species that could get established. Just because of our climate and elevation we are kind of limited on what can get established. What are going to be things that alarm me are going to be things that are native to the same latitude in the eastern US. So all these turtle species on the other side of the continental divide are native say in Missouri, those are all native turtles that I'm not surprised they are here. It's an issue and we're not full of ideas on how to address it yet, but we're getting there.

**Riley Roberts:** Thank you.

**Dave Black:** Anybody else?

**Tammy Pearson:** Seems how you're the expert, I'm going to ask you this. Where the heck do these toads show up in water places that have never had water in it before. So like our west desert, there's never been water and now we have toads croaking out there.

**Drew Dittmer:** Yeah, you're probably seeing, my guess based on what you're describing is you're seeing spay foot toads. Super, super common in desert areas but almost never surface active. They can live beneath the surface for years and they are triggered to come up by rain and at the source of water start calling and start breeding. They are really common in desert areas all across the west. They are probably one of our most common frogs that most people don't see very often.

**Tammy Pearson:** They're ugly little critters. One other question. So I'm a desert rat, not into herping, well I shouldn't say that because we do love the horny toads and that kind of stuff. So I am a herper or whatever you want to call it. There's another critter that comes up in the floods and some of our flood controls above Minersville. It's a little shrimp critter looking thing and they said it's some sort of a prehistoric...

**Drew Dittmer:** Yeah, it's a tadpole shrimp. A more scientific category is a triops. It's a really ancient invertebrate that can live in dry soil for ages.

**Tammy Pearson:** I don't think we'll be collecting it.

**Dave Black:** Anybody else?

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

**C.J. Rowley:** Growing up in St. George I was curious if there is any way I can report if I've found certain things? I've been interested in Herpetology for 30 years.

**Drew Dittmer:** Yeah, absolutely. The first thing I'd encourage you to use is INaturalist for Utah. There is a section on the INaturalist page that I monitor and we will be increasing our monitoring of that and reporting that data for people that just go out and make casual observations. Absolutely use that I'm monitoring that every week. Buy the permit when it becomes available to report that data, if it's a species of particularly high value I'll give you my contact info after this and you can report it directly to me. If you're in Washington County there's another guy there who is also interested in knowing that stuff.

**C.J. Rowley:** Okay, so once if this goes through, if I get the permit then is it for a certain amount of years or is it a lifetime?

**Drew Dittmer:** You'll have to renew it annually. If you do take something home you're renewal will be contingent on you reporting accurately and timely what you took.

**C.J. Rowley:** Thank you.

**Dave Black:** Okay any other questions? Ok comment cards.

**Comments from the Public:**

**Kevin Bunnell:** The SFW supports the proposal as presented.

**Brian Hamilton:** I live out in Snake Valley so I'm actually on the Nevada side but It's pretty much Utah. I just finished my PhD at BYU on rattlesnake biology and I was a part of the user group that worked to develop these regulations, and I'm in the presentation too, my kids are in a few places. Our group we really deeply care about reptiles and amphibians the same way hunters care about the opportunity to harvest big bucks. Until, for example, Beaver canyon is the type of locality for the Utah Mountain Kingsnake which is the snake on my hat. Until then it's been difficult to do research and enjoy reptiles and amphibians in Utah. So we really worked towards simplification to make this easier and accessible to all people, that was part of our goal. We thought the education component was a great opportunity to educate folks and teach people about reptiles and amphibians. For example what do you do when there's a rattlesnake in your yard? It's a common thing in Utah. And it's a place where we can engage people and get the safety information out there. I do research on rattlesnakes I've been working on rattlesnakes in the West Desert for 20 years, and one thing I found this is a female I caught in 2003 and we put little chips in them, she was a five year old snake then. So they can live at least 20 years and I know its 20 years because I've been working with them for 20 years. So there's a lot we still have to learn and this will help make research in Utah a lot easier to conduct. The data collection and harvest reporting, I think this is kind of like cutting edge, no other state does anything like this. Part of the issues we had before is we didn't know where these snakes were less common, where could we find them? Was it only Beaver Canyon, was it every canyon in the Wasatch? This would give the Division a lot more information to be able to better manage the resources in the state of Utah. I feel like that was a really important step. The harvest regulations, we think are very conservative and they don't, they're not going to jeopardize the continued existence of these species in Utah. That was a deliberate, they are conservatively low. That shouldn't be a concern. Utah is a world class herpian, believe it or not, people come from all over the country and all over the world to Red Cliffs Desert Preserve to have Cameron come out for the opportunity to see a gila monster. It's really a big thing. This sort of allows not only people in Utah but across the country and world to enjoy the incredible reptile and amphibian diversity we have in the state.

**Dave Black:** Thank you. That's all the comment cards, do we have comments from the RAC? It looks like we are ready to entertain a motion.

**RAC discussion and vote:**

**Wade Heaton:** I just think not many of us are familiar with this topic so I really appreciate Drew and getting members of the public involved and these other user groups. I think that it's a theme that has started in the Division. And Brian thank you for all that you guys have done. I think when we get invested, educated members of the public involved in these processes it really is a benefit for all of us. So thanks to both of you.

**Dave Black:** Okay, do we have another comment?

**Tammy:** Just one. You live in Snake Valley?

**Brian Hamilton:** Yes.

**MOTION to accept the Collection, Importation and Possession Rule as presented by the Division.**

**Brian Johnson**  
**Wade Heaton, second**  
**Passed unanimously**

- **Other Business-Dave Black, Chairman**

**Dave Black:** Item #7 other business. Before I turn the time over to Kevin, I just wanted to say thank you. It's been a pleasure and an honor to serve and I've learned a lot. It's been a very good experience for me. There's two things that I know for certain. I know this is a very effective process. I believe in the RAC process, we have a great Wildlife Board, we have great RAC members. And I also know for a fact that our Wildlife are in very good hands and we have a lot of good people that are looking after their interests. Thank you.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you Dave and any other off going RAC members that today is your last day. If you have anything you'd like to say we'll give you that opportunity in just a minute. Before we get there, we need to nominate and elect a new RAC Chair and Vice Chair. Then I want to talk to you about my ideas about filling seats on the RAC, and get a little feedback there. Then we have a little presentation we'd like to give to the RAC members for whom this is their last meeting. So first item of business is do we have any nominations for the RAC Chair?

**Nick Jorgensen:** This may come to a surprise to him I think but I'd like to nominate Braydon down there.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Ok, we have a nomination for Braydon. Braydon is that a nomination you would accept?

**Braydon Richmond:** Yes.

**Kevin Bunnell:** There was a lot of confidence in that (laughs). So Wade just asked for a refresher on who will be departing the RAC. So Rusty, Mike Worthen, Dave, and Brian, then Wade you can't be both on the RAC and the Wildlife Board. So we have five members of our RAC that will be departing.

**Kevin Bunnell:** I don't know that we need a second on a nomination. Any other nominations for RAC Chair?

**Kevin Bunnell:** So missing tonight we have Craig Laub, and Verland King, and Mike Worthen. But

Mike's not going to be on the RAC anymore so he wouldn't be apart of this. I think that's it. Mike has been the Vice Chair.

**Brian Johnson:** There's kind of a part of me that wants to punish Verland for not being here. And I don't think that you can not accept a nomination at this point, I nominate Verland as the Chair.

**Kevin Bunnell:** I'd like to have a conversation with someone before they take that on.

**Brian Johnson:** It's redacted, I'm redacting that he's not here.

**Kevin Bunnell:** I don't see any other nominations.

**Rusty Aiken:** I have a nomination, I'd like to nominate Riley.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Riley, is that a nomination you would accept?

**Riley Roberts:** No.

**Braydon Richmond:** Kevin, here would be my concern with that nomination.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Yours or Rileys?

**Braydon Richmond:** Maybe his too, but this would be my concern with my nomination. I'm probably curious to hear your input on it. The concern with that is I wanted to be on the RAC so I could have a voice, and I feel like as a chair you should have less of a voice, you should conduct the meeting but you shouldn't offer your opinion as much. That's my hesitancy too because I want to have an opinion.

**Tammy Pearson:** Maybe that was the purpose.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Braydon I would say that I disagree with you that you shouldn't have or share your opinion as a chair. You are limited on when you vote and the only time you would vote is to break a tie. But you're on the RAC as a sportsmans rep. You would still be representing sportsmen as the Chair and should voice your opinion as the sportsman's representative.

**Brayden Richmond:** Then I would feel more comfortable with that nomination if you're comfortable with that.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Absolutely, I don't think there is any reason why the RAC Chair should feel.. Certainly you need to give everyone a voice and allow everyones opinions and comments to be made, but that shouldn't limit you in offering your opinion as the chair.

**Riley Roberts:** That was exactly my same concern, it was almost as if we'd talked about that or something, but for real there is a lot of weight that is carried by the individuals on this and I feel like I want to take it very seriously and I love it when it's attended well by our community and well by the individuals. That's why I'm grateful for those who came tonight, I was very educated tonight and that's why I vote the way I vote and that means a lot to be able to have that voice and that vote.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Okay so Riley, with that being said and the new understanding are you open to the nomination? And no's an ok answer, I don't want someone serving as a chair reluctantly to be honest with you.

**Brian Johnson:** Keep in mind you are going to end up going to how many Board meetings a year. They are going to ask you to go report. That's one of the responsibilities

**Kevin Bunnell:** Yeah, one of the things you need to be available for and have your employer willing to allow is attending for every RAC meeting a Board meeting, that's an all day affair.

**Brian Johnson:** Is that something you can do

**Brayden Richmond:** Yes

**Riley Roberts:** I would decline at this moment especially where there is already a nomination for someone that I think who is well represented.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Ok, so it sounds like we have one nomination for the RAC Chair, so I think at this point we need to take a vote.

- **All in favor to have Brayden Richmond as the new southern region RAC Chair.  
Vote was unanimous**

**Kevin Bunnell:** Ok, so Vice Chair. The role of the Vice Chair is obviously to fill in at RAC meetings and potentially Board meetings if the Chair is unavailable. I told you that I was uncomfortable having someone nominated to be the Chair, when you bring up Verland, without having an opportunity to talk to him, I don't know what his employment situation is. But I think Vice Chair, if you wanted to make that nomination for Verland or Riley or others, I think that's appropriate.

**Tammy Pearson:** I nominate Craig.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Tammy has nominated Craig Laub as the Vice Chair. Do we have any other nominations for Vice Chair? Rusty?

**Rusty Aiken:** I'd like to nominate Riley.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Ok, Riley. Any rebuttal for Vice Chair? Ok, any other nominations for Vice Chair? Ok let's take a vote.

- **Vote for Craig Laub as Vice Chair: 1**
- **Vote for Riley Roberts as Vice Chair: 9**

**Kevin Bunnell:** Our new RAC Chair by an unanimous vote is Brayden Richmond and our new Vice Chair is Riley Roberts. Thank you both of you for your willingness to accept those nominations and to



serve. Now, for those of you who tonight is your last meeting; Rusty is there anything you'd like to share?

**Rusty Aiken:** It's been eight years on the RAC. It's been educational, I think we've got a lot accomplished. The herds are in better shape than they were 8-10 years ago. I appreciate it.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you Rusty. Brian?

**Brian Johnson:** No I don't, that's not what I do. When I first started coming to these RAC meetings back when the dedicated hunter required you to do so. That program literally changed my life and got me into bow hunting where I became a non consumptive and I developed the opinion at that time, when you get that go ahead and laugh, but I developed the opinion that the true test of another man's intelligence is the degree of which he agrees with you. And that's extremely wrong and I've learned over the last little bit that as long as we get out and enjoy the outdoors it doesn't really matter how we enjoy the outdoors. So if I could leave anything with you guys, that's kind of my biggest thing. We learned a couple of things tonight that I had no idea about, so thanks for the opportunity to get to serve and it's been a pretty good trip. Thanks.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you Brian. And Mike Worthen is not here. Wade, anything you'd like to add to your comments on your time with the southern RAC?

**Wade Heaton:** I'm not going very far so you'll have to hear me for a while. I'd just like to echo what Dave brought up. I have a lot of faith and a lot of confidence in this process, I really do. It's not perfect but the ability that the public has to walk into a meeting and make a presentation that could potentially become a part of the way we do business is remarkable. And I really believe in it. I also believe in the group of people up here and the Wildlife Board we have now. Great guys and ladies volunteering their time in something they believe in. I just appreciate people that are willing to volunteer and not just complain, that actually bring good ideas to the table, solutions and try to solve a few things. I think it really is a great system. And quickly, lastly, I've really grown and got a lot of respect for the Division through this process. I've only been on here for four years but 15 years ago... Well let me say this, the people that work at the Division now have made some significant strides in my opinion. They are quality people that really want to do their best. The principles they make decisions by I just really appreciate. I respect them, I respect their opinions and their values and they are just great hardworking people that really do have the wildlife and citizens of Utah at their hearts and I appreciate them. Thanks for all you guys do.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Thank you Wade. Ok one last thing that we would like to do. Jason could a couple of people go and grab those prints and come and line them up here in front along this table here so that the RAC members can see them. So let me tell you a little bit about these prints, and then, and I don't know what order we're going to go in, but each of you that are leaving the RAC will have an opportunity to select one. These are all prints that were painted by a man named Clark Bronson, he worked for the Division of Wildlife in the '60-70s and we own the rights to all these prints. He painted them as a Division employee which is what gives us the opportunity. They are beautiful prints. If you've been in my office I have many of these. There is a collection of I think maybe 60 of them ranging from lots of non game species up through some of the iconic ones that you see in front of you. Beautiful prints, we present these to you as a thank you for lots of hours on the road and time in long meetings and please

remind me as we do this in future years that you all get one as your time with the RAC comes to an end. The other thing you can do, those of you who are departing, go ahead and take your nametag, slide it out of the little thing there, Mr. Chairman you can take the Chairman one too if you'd like, we can replace that, you'll obviously get to keep your gavel. I don't know a better way to do it, do Dave, as the Chair is there one of those that you would like to select?

**Dave Black:** The one on the end.

**Kevin Bunnell:** The elk print, why don't you go put your nametag on that one so the others know it's taken. And Tammy is suggesting a group picture, we can do that at the end. Since there isn't a better way to do it, Brian pick which one you'd like.

**Brian Johnson:** The sheep, probably the only sheep I'll get in the state.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Wade is anxious, so go Wade, oh Rusty, you're right. And then we are missing Mr. Worthen so I will invite him over to the office to select from what's left. So members of the audience if you haven't had a chance to see these, if you want to come up and take a look please do, they are beautiful prints. Dave selected a color print of an elk, Wade selected a black and white print of a moose, Rusty selected a picture of a bear with two cubs and a porcupine, and Brian selected a picture of a rocky mountain bighorn sheep. They are beautiful prints. Why don't you guys go grab your prints and then where do you want to take a picture? You're the picture guy Phil. If anyone wants to come take a look at these pictures they are beautiful pictures and then go grab your pictures please and bring them up and let's get a picture. Do you want to adjourn the meeting Mr. Chair?

**Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.**

**Kevin: proposed to reduce the RAC FROM 14 TO 12.**

**Southeast Regional Advisory Council**

**John Wesley Powell River History Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah**

**May 22, 2019**

*Motion Summary*

**1) Approval of agenda and minutes**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve agenda and minutes  
Passed unanimously

**2) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the turkey transplant recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

**3) Collection, Importation and Possession of Reptiles and Amphibians**

**MOTION:** Motion to accept the reptile and amphibian recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

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

**May 22, 2019 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**

1

**Others in attendance**

DWR personnel: 6

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**1) Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

- Trisha Hedin, RAC chairwoman

We're going to go ahead and get started. Sorry about our tardiness. If you've come to the RAC meeting and you are from the general public, welcome. We appreciate your participation in this process. It's a really important process. If at any point on the agenda you want to make a comment, there is a public comment card in the back and you would just fill that out and bring it up to Chris or myself. We're going to go ahead and get started.

**2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

We'll start with the approval of the agenda and the minutes. Do I have someone that would like to make a motion?

Todd Thorne – I'll make a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes.  
Helene Taylor – I'll second.

## **VOTING**

**Todd Thorn made a motion to approve the agenda and minutes as written**  
**Seconded by Helene Taylor**  
**Motion passed unanimously**

### **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

- Trisha Hedin, RAC Chairwoman

I will give the wildlife board update. I do want to say that I caught a fair amount of flack because we didn't have a quorum at our last meeting. I was not here. A lot of us were not here.

Chris Wood – Ironically, we didn't have a quorum but they still took our recommendation and passed it.

Trisha Hedin – So, in the future we'll try to make sure we have a quorum. We did make some comments because I think Emery, Carbon and Grand were all on spring break. It was Jeep Safari, so we're going to have to do a better job with scheduling next year.

Chris Wood – Yeah. The division has committed to making sure that it doesn't fall on that week again.

Trisha Hedin – Yeah. I'm not staying in town during Jeep Safari. So, I think the big thing that was of concern in this RAC was the Manti deer tags. There was a motion by Kevin which I really appreciate. He really went to batt for us and explained that we're really moving beyond biology at this time and hopefully making a commitment to our constituency that we have concerns. So, they had a motion to move that we decrease the deer tags on the Manti by 500 and that did pass unanimously. I think that was the big thing that would stand out to you guys. The other motion that I thought was slightly interesting, there was a motion by the chairman to add an action log item for the division to look at possibly moving the application deadline until after we establish permit numbers. It is kind of interesting because obviously, when you put into the draw you know if those numbers have been increased or decreased and your odds might be better or worse. That was just put into an action log item. I thought it was of interest. Obviously, that would push all dates back.

Chris Wood – So, an action log item means that the division will study the issue and then come back with what we find. It might develop into a recommendation, it might not but we'll go back to the board and report.

Trisha Hedin – That's all for me. Does anybody have any questions for me?

Eric – Chris, with that I believe there was a motion not only with the Manti to cut the tags but to form a committee to try and see... Did that part of it pass?

Trisha – It did not move into that.

Chris Wood – One thing I've asked our biologist to do is in August to come to this RAC and go over everything that has been done and what will be done in regards to the Manti, the Southeast Manti. It might be the tags that we've cut over the years, the amount of cougar permits we've increased, the habitat projects and kind of give the RAC an overview and we can go from there.

#### 4) **Regional Update**

- Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Good evening. Maybe before I do the regional update, it's Sue and Darrell's last RAC meeting so I just wanted to thank them for their service. You know, you spent countless hours driving to and from and in this room hearing recommendations and asking questions and making motions and voting on different things and this RAC process and the board process is how we manage wildlife in Utah so you've been a part of that for several terms. I want to thank you for that. You each brought a unique perspective that I think was of value and needed in this RAC. I'm quite proud of our RAC in the Southeastern part of the state. I think we do represent different types of constituents who live in this area and I'm not sure every RAC is quite like ours. It's been formed very well from my predecessor and I want to thank you for being here and being part of the RAC process for the last eight years or more. Thank you. We have a cake afterwards. There're also six different prints against the wall there. There's three photograph prints and three Bronson prints. The Bronson artist, he was a DWR employee decades ago that was a great artist as well. So, we have exclusive rights to his prints and so often times we give that out as gifts or awards as an agency. If wildlife prints aren't your thing, there's two local Moab photographers that we purchase prints from and they are framed. So, Darrell and Sue you can pick what you like at the end and hang it on your wall and remember all the hours you spent at the RAC meeting.

Sue Bellagamba – Thank you Chris. It's been a pleasure and a big learning experience for me. I have the highest respect for you and your staff so thank you so much.

Chris – Thank you.

Darrell Mecham – It's a big learning curve. It isn't always a pleasure, sometimes it wasn't but most of the time, yeah. I'm glad I did it.

Chris – Thank you. We're still trying to figure out who to select for the next new RAC members. We have a big quorum already. It's 14 but we lose two so, we'll have 12 quorum members. We do need to replace Sue as our non-consumptive representative and we had no one apply for that position. I do have one lead that I'm going to look into but if anyone else has a lead that I can look into and call and ask if they'd like to be our non-consumptive rep. I'd love to hear your ideas. We'll for sure at least get one more person on the RAC to replace Sue then it's just a question of how big we want to make our RAC here tonight. So, anywhere from 12 to 15-16 people is what's normally done. Alright, I'll give our regional update.

Our aquatic section has been working with the Forest Service last week. There was something called conservation days on the Manti. School kids from elementary school go up to the Manti and learn about conservation and wildlife and water and all kinds of things natural resources. We

appreciate the Forest Service in bringing us along for that and getting us involved. Our fish biologists did survey the Fremont River from about Hanksville to about Loa from my understanding. We haven't surveyed that stretch of river for quite a long time and they were surprised to find flannel mouth suckers, leather side chubs, blue head suckers, along with some trout and some other smaller species. That was kind of exciting. We did our gillnet survey on May 9<sup>th</sup> at Scofield and we're continuing to find that the management plan there is working. The tiger muskies are growing, the cutthroats are growing. The amount of chubs that we pulled from the nets was at an all time low. We've done this twice a year for the past 10 years and the chub numbers continue to decrease. And of course, we put in rainbow trout last year. I think almost 30,000 rainbow trout anywhere from 10-12 inches big and the rainbow trout are doing really well. Scofield is turning into quite a nice fishery which is great because it wasn't very good for a long time. That's some good news out of Scofield.

Our habitat section, they do projects basically year-round but right now they are in the planning phase. They are going to into the field and looking at different areas to propose for funding for the upcoming year. They are also in the middle of clearing areas and doing archeology surveys so that we can go in as soon as this fall and start implementing projects. Currently, we have a few projects that are going on right now. Some lop and scatter type projects for mule deer in the Moab area. We have a crew full of seasonals in all of our sections and we're doing some planting. We have fields at Gordon Creek and at Nash Wash that we have waters rights that we need to use. So, we have some agricultural fields that we irrigate and try to grow things that are good for wildlife.

Our law enforcement has been busy. Their busiest thing right now is the beginning of the aquatic invasive species season. So, quagga muscles. They're trying to keep quaggas from spreading throughout Utah. As you know they are in Lake Powell now. We put a lot of effort, we put a lot of personnel in season work and fulltime officer time down at Lake Powell. We're having check stations. There's one on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month. We have seasonals working at the boat ramp most of the day, most days to try to keep that quagga from spreading. And then, they have a community event on June 7<sup>th</sup>, called Wildlife and Wardens. It's an opportunity for the people in Carbon and Emery Counties to come to the Carbon County fishing pond and meet with the officers and fish with them and learn about wildlife from them.

Our outreach section, we have a new outreach manager. He's here, Aaron Bott. He just started two weeks ago. This is his first RAC meeting of many hopefully. We're excited to have Aaron on. He has a bachelors degree from Weber State in English. And he's working on a master's degree from Utah State in wildlife conservation. Looking at large carnivores, specifically wolves in the Yellowstone area. He's worked in that Yellowstone area for the last 13 years as a wildlife educator so, we're thrilled that he accepted this job and came to Price. He tells us he's excited about living in rural Utah which you don't hear all the time. So, we're excited that he moved his family to Price actually Helper but we're excited to have him and he brings a great skill set. We'll get to know him a lot in the future.

Our wildlife section, they are working with our habitat section in doing range trend sects so they are going out on the winter ranges and assessing what's happened of the winter, how the grouse(not sure what he said here.) looks, what the utilization looks like and collecting that data.

It's something we've done for a lot of years. Our sensitive species biologist, our conservation biologist, Scott is looking at doing a lot of things. One of the things he's doing is, the last few weeks he's been capturing some bats and testing them for white nose syndrome. We don't have any results with that yet but so far, they look pretty good. Lastly, we're doing deer and elk calf/fawn captures on the Book Cliffs. There's a lot of emphasis and concern on the Book Cliffs right now. One of the things we're doing is, we're working with BYU and their researchers and as soon as the calf drops, we get a signal and we have biologists and researchers that are on the ground that are capturing those calves and fawns and putting a collar on them so we can track their locations and their mortality rates as well. Hopefully, we can find some answers from that research. That's all I have. If you have any questions, I can answer that. I've asked Makeda Hanson to give a presentation quickly about what her section is doing. They do a lot of great work that sometimes gets underreported. So, we've asked her once a year to come to a RAC meeting and we saw the agenda of this RAC and we thought we could squeeze her in. Before Makeda finishes up my regional update, I can answer any questions if you have any.

5) **Wildlife Management Areas, Informational**

-Makeda Hanson, Regional Habitat Manager

OK, I know you guys are excited for a shorter meeting today so I'll run through this quickly. So, I'll talk about some of the stuff that's been happening on our Wildlife Management Areas. We have seven wildlife management areas in the regions. They are just over 32,000 acres. These pictures are from our Lower Fish Creek WMA. Last summer, we worked with Forestry Fire and State Lands to do a timber reduction project on there. There's been concerns through the catastrophic fire committee in the county with the potential risk for catastrophic fire in that area. Helper city has springs just below our property there so we worked with them to start that project. It'll be ongoing to try to reduce fire in the area. Also, we're working still on access issues that we're facing with the Colton Mountain property that we acquired two years ago. It's 5000 acres so, we've been working on that and hoping to have some answers soon.

At Gordon Creek, like Chris mentioned, we're planting fields up there, irrigating. We recently had an eagle scout project on the property that I thought was fitting for this meeting because it was to plant some shrubs. Some fruit bearing shrubs that will be beneficial for upland game that use the property.

At the Lower San Rafael, near Hatt's Ranch we've had to close the bridge due to safety concerns. I think we've mentioned that in the past but that project has cattle guards now around the south access so, that's something we've worked on this year to maintain safety in the area.

On the Mathison Preserve in Moab, we're still working hard on the razorback sucker project. That picture on the right is the diversion structure. I think it's about 14 feet tall so, that will let water in and out of the pond to try and do some brooding of razorback sucker from the Colorado River. Recently, over Mother's Day weekend we had the migratory bird day on the Mathison Preserve and it was really successful. That is Debbie Pappas in the photo. She brought one of her great horned owls that she uses to raise chicks and it was a big hit with those really adorable kids of mine.



This is Cold Springs, we didn't do too much on this property this year. It's high elevation, it maintains itself pretty well but one thing I want to mention is that last year there was a wild horse gather on the area so that will help our property and I think there's plans to continue that into the next year.

Onto Watershed Restoration Initiative. For this fiscal year we've got 20 projects just through Watershed Restoration Initiative. That doesn't include all of our habitat council projects. Almost, 20,000 acres, 3.8 million dollars of WRI funding. You can see a list of all the species that have benefited and those partners are the ones that submitted proposals but there are multiple other partners that have been involved in those projects. To highlight a few, this is the Miller Creek restoration project. This is one of our projects we've highlighted the last several years. It's been a great partnership project doing full stream restoration and several acres of pinion/juniper encroachment treatment. Like I said, it's been one of the best partner projects we've had and if anyone is going to the watershed restoration initiative meeting next Wednesday on May 29<sup>th</sup>, Nicole Nielson, our restoration biologist will be giving a presentation about the successes we've had with all the partners and developing partnerships to have these watershed scale projects.

This one I thought I'd highlight because most of the projects we do is contract work. We usually hire contractors but occasionally our maintenance guys help us do some in house projects. This is a drill seeding that we did in San Juan County and as you all know it snowed early and stuck around so it was a nice cold project. It's fun to get on the ground and do some of this work when we get a chance.

This project I just wanted to talk about during the government shutdown, Nicole Nielson, our restoration biologist, really helped out some of our federal partners in ensuring that their projects got completed. So, this was in Dark Canyon in San Juan County. You can see how much snow there was and it's basically 60 miles in on a dirt road to get to that project area. So, I really appreciated her taking her time to ensure that the federal projects that our projects are working on were getting completed during the shutdown.

With fire, we all are aware of the Trail Mountain fire that happened last year. The habitat section was really involved in being in the burn area. Emergency response team and making sure that the steep areas that had high severity burns were flown with seed to try and reduce erosion.

Impact analysis, this is something we probably don't talk a lot about and you don't hear a lot about that the habitat section does. We obviously do a lot of projects but we also analyze the impacts that other projects may have to wildlife. Some examples of that are recreational trails, the picture there is a mountain bike trail that's going to be going along the Good Water Rim near the Buck Horn Wash. So, just analyzing impacts and how to reduce impacts to lambing bighorn sheep in the area and trying to pull the trail back in critical areas. We analyze oil and gas lease sales and how those may impact wildlife and try and reduce impacts. Wind and solar energy, mining of coal, metals, minerals, transportation routes including roads and railways and then range projects that other people are doing so, sagebrush treatment, water developments and things like that. Another big thing we work on is like when we have major oil spills. We've had two major oil spills. One in the Price River and one in Willow Creek recently and the Gold Kind mine spilled again a few weeks ago. That's all the projects that we in the habitat section work on

to try and reduce impacts to wildlife. I don't know if a lot of people know about that as much.

Since this is the upland game meeting, I thought I'd talk about how we've assisted the wildlife section in doing some quail transplants, banding mourning doves and then the other picture is not upland game related but it is doing some beaver transplants in areas that we can use for restoration.

Support our local youth and upland game as that is what we are talking about. I know it's specifically turkey today but this is a project on our youth pheasant hunt that I thought was really exciting that we got to be a part of. It's fun to be a part of those youth days and seeing our youth participate in the sports that we offer. That's all I have. Thank you.

Trisha Hedin – Thank you. Are there any questions? Next, we'll move on to the wild turkey transplant list from Dax.

## **6) Wild Turkey Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

-Dax Mangus, Upland Game Coordinator

### **Questions from the RAC**

Trisha Hedin – If you are new to this process, basically how it works is first, we take questions from the RAC then we take questions from the audience at that point if there are comments from the audience hopefully you've brought us a comment card and then we'll have comments from the RAC. At this point are there any questions from the RAC?

Eric – It said required by law for transplant, I'm assuming that means augmentation or... it seems kind of silly to me to have to go through this whole process for augmentations on existing populations. Is that something that is mandated by law? Is that through the legislature? It's not anything we can make a motion on and pass through with the board, is that correct?

Dax – Yeah. So, our attorneys looked at it in the code from the state legislature, it says that we can only release turkeys in areas that are on this list of approved sites and it also says that those sites have to have an expiration date so they have to be renewed periodically. So, based on consultation with our legal counsel, I think that in order to comply with state code we have to propose sites even if they already have turkeys on them. Even if it's an augmentation. It does say in code, we have to put these sites together and propose them and before we take them through the RAC and board process we send it through the RDCC, the Resource Development Coordination Council, which screens them through local government and then they go through the RAC process and the wildlife board. So, during the RAC and board process we take input through that RDCC and if we get input from them, we did not on these proposed sites, if we do get input, we would make adjustments before we took it out through the RAC and board process. But ultimately the wildlife board will make the final decision on these sites. Based on talking with our attorney general's office, I think we have to propose the sites every time even if we already have wild turkeys there.

Darren Olsen – So, question, looking at the map there's a lot of augmentation. So, when you're doing any trapping, how do you determine where those go? What kind of process does that take?

Dax – Typically, the regions, our regional biologists have a pretty good pulse on what's happening with the wildlife in their areas. If they feel like areas have more potential for turkeys then those areas will rank out. Access can be a limiting factor where we do a lot of trapping in the winter. I know sometimes, I work primarily in the Northeastern region, there have been times where we've had areas where we would have liked to take turkeys but in January or February we couldn't get there. Sometimes you have to take them where you can get but the biologists usually have a pretty good idea of the areas where they feel that there's potential for more turkeys. We don't really have a formal process, it's just kind of done through professional knowledge within the regions. The regional staff and managers figure that out.

Trisha – Any more questions from the RAC?

### **Questions from the audience**

None

### **Comments from the audience**

None

### **RAC discussion**

Eric Luke – I move to accept the proposed transplants as presented.

Darren Olsen – I second that.

### **VOTING**

**Eric Luke made a motion to accept the turkey transplant recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by: Darren Olsen**

**Motion Passes Unanimously**

- 7) **Collection, Importation and Possession of Reptiles and Amphibians**  
- Drew Dittmer, Herpetologist

### **Questions from the RAC**

Eric Luke – With mandatory reporting, that seems highly unenforceable. It's going to be on the honor system it seems like, right? Is there a proposed penalty for not reporting?

Drew Dittmer – I have to consult with law enforcement or the attorney general's office what would happen if you didn't report. So, for instance if you ever wanted to transfer a wild caught reptile to somebody else that had the permit, that's allowed. To transfer it, you'd have already reported where it was from. So, you can transfer it to somebody else who already has the permit

but if you haven't reported it, then you can't make that transfer. We could probably work with that a little bit for people who are learning this rule as it comes up but again, it's just really important that we know where these occur. So, a lot of these things aren't easy to find and there's a lot of people who invest a lot of their personal time in finding these things. But they aren't always connected to us at the Division of Wildlife Resources. This is giving us an opportunity to work with people in the user group who already do this and have developed this rule. As we develop awareness, people will be more likely to opt in.

Todd Thorne – One thing that I read through, with it being mandatory reporting at the end of the update, it's a class C misdemeanor to be in violation of the new rule.

Dana Truman – So, you better report.

Todd Thorne – Better report or get slapped on the wrist and go to justice court.

### **Questions from the audience**

None

### **Comments from the audience**

Thomas Wilder – Hello, my name is Thomas Wilder I'm from Richfield, I teach biology at the high school there. I was a member of the user group. I just wanted to share my comments on the process that we worked through with the state. We've had a few meetings up in Salt Lake at the Salt Lake office. We've had regular contact through this process as well. This is something, this is a project that as a user group, a very broad user group with people from all sorts of backgrounds. We've accepted and pass on our recommendation for this rule change. Thank You.

Trisha – Thank you Thomas for coming. That's a hard day working with teenagers all day and then... we appreciate it.

### **RAC discussion**

Todd Thorne – I make a motion to approve the reptile and amphibian rule change.

Dana Truman – I second that.

Trisha – We are done. However, we have a little party.

Darrell Mecham – I have one thing to say. I've told these guys, this is just a parting things for you guys. I went to a meeting in Colorado the other day, Montrose, it was an A Low (?) meeting but the division director was there. I asked him, I said there's a couple issues I want to ask you about. I said your bobcat thing, it failed. I said can you take the bear hunters back, no. He said the battle proposal for the reintroduction of wolves is going to happen. They are looking at multiple release sites starting with 36 wolves. Here you go RAC.

**VOTING**

**Todd Thorne made a motion to accept recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by: Dana Truman**

**Motion Passes Unanimously**

**Adjournment**

7:46 p.m.

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on June 6, 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 August 7, 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**

**May 23, 2019**

## **Division Personnel Present**

**Miles HAnberg**

**Boyde Blackwell**

**Tonya Kieffer-Selby**

**Rose Fedelleck**

**Trina Hedrick**

**Clint Sampson**

**Derrick Ewell**

**Dax Mangus**

**Bryan Clyde**

**Amy VanDeVoort**

**Randall Thacker**

## **RAC Members in attendance**

**Tim Igantio**

**Andrea Merrel**

**Rebekah Jones**

**Brett Prevedale**

**Randy Dearth**

**Andrea Merrel**

**Daniel Abeyta**

Welcome and Intro Appreciation

- **WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES- Randy Dearth**
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**MOTION to approve the agenda as presented.**

**Andrea Merrill**

**Brett Prevedel, second**

**Passed unanimously**

Randy Dearth: Has everyone had a chance to review the minute from the last RAC meeting? Are there any modifications or changes to those minutes.

Brett Prevedel: I just had one small one. If I can find the page, they were right here in this packet? Oh no they weren't. It was just a change, I can get with her later. Instead of 'winter' it said 'winner'. The idea of we were going to get a hard winter that was going to kill the deer.

Randy Dearth: Oh, it was misspelled then.

Brett Prevedel: Well I probably said the way it was written, but that's not what I meant. So I will point that out to them afterward. So a one liner modification. Or I can find her right now.

Randy Dearth: It was a long meeting. A lot of notes.

Tonya Kieffer: Do you know what the word was that you're looking for?

Brett Prevedel: It was talking about the increase of deer tags on the South Slope general season deer. I made the motion to reduce it from 150-50. So it was in that same discussion.

Randy Dearth: Do you know what the word was itself?

Brett Prevedel: I believe Randall and I had a discussion saying sooner or later we were going to get a tough 'winter' and it's going to take down our herd. And the other word in there is 'winner'. There it is, it's on page.. There are no pages on it still. There's the text right there. We were talking about shooting deer before we got a hard winter.

Randy Dearth: So what is written here, it says, My perception of that is we are a year late because we had all them good years and when we classified last year post season there were lots of bucks and really nice bucks in that unit and we talked about it that one of these days we were going to get some winners" and that word should have said 'winters'.

Brett Prevedel: Yes it was talking about losing deer in the winter.

Randy Dearth: It should be the word 'winters' instead of 'winners'.

Brett Prevedel: I guess I'd prefer now to say some 'winter kill'.

Randy Dearth: So with that one modification correction can we call for a motion?

**MOTION to approve the minutes from the last RAC meeting with the change of the incorrect word 'winner' to state 'winter kill'.**

**Tim Ignacio**

**Rebekah Jones, second**

**Passed unanimous**

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE- Randy Dearth**

Director Fowlkes talked a little bit about the harsh winter we had and how it affected the states deer herds. The northern region primarily lost their older does, about the seven and a half plus years does, not quite as bad on the fawn he said. Then he reported that Mike Styler is retiring and that Brian Steed will be replacing Mike. Then they talked about the aquatics division and how effective they are and how they have been able to fully keep up with all the fish stocking needs, and double stocking in some areas. So that's really awesome. Talked about the retirement of supervisor Blackwell here from the northeast region and how he will be leaving us at the end of this month. Then he talked about the legislation, how they've approved an additional \$400,000 to help with landowner depredation. Then on some of the votes, the motions that took place, there was a motion made to approve the rule amendments for the big game draw applications as presented with the inclusion of shotguns as a primitive weapon, and that passed unanimous. Then on the bucks, bulls, once in a lifetime (BBOIL) there was a motion that we accept the Divisions recommendation for Pine Valley with an increase of 300 tags for the 2019 general season permit numbers and that passed unanimous. There was a motion to keep the 20-20-20-40 allocation same number of weapons, same number of hunters, but reallocate the number of general season tags in the early rifle hunt to address the overcrowding, and that failed for a lack of a second. There was a motion to keep the Zions sheep rifle tag numbers the same as in 2018 which was 11 tags with the addition of three archery tags, and that passed, I think unanimous. Then there was a motion that they decrease the tags on the Manti unit by 500 and that passed unanimous. There was a motion to decrease the South Cache elk unit from 53 to 40 tags, and that passed 4-2. There was a motion that we accept the northeast regions RACs recommendation to increase to 50 instead of 150, then that motion was actually withdrawn. Then they had another motion to replace that one where they increased the South Slope Yellowstone season tags from 150 to reduce it down to 100. Basically they hit in the middle, we proposed 50 and they recommended 100 there. Then there was another motion that we move to add the action log that the Division researched to moving the application deadline to after establishing permit numbers. There was a motion that we accept the remainder of the 2019 permit recommendations as presented by the Division, and it passed unanimous. On the antlerless permit recommendations there was a motion that we move to create a new hunt on the north Beaver unit using existing boundaries and reallocate the statewide 150 permits to the unit with season dates of August 1-11th, and that passed 4-2. There was a motion that we compromise on the increased permit number 1,000 on the Chalk Creek/East Canyon antlerless deer by cutting the numbers in half proportionally for each hunt, 250 for private land only and 50 for private land archery only, 100 public draw archery only, and 100 public draw ALW and that passed unanimous. Then there was a motion to approve the remainder of the antlerless permits recommendation as it was presented by the Division and that passed unanimous. As far as the CWMU rule amendments, there was a motion that they approve it as presented by the Division and it passed unanimous. On the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations there was a motion to accept that as presented by the Division



and it passed unanimous. On the big game depredation rule amendment there was a motion to approve that as presented by the Division and it passed unanimous. Then on the conservation and sportsman permit rule amendments there was a motion that we maintain the one year program and permit conservation groups that their employees and agents the authority to purchase the auction tag at a live auction, if it's a public well advertised auction at whatever bid price and accept the remainder of the rule amendments and that passed unanimous. We had a lot of discussion in our RAC with that one because there was that one group in our group that was the Houndsmen that wanted that, so that turned out good. I think that was a good outcome on that one. Any questions?

- **REGIONAL UPDATE - Boyde Blackwell**

In the region the wildlife section has been busy, well they should be wrapping up their spring deer classifications, I imagine access though has been a real issue this year. Mid elevations have just been horrible to get into. I know that sage grouse counts appear to be down, however with the access issues I'm sure that has something to play in that. The aquatics folks have been busy collecting fish and sampling. They've also been really busy stocking waters in the region. They've had two of the big trucks going up and down from the Gorge this week. They've been working hard to stock waters. They've got there "Fishing with the Fox" thing that's just started up and they have been tagging fish for that. They've put fish up in Moose Ponds, Lower Stillwater at the Pier Pond, and one other pond, what was the pond? Was it Red Fleet? And into Red Fleet. So they're really busy doing their thing. The rumors are true that I am retiring. I'll be gone the end of the week, well the end of next week maybe earlier who knows. I want to introduce you to the new regional supervisor Miles Hanberg. He was selected out of a competitive group. I feel real good about all four that went in, they are all from our region, all regional managers that served with me and I want them to know that I'm really proud of them and the efforts that they put in. That's it, thank you.

Randy Dearth: Thank you Boyde. Ok we'll get kicked off with our first action item, turn the time over to Dax for our wild turkey transplant list.

- **Wild Turkey Transplant List - Dax Mangus, Upland Game Coordinator**

See Slideshow

Randy Dearth: Thank you Dax. I'm not going to go through the card thing, JC knows the card rule. I'm not going to go through that but we'll still follow that rule if there's any comments afterwards.

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dan Abeyta: I've got a question. Dax can you kind of put that, you showed a slide where the population estimate is somewhere in the state, somewhere between 25,000-30,000 birds. Kind of put that into perspective, I know there's been a lot of efforts in the last decade, I'm not going to quote you on a number but can you kind of put that into a perspective from say ten years ago what the population estimate would have been, roughly ball park?

Dax Mangus: So it's kind of interesting the history of wild turkeys in Utah. During European settlement it didn't document any wild turkeys in Utah, but we have fossil evidence and archeological evidence that there were turkeys in Utah. Tried some restoration efforts in the 30-40's and those birds were Easterns and they were pen reared and they were not successful so they tried again in the 70's and they brought some Merriam's from Texas and they did establish in some parts of southern Utah. I think that was 60-70's then in the 80's they brought in some Rio Grande turkeys and they started to do really well. I don't have the numbers but those birds in the 80's started to do really well. They hit critical mass probably 10-15 years ago where turkey numbers have really increased and we were able to go to over the counter hunting opportunity in the spring. Turkey restoration efforts in Utah have been really successful, I don't have numbers off the top of my head.

Dan Abeyta: Would it be fair to say that maybe the population has doubled in the last decade?

Dax Mangus: Probably so, yeah.

Dan Abeyta: Ok.

Randy Dearth: I've decided they are just about everywhere until you have a tag and then you can't find one. Other questions by the RAC?

**Question from the public:**

JC Brewer: As everybody in this room knows I've spent a lot of time in the southeast corner of Uintah county. Cameras and recreation in general. For a couple of years when you guys were first introducing turkeys out there there was lots of turkeys, I'd see turkeys everywhere. Lots of turkeys on my cameras. Last year/eighteen months, not so much. Did we have a die off in the southern Uintah county? Have we lost some turkeys out there? Because I am not seeing anywhere near what I was seeing a couple of years ago.

Dax Mangus: I don't know if you want to talk to this Clint, I'm a Salt Lake guy now.

Clint Sampson: As to JC's question, it is kind of puzzling. The turkeys were doing phenomenal they were doing really well. I had several reports from hunters this last spring they found it a lot more difficult than they have in the past. We have had a fairly severe winter out there but in general I'm not finding big piles of birds or big piles of feathers indicating that all these birds got snowed in up high and all died. I think some of the ones we transplanted stay exactly where we want them to and they move further north along the White River and that's where I've found people to have success. What I've found before historically we've had them extremely far south region. The winters kind of either push them out or kill them, but they will come back. One example is in the roadless area, they were pretty prominent when I first showed up about 12 years ago and then we had a really severe winter, snowed extremely high levels and pushed the birds out, but now as I ride down there I'll kick up several different flocks of turkeys so I think it's just upland game.

Randy Dearth: Before you run away, I think the predators eat just about everything. A couple of years ago I got off work and came home and I found a few feathers in my dog run and a turkey foot. One of them had landed in my dog run, I had two bird dogs. There wasn't a whole lot left when those bird dogs got done, I'll put it that way. And I'm sure the bird couldn't get off the ground once he landed in there. But do we have a coyote problem and a lion problem that you think has decimated some of these things or do you.. Cause I don't think you're going to find much if that's the case.

Clint Sampson: Yeah I've found dead turkeys before, feathers, and there's really not that much to them anyway. Yeah there could definitely be issues with predators out there especially I think in the deep snows.

Brett Prevedel: Can I add something, they're down everywhere. Farm Creek and places they are way way down this year. And I think it's kind of consistent with upland game since last fall there didn't seem to be much production of quail, pheasant or turkeys and so I think you had low production going into the winter and then you had probably an abnormally high loss during the winter, cause they're probably 10-20% of what they were a year ago in Farm Creek. Unless they just didn't come back, which would surprise me. I would think they would come back. I think the upland game really took a beating with the dry summer.

Dax Mangus: We definitely see it's kind of a one, two punch if you have the drought and couple it with a hard winter. You know that the good thing about upland game is they are a relatively short lived species, they have a high mortality but they have potential to really reproduce quickly. Pull off a clutch and raise 12 chicks, they can bounce back quickly. The weather can play a factor, predators can play a factor. In the Book Cliffs if you have a year when you don't have pinion nut production it could make a big difference. One of the things I just thought I

would mention, you might think it's interesting, we've been putting bands on the male birds that are translocated and then we've been getting band reports. It's not a huge sample size but we are seeing some birds that are surviving and lasting for a while and the movements have been kind of interesting, we've had some birds that have traveled almost 15 miles along the Duchesne River corridor from where they were released and where they were harvested by a hunter the next year. One of the things we are doing right now is we just got some funding approved for a project to put some GPS transmitters on some of the turkeys that we trap and translocate. Now we've got some birds with GPS transmitters on them now down in southern Utah near Escalante and some in Menden in northern Utah but those have just been birds that we've trapped with transmitters on and then released. Now we are going to trap, put transmitters on, and translocate some turkeys to look at habitat use and dispersion and survival and maybe and maybe compare that to a bird that isn't moved hoping maybe we can answer some of these questions and we can identify some of the limiting factors. I think the bottom line is when you have rough winters or extreme drought conditions there's not a whole lot you can do generally but I'm hoping we can identify some of those limiting factors and learn some stuff with this study that we'll start next winter with the birds that are translocated.

**Comments from the RAC:**

Dan Abeyta: From the Forest Service perspective we would just request that as those introductions on the forest occur just to kind of give us a heads up when they are happening. We appreciate that.

Randy Dearth: Any other discussion on this particular action item? If not I'll entertain a motion.

**MOTION to accept the Wild Turkey Transplant List as presented by the Division.**

**Dan Abeyta**

**Tim Ignacio**

**Passed Unanimously**

- **Collection, Importation and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments** - Drew Dittmer, Herpetologist

See Slideshow

Randy Dearth: Thank you Drew. Any questions from the RAC?

Dan Abeyta: Drew, what's the common use of native venomous snakes, like rattlesnakes? What are they using these for?

Drew Dittmer: We do have commercial COR's for people who have rattlesnakes for dog avoidance training. They do have an actual applied use in some cases there are just people who really enjoy rattlesnakes, they like to observe them in captivity. So we consider that use.

Brett Prevedel: So the touching, taking pictures then turning them loose, there was an incident a few years ago up Strawberry with little endangered toads I believe they were and they had to destroy them all because they'd been touched. Is that just a change in ways things are being viewed or has it been proven that wasn't an issue?

Drew Dittmer: So in that area you have the boreal toads which is one of the prohibited species we strongly prefer people do not touch boreal toads so you can move the disease that causes the decline of boreal toad which is chytrid fungus by touching one toad and another so it is problematic to catch.

Brett Prevedel: But it will be legal in this case, technically?

Drew Dittmer: Technically that would be illegal. I would strongly encourage people to stop touching frogs especially at high altitude areas because of the disease issues that we're having.

Randy Dearth: Other questions?

Rebekah Jones: I actually have a quick question. What about for classroom use? Do you still have to have a special permit or could you go through this process?

Drew Dittmer: So if it's for reptiles this process is probably fine; and it depends on the scale of the activity so I encourage you to communicate with me about the scale of it. If it's for amphibians technically if you're going to move them and keep them alive and keep them in a classroom for eternity we can work with you. But if you want to re release them you have to get approval from Ag Disease approval. So we can test for chytrid in that zone and then you could keep them in the classroom and make sure they are disease free.

Dan Abeyta: One more question Drew. So the smooth green snake I thought that was kind of a species of conservation need in Utah, a rare species, but I see it on the list.

Drew Dittmer: Yeah, I think this is a great opportunity to send herpers out. It is a species that hasn't been observed very often in Utah, but because it hasn't been observed often is why we have a concern about it. It's not that it's necessarily rare. It's not a conservation concern in any other state that it occurs in. It's just probably that nobody has aggressively looked. These herpers

have felt before that the rules were to prohibited for them to go look and then report that information back to us, so this is giving us that tool to send those people out on the landscape comfortably and confidently.

Dan Abeyta: I see.

Randy Dearth: Any other questions? Comments? It's really quite interesting. Ok we'll call for a motion.

**MOTION to accept the Collection, Importation and Possession Rule as presented by the Division.**

**Dan Abeyta**

**Brett Prevedel, second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.**



GARY R. HERBERT  
Governor

SPENCER J. COX  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAEL D. FOWLKS  
Division Director

## MEMORANDUM

Date: May 23, 2019

To: Wildlife Board Members

From: Phil Gray Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

**Subject: Disabled Veteran Hunting and Combination license rule amendments (R657-12)**

Administrative rule R657-12 provides hunting and fishing accommodations for persons with disabilities including discounts on fishing licenses to resident veterans with service connected disabilities. During the 2019 legislative session a bill was passed to extend discounts to hunting and combination licenses which facilitated changes to the fee schedule. The proposed rule changes would clean up and clarify language to be compliant with statute.

### Changes to program definitions

The proposed rule amendments would:

- Allow veterans with a service related disability of greater than 20% to purchase a 365 day or multiyear hunting or combination license (in addition to the existing discounted fishing license) at a 25% discount to the existing adult fee.
- Discounted fees will be:
  - 365 Day Hunting: \$25.50
  - 365 Day Combination: \$28.50
- Qualifying veterans will also be able to purchase multiyear licenses (up to five years) for any of the licenses types at the above rates for each year purchased.



## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-12. Hunting and Fishing Accommodations for People With Disabilities.**

#### **R657-12-1. Purpose and Authority.**

Under authority of Sections 23-14-18, 23-19-1, 23-19-36, 23-20-12 and 63G-3-201, this rule provides the standards and procedures for a person with disabilities to:

- (1) obtain a certificate of registration for taking wildlife from a vehicle;
- (2) obtain a fishing license as authorized under Section 23-19-36(1);
- (3) obtain a certificate of registration to participate in companion hunting;
- (4) obtain a certificate of registration to receive a limited entry season extension;
- (5) obtain a certificate of registration to receive a general deer or elk season extension;
- (6) obtain a certificate of registration to hunt with a crossbow or draw-lock; or
- (7) obtain a certificate of registration to use telescopic sights on a weapon when otherwise prohibited.

#### **R657-12-10. ~~[Fishing]~~Discounted Licenses for Veterans with Disabilities.**

(1)(a) A resident who has a service-connected disability of 20% or more ~~[and is not eligible to fish without a license under Section 23-19-14 or to receive a free fishing license under Section 23-19-36]~~ may purchase a discounted 365-day or multi-year hunting, fishing, or combination license upon furnishing verification of a service-connected disability and paying the fee established in the approved fee schedule.

(b) Fees for multi-year service-connected disability licenses will be calculated according to the process identified in R657-45-3(2)(c).

(2)(a) "Armed Forces" means the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof and the Army and Air National Guard of the United States.

(b) "Service-connected disability" means injury or illness incurred or aggravated:

- (i) while in Armed Forces service; and
- (ii) that is recognized by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or by a branch of the Armed Forces.

(c) "Verification of Service-Connected Disability" means an official written letter, statement, or card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs or by a branch of the Armed Forces certifying that the person has a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 20% or higher.

~~[(2) The discount provided in this section on the purchase of a fishing license does not apply to combination licenses.]~~ (3)(a) A service-connected disability fishing license is not available to an individual who is eligible to fish without a license under Section 23-19-14 or to receive a free fishing license under Section 23-19-36.

~~[(3) Veteran fishing]~~ (b) Applications for service-connected disability licenses ~~[shall]~~ may be ~~[issued]~~ submitted at division offices and may be issued by mail, online or at license agents.

(4) The purchaser may be required to complete an affidavit of the service-connected disability at the time of ~~[purchase]~~ application.

**KEY: wildlife, wildlife law, disabled persons**

**Date of Enactment or last Substantive Amendment: February 7, 2018**



**Notice of Continuation: August 21, 2017**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-20-12; 63G-3-201**

## **R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.**

### **R657-45. Wildlife License, Permit, and Certificate of Registration Forms and Terms.**

#### **R657-45-1. Purpose and Authority.**

Under authority of Sections 23-14-18, 23-14-19, 23-19-2 and 23-19-7 the Wildlife Board has established this rule for prescribing the forms and terms of a wildlife license, permit, and certificate of registration.

#### **R657-45-3. License Terms and Renewal.**

(1)(a) Upon paying the prescribed fee and satisfying the criteria for issuance, a person may obtain a resident or nonresident fishing, hunting, or combination license valid for:

- (i) 365 days (one year);
- (ii) 730 days (two years);
- (iii) 1095 days (three years);
- (iv) 1460 days (four years);
- or (v) 1825 days (five years).

(b) In addition to the license term prescribed in Subsection (1)(a), a person may obtain a:

- (i) three or seven day resident or nonresident fishing license; or
- (ii) three day nonresident hunting license.

(2)(a) Except as provided in Subsections (b) through (d), a multi-year fishing, hunting, and combination license under Subsection (1)(a) is available to residents and nonresidents at a discounted, adult license fee rate based on residency, license type and license term.

(i) A multi-year license is available to youth only at the adult license fee rate.

(b) A resident senior, age 65 and older, may obtain a multi-year fishing, hunting, or combination license at the 365 day, senior license fee rate multiplied by the number of years in the license term.

(c) A resident disabled veteran that is eligible for a [~~discounted~~ [fishing](#) [service-connected disability](#)] license under Section 23-19-38.3 and R657-12-10, may obtain a multi-year [~~fishing~~] license at the reduced 365 day license fee rate multiplied by the number of years in the license term.

(3) A person with a current, one to five year hunting, fishing, or combination license may renew the license by purchasing:

(a) a new license on or after its expiration date; or

(b) the same license for a term prescribed in Subsection (1)(a) within six months of the expiration date on the unexpired license.

(i) A license renewed under Subsection (3)(b) is effective on the date of purchase and remains valid for a period equal to the sum of the remaining days on the unexpired license and the applicable term on the renewal license.

(4) Except as provided in Subsections (4)(a), a fishing, hunting, or combination license issued under this Section remains valid if the licensee subsequently changes residency during the term of license.

(a) A Utah resident license is invalid if a resident license for hunting, fishing, or trapping is purchased in any other state or country.

(5)(a) A resident that establishes a new domicile outside Utah during the unexpired term of a Utah resident fishing, hunting, or combination license, shall notify the Division of the change prior to purchasing a resident hunting, fishing, or trapping

license in any other state or country.

(b) Upon receiving notice of a domicile change under Subsection (5)(a), the Division will issue a free nonresident replacement license for the remaining term of the resident license.

(c) The Division may charge a handling fee for a residency based license exchange under this Subsection.

(d) The pro rata difference between the nonresident and resident license fee will not be refunded to a person that establishes Utah residency during the term of a nonresident license.

(6) A person that purchases a hunting permit and subsequently changes residency may lawfully use that permit for the applicable hunting season without notifying the Division of residency change.

**KEY:** license, permit, certificate of registration

**Date of Enactment or Last substantive Amendment:** November 10, 2015

**Notice of Continuation:** April 12, 2018

**Authorizing and implemented or Interpreted Law:** 23-19-2