

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
**August 22, 2019, DNR Auditorium**  
**1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah**  
The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtu.be/Dh3iRqEzbgo>

**Thursday, August 22, 2019 – 9:00 am**

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|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman<br>Bighorn Sheep MOU Report – Jace Taylor           | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020<br>– Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator           | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020<br>– Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator             | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Expo Permit Audit<br>– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief                                    | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Expo Permit Allocation<br>– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Wildlife Board Appeal – Erik VanWoerkum – <b>1:00 pm time certain</b><br>– Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. Other Business<br>– Kevin Albrecht, 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

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

June 6, 2019, DNR Auditorium

1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

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

## AGENDA

Thursday, June 6, 2019, Board Meeting 9:00 am

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|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Kirk Woodward, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>        |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Byron Bateman, Vice-Chair   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>    |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATIONAL</b> |
| 5. Wildlife 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elect Board Chairman and Vice Chairman</li></ul> | <b>CONTINGENT</b>    |

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

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
June 6, 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 Steve Dalton, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

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

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

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 Wildlife Board Meeting.**

3) Wild Turkey Transplant List (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Wild Turkey Transplant List as presented.**

4) Collection, Importation, and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Collection, Importation, and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments as presented.**

5) R657-12 Rule Amendments – Statute Change (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the statute change for R657-12 Rule Amendments as presented.**

6) Wildlife Board Stipulations (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the stipulation to reduce Herman H. Kell's suspension period to a term of nine (9) months.**

7) Other Business (**Contingent**)

The Board voted Byron Bateman as chair and Kevin Albrecht as vice-chair.

DRAFT

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
June 6, 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 – excused
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Steve Dalton
	Karl Hirst
	Donnie Hunter

**RAC Chairs**

Central – Kris Marble  
Southern – Kevin Bunnell  
Southeastern – Trisha Hedin  
Northeastern – Randy Dearth  
Northern – Justin Dolling

**Division Personnel**

Mike Canning	Mike Christensen	Dax Mangus	Jace Taylor
Ashley Green	Paul Gedge	Jim Christensen	Drew Dittmer
Chris Wood	Staci Coons	Rusty Robinson	Phil Gray
Jason Vernon	Thu Vo-Wood	Brad Crompton	
Miles Hanberg	Greg Hansen	Matt Briggs	
Rick Olson	Marty Bushman	J Shirley	
Justin Shannon	Faith Jolley	Devin Shirley	
Drew Cushing	Lindy Varney	Greg Baird	
Robin Cahoon	Stephen Newren	Jeremy Butler	
Rory Reynolds	Avery Cook	Ethan Justinger	
Brian Steed	Darren DeBloois	Thomas Six	
	Anita Candelaria	Torrey Christophersen	

**Public Present**

Bret Selman	Bryce Pilling	Troy Justensen – SFW
Nicole Grob	Ken Strong	Dave Jensen – Wasatch Snake Removal
Mark Hazel	Ryan Hoyer	
Troy Forrest	Tanner Kearns	

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
June 6, 2019, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
<https://youtu.be/CgYt57-6HF0>

- 00:00:33** Chairman Woodward called the meeting to order and welcomed the audience. Board and RAC members introduced themselves. Mike Fowlks introduced the new DNR Executive Director, Brian Steed. Calvin Crandall had a community service project and was unable to attend.
- 00:04:46** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.**
- 00:05:15** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**  
The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.  
**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the May 2, 2019 Wildlife Board Meeting.**
- 00:05:49** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**  
Jace Taylor updated the Board on the progress of the Bighorn Sheep MOU: two MOUs – one for BLM and one for Forest Service. The Forest Service signed the MOU this past week; BLM’s is in process. Jace also updated the Board on the Zion sheep.
- 00:08:35** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**  
Mike Fowlks updated the board on pending new board members, staffing changes, habitat status, WRI project funding, and ongoing wildlife projects. He thanked outgoing Board members for their service.
- 00:12:34** **5) Wild Turkey Transplant List (Action)**  
Dax Mangus presented the list.
- 00:21:42** **Board Questions**  
The board asked about different coloration of turkeys, the augmentation process, and educating the public on feeding wildlife.
- 00:25:53** **RAC Recommendations**  
All RACs approved the transplant list.

**00:27:02 Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Wild Turkey Transplant List as presented.**

**00:28:32 6) Collection, Importation, and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments (Action)**

Drew Dittmer presented the amendments.

**00:45:03 Board Questions**

The board asked about balancing profits with COR requirements.

**00:46:32 Public Questions**

Public questions accepted at this time.

**00:51:00 RAC Recommendations**

All the RACs unanimously accepted the rule amendments with exception of Northern RAC, which had one dissent.

**00:52:02 Public Comments**

Public comments accepted at this time.

**01:07:44 Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodward summarized the RAC recommendations. The Board discussed the education component as well as the non-resident issue.

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Collection, Importation, and Possession Rule R657-53 Amendments as presented.**

**01:11:47 7) R657-12 Rule Amendments – Statute Change (Action)**

Phil Gray presented the statute change.

**01:14:28 Board Questions/Discussion**

The board asked about the number of veterans who take advantage of the opportunity and pricing.

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



**MOTION: I move that we approve the statute change for R657-12 Rule Amendments as presented.**

**01:17:42 8) Wildlife Board Stipulations (Action)**

Greg Hansen presented the stipulation for Herman H. Kell.

**01:20:12 Board Discussion**

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

**MOTION: I move that we accept the stipulation to reduce Herman H. Kell's suspension period to a term of nine (9) months.**

**01:22:12 9) Other Business (Contingent)**

The RAC chairs announced the newly appointed RAC chairs.

The Board voted Byron Bateman as chairman and Kevin Albrecht as vice-chair.

**01:34:23 Meeting adjourned.**

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
July/August 2019  
Summary of Motions**

**Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020**

**All RAC's**

**Motion-** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020 as presented.

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020**

**NRO**

**Motion-** Recommend East Canyon remain a Limited Entry Unit.

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Motion-** Recommend the Central Mountain Southwest Manti hunt strategy change to a split unit and not a Limited Entry Unit

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Motion-** Leave the permit numbers on the Cache Unit at 25.

**Motion Passes-** For: 7 Against: 6

**Motion-** Accept the rest of the recommendations as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**CRO**

**Motion:** On the SW Manti – leave as a split unit with 15 permits

**Motion Passes:** 7 in favor and 1 opposed

**Motion:** On the Oquirrh Stansbury West unit to increase to 12 permits rather than proposed 8

**Motion Passes:** 6 in favor and 2 opposed

**Motion:** To accept the balance as presented

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**SRO**

**Motion:** To accept the cougar recommendations and rule amendments for 2019-2020 as presented, with the exception of increasing the number of permits on the Stansbury unit to 12 and 10 on the Beaver West unit.

**Motion Passes:** 9 in favor and 1 opposed.

**SER**

**Motion:** To keep the Southwest Manti as it was last year

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** To go with the SFW recommendation for 26 permits on the Southwest Manti

**Motion Passes:** 7 in favor and 4 opposed

**Motion:** To accept the remainder of the division's proposal with the exception of leaving the permits on the Cache unit as they were last year.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**NER**

**Motion:** To accept the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife proposals on the Cache to 25 permits, Manti West to 18 permits, Manti East to 26 permits, and Beaver West to nine permits; and recommend a harvest objective in the Book Cliffs East remaining at 29 permits.

**Motion Passes:** 7 in favor and 2 opposed

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

**Motion Passes:** 6 in favor with 3 abstained

## Motion Summary

1) Approval of Agenda

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

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

2) Approval of Minutes

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

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

3) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020

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

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

4) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020

The following motion was made by Ken, seconded by NONE and failed due to lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION: On the SW Manti - leave permits at 18 and keep it a split unit.**

The following motion was made by Ben, seconded by Ken and passed 7 in favor, 1 opposed.

**MOTION: On the SW Manti - leave as a split unit with 15 permits.**

The following motion was made by Danny, seconded by NONE and failed due to lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION: On the SE Manti to keep the permits the same as last year.**

The following motion was made by Ben, seconded by Ken and passes 6 in favor and 2 opposed.

**MOTION: On the Oquirrh Stansbury West unit to increase to 12 permits rather than proposed 8.**

The following motion was made by Ken, seconded by Ben and fails 3 in favor and 5 opposed.

**MOTION: On the Cache unit to keep the permits at 25 rather than the proposed 23.**

The following motion was made by Ben, seconded by Danny and passes unanimously.

**MOTION: To accept the balance a presented**

Central Region RAC Meeting  
Central Region Conference Room  
1115 North Main Street, Springville  
July 31, 2019 ☞ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Ken Strong, Sportsmen  
Scott Jensen, Sportsmen  
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive  
\*Paul Gauchay, USFS rep (for George Garcia)  
Ben Lowder, Co-Chair  
Brock McMillian, Chair  
A J Mower, Agriculture  
Steve Lund, Elected Official  
Eric Reid, BLM

**Members Absent**

Jacob Steele, Native American  
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive (excused)  
Mike Christensen, At-Large (excused)  
Joshua Lenart, Sportsmen (excused)

**Others Present**

Jason Vernon, Central Region Supervisor

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1) **RAC Introductions and RAC procedure**  
Brock McMillian, Chair

**Brock McMillian:**

Before they get in here, my name is Brock McMillian. I'm the new chair of this RAC and I'm probably going to fumble through a lot of things tonight so if you'd just be patient with me, I'd really appreciate it. I'll take criticism out behind the building afterwards. We'll start with RAC introductions. We have a couple of new RAC members. For those new RAC members, Eric and Scott, there are three but two are here right now. Maybe tell us a little bit about yourself and who you represent. We'll start over here with Ben.

**Ben Lowder:**

Ben Lowder, public at large.

**Scott Jensen:**

Scott Jensen, public at large as well. I'm a new RAC member. I'm married, a father of eight. I work for the research branch of the Forest Service in Provo. That's it.

**Dan Potts:**

Dan Potts, non-consumptive interest.

**AJ Mower:**

AJ Mower with agriculture.

**Ken Strong:**

Ken Strong, Sportsman Rep.

**Eric Reed:**

Eric Reed, BLM from Fillmore. I enjoy the outdoors and I'm married with a couple of kids. That's about it.

**Paul Gauchay:**

Paul Gauchay with the Forest Service. I'm the acting district ranger here in Spanish Fork on an interim basis. They will have the job permanently filled in the next couple of months then we'll have a different member at that time. I'm glad to be here. I live in Orem with my wife. I've lived here about 20 years and have about 32 years in with the Forest Service.

**Brock McMillian:**

OK, as you know this is a public forum and the purpose is to allow you all to express your opinions and proposals on the management of wildlife in the state. As such, I encourage everybody to participate in the process. Your input is important so that we can make management decisions and recommendations to the wildlife board. All the RAC members, I know I've been on the RAC for almost two years now and will consider your comments and opinions. We all have our own ideas and opinions about what is best and we approach this everybody has tremendous passion and emotion for wildlife. I'd ask that everybody be respectful to everyone else. Even those with opposing views. I'd appreciate everyone in the audience keeping their emotions in check. For each agenda item, the DWR will present maybe 10-15 minutes on the topic. They'll make their recommendation. At that time we'll open it up to the RAC for questions. When the RAC has asked their questions, we'll open it up to the general public to ask their questions. That first time there is for questions only. So, if you have questions about the presentation or about data, you come up and ask questions. After the questions are all answered then there will be a time for comments. If you want to make a comment on any of the recommendations, you need to have filled out one of these cards and have it up here so we have a record of that comment. You'll be allowed up to three minutes if you are an individual or up to five minutes if you are representing a group. You can come up and make comments after that time, the RAC will have comments and discussion and we'll vote on whatever is being presented. When you do come up, please state your name and who you are representing. After everyone has had their comments and questions, we'll close it and we'll vote. Any other questions from anybody?

**2) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**  
**Brock McMillian, RAC Chair**

Next, approval of the agenda and minutes.

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the agenda and minutes as written

Seconded by Ken Strong

Motion passed unanimously

**3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational)**  
**Brock McMillian, RAC Chair**

Now, the wildlife board update. The last wildlife board, there were several things. One was the wild turkey transplant list. The motion was accepted as presented and it passed the wildlife board unanimously. There was a collection, importation and possession rule- 657-53, about herpetology. There was a lot of discussion and input from the public. The motion was accepted as presented and passed unanimously. There was a rule amendment to rule 657-12, statute change

discount for hunting and combination licenses for disabled veterans. The motion was accepted as presented and passed unanimously. There was an election of a new vice chair to the wildlife board. Byron Bateman is the new chair and Kevin Albrecht was elected as the new vice chair of the wildlife board. I believe that's all I have. Does anybody have anything else that I missed? OK. I'll turn the time over the Jason to give a regional update.

**4) Regional Update (Informational)**

**Jason Vernon, Central Regional Supervisor**

Thanks Brock. My name is Jason Vernon, I'm the regional supervisor here for the Central Region. First, I'd like to welcome you to our new facility here. This will be the first RAC held in the building. We moved in at the first of July this year. We're really excited to have a nice building to be in. Especially if you had ever been in the previous building. This is a huge step forward and we're excited and we'd like to welcome you here. A few house cleaning, quickly. Restrooms are down the hall which is out the door and to the left. Just follow the hall all the way around. There is Wi-Fi in here, CapNet, if you're looking for Wi-Fi. Welcome, it's good to have you here. Welcome to our new RAC members as well. Thank you for your time in putting efforts into this committee. It's much appreciated. I've got a bit of a list of things I'd like to share with the RAC. I'll try to get through them quickly.

For our wildlife section, earlier this month, they were able to complete elk surveys. They have been working on those throughout the month and spent quite a bit of time up on the Wasatch this year as a group conducting elk surveys. Antelope surveys are coming up in the next couple of weeks out on the West Desert. Our biologists will be out there surveying for antelope. One thing that has kept our region busy this spring/summer has been bears. Since at least mid-May if not earlier, we've had a nuisance bear call nearly every day. If not multiple calls on different bears every day. We've been really busy setting lots of traps to catch those bears and get them out of there. A lot of the calls have been dealing with garbage. Bears coming into trash cans, whether it's on the mountain where people are keeping a dirty camp and bears coming in to get into trailers, camp grounds, either designated or dispersed camp grounds have been hit pretty heavily. In some of the mountainous areas where we have homes like in Park City and up some of the canyons, the bears have been getting in to those garbage cans as well. A couple of things that might explain that are last year's really dry summer and bears going into the winter, perhaps a little more hungry than they have in the past and haven't built up their fat reserves then coming out this spring into a really wet winter/high snow pack and not being able to get high enough into the mountains early as well as not having the food available right off the batt. On top of that, we have really healthy bear population, increasing bear population right now. So, all those things combined have created a situation where we have bears increasingly coming in contact with humans. It's kept us really busy and I'm sure we'll be talking about that at a later RAC meeting for the bear recs.

Our aquatics section, I wanted to report that Kokanee fishing has been really hot this summer, especially at Jordonelle right now. They are knocking them dead up there. Strawberry has been doing really well. It might be cooling down a little bit but it's still a really good time to be out fishing for Kokanee. We've got lots of pictures of people with lots of fish which is really great. It's really satisfying for us. I think you remember last year we had some large fires in the south end of the valley up in the mountains. Our aquatics crew is working on post fire stream rehabilitation on some of those streams. Recently, a couple days ago on Hwy 89, we had some big debris flows coming out of some of those canyons across Hwy 89 and closed the canyon down, the road down there. So, there are additional challenges for our aquatics staff on getting those systems back up and running again. As a note, Utah Lake, over the last several years we continue to see advisories for algae blooms. Again, this summer we have advisories. Lincoln Beach has a danger advisory; it's actually closed and they have recommending that you stay out

of the water. The remainder of the lake is under a warning advisory. That means, don't swim or water ski, don't get in the water at all. It doesn't affect the fish; they recommend that you clean the fish well and of course discard anything that you don't want to keep there. One of those things we continue to run into which I think makes some of the recreational boating on Jordonelle and Deer Creek more pressure up in those areas.

From our habitat crew, I mentioned the flooding on Hwy 89 at Thistle. We do have some WMA's up there so we've been looking to see how that erosion has affected our wildlife management areas. Especially from the Pole Hollow fire but the Dairy Creek fire as well. With the heavy snow loads this last winter, they have been spending a lot of time repairing guzzlers. All of that snow load on top of the guzzlers has damaged the aprons that collect the water and run them down into the drinkers. They have spent a lot of time fixing those. With the changes in the Dedicated Hunter rule last year, we have a lot of dedicated hunters coming through that are trying to get their eight hours so that they can receive their tag. So, all of the new dedicated hunters are scrambling and coming in to get their hours taken care of. We've been really fortunate in taking advantage of those hours and have a lot of projects out there. A lot of good projects that they are contributing to.

**Our law enforcement:** In June our law enforcement section held a check point at Strawberry Reservoir. You may have seen some of this in the news. Basically, to stop vehicles that have been fishing on the reservoir, they stopped 254 vehicles coming through the check point. Estimated 762 people and almost 400 license checks. They seized 47 fish and issued 30 citations. It was really successful on our end and an opportunity to educate the public on what slot limits are and especially the limitations there on the lake. As a note, one of the pretty neat things I think they did was, all the fish that was seized were donated to the food bank in Heber City. So, those didn't go to waste. We have a new officer in our region. Our officers are split into districts and we've had several districts that have been vacant for quite a while. Ethan Justinger is our new officer. He'll be in our Heber City/Park City district. He recently graduated POST and is in field training now. We're extremely pleased to have him and excited to have him on with us in Heber Valley. Finally, for our law enforcement, you may have seen some news releases throughout the state where we're starting to build up a K9 program. One of our officers in our region, officer James Thomas, received a puppy a couple of weeks ago and we're excited that we'll have a K9 program in our region. It's a puppy right now, it needs to grow before it gets in training in but we're excited that in a year from now, we'll have a trained K9 in our region and hopefully we'll be able to bring it into one of our RAC meetings and you can meet our K9.

**For our conservation outreach:** Quite a few events coming up, the summer has been really busy with fishing at community fisheries and those types of events. Some that are coming up include a field dressing event in September. It will be across the street at our facility on the other side. That will be September 19, 2019. As always, we have a kokanee salmon viewing day up at Strawberry visitors center, that will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>. We're excited about that. If there are no questions from the RAC I'll end with that.

**Ken Strong:**

I've got a question. What was the outcome of the lady that saw the lion the other day on North University? I don't know if you caught that on the news.

**Jason Vernon:**

I did catch that on the news. That was never reported to us so the outcome was a really nice picture of a cougar on a road in Provo.

**Ken Strong:**



So, you have no idea other than that?

**Jason Vernon:**

No, we received the information too late to be able to go and track it or follow it. You know, it's just another example of the wildlife urban interface that we have here. We're going to be living with bears and cougars and moose and all those types of things wandering into towns. The sooner we can get that information from the public, the faster we can get out there and investigate those types of things. It's pretty interesting that those things happen and we always love to see those pictures as well. Any other questions? Thank you.

**Brock McMillian:**

Thank you Jason. I guess it's Darren's turn. We'll start with our recommendations for furbearer and bobcat.

**Ben Lowder:**

Darren, while you are getting that ready to go, I have a quick question. I went to the RAC webpage today and was looking at meeting materials and happened to click on a link that was a video of you giving this presentation. Are they starting to put that out?

**Darren DeBlois:**

That's a good point. Jason, did you want to address that?

**Jason Vernon:**

Yeah. That's a great question. So, moving forward beginning with this RAC, to get more information from the public, all of the presentations are going to be prerecorded about a week before the RAC meeting and put on our website. So, everyone will be able to go on our website and click on the presentation. Darren will give the same presentation here as he gave on the web on the video and the members of the public will have an opportunity to e-mail questions or comments to the regional supervisors so I can share those with the RAC as well. It's just another opportunity for the public to provide input to our process. Thank you I appreciate you bring that up.

**Darren DeBlois:**

If you watch that video and you scroll down below the window that the video plays in, all the regional supervisors' e-mails are provided. People can e-mail until noon the day of the RAC to the regional supervisor with comments if they like.

**5) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020**

Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator

**Questions from the RAC**

**Brock McMillian:**

Thank you, Darren. Any questions from the RAC?

**Scott Jensen:**

Darren, during the previous down cycles, was this same strategy in play? Have we seen this been used before?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah. This has been in place for about five years. Initially, under the old plan we saw that kind of thing too. This plan is slightly different. The parameters are different.

**Brock McMillian:**

I have a question Darren. So, isn't take of bobcat, non-selective? So, whatever comes in a trap? Why would you expect female harvest to be that low?

**Darren DeBloois:**

To me, I know that there's a little bit of talking to trappers this year with the snow levels that there were some folks that had trouble getting out to their usual places. That's a difficult question to answer other than just the natural cycle. You're right Brock. I think the idea is that people would take... traps are not selective in the bobcat they catch necessarily. I know that a lot of times trappers will let females go. So, maybe if a combination of difficult circumstances and kind of taking what you can get, maybe that's what we saw on female numbers. So, we'll see going forward what will happen.

**Brock McMillian:**

Any other questions from the RAC?

**Questions from the Public**

None

**Comments from the Public**

**Brock McMillian:**

We have on comment from the public. Chase Brereton come on up to the microphone. State your name and who you represent and provide your comment.

**Chase Brereton:**

My name is Chase Brereton. I represent Utah Trappers Association. I would like to add that we support the management plan.

**Brock McMillian:**

Thank you very much. We don't have anymore comments. Any comments from the RAC? Do we have a motion?

**RAC Discussion**

None

**VOTING**

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to approve as presented

Seconded by Ken Strong

In Favor:

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

**6) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020**

Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator

**Questions from the RAC**

**Scott Jensen:**

Darren, can I interrupt you right there? On the percent of adults, are you averaging the age of each individual? Summing and averaging? You're not looking at individuals separately?  
**commented during the presentation**

**Darren DeBlois:**

Right. We're taking the ages on a unit and averaging it. We're combining three years of ages and getting an average percent. We do average age too but for this it's the percent of five-years-old or older that we see come through our check.

**Scott Jensen:**

So, that's the distinction I want to make. If you're looking at the percent of five year olds or older, you're looking at individual lions, right?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah you're right.

**Scott Jensen:** Versus if you're averaging an old lion with a young lion, a nine and a one you end up with a 4 ½ year old lion.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, thanks Scott. I was thinking of the number of females in the harvest. But this is a percentage.

**Scott Jensen:** This is a percentage so, it's individuals. A particular older aged animal is not going to bias the sample.

**Danny Potts:**

Darren that doesn't exclude taking some hair off of it, right? **(during presentation)**

**Darren DeBlois:**

For us? So, on pursuit we do collect data. One of the things I'm going to show you here is doing a population construction model.

**Scott Jensen:**

Before you continue can I ask a question on the previous one? I'm looking at 20 split units, 29 harvest objective units and 5 limited entry units. Could you take just a moment and educate us on maybe the benefits or constraints of one type of hunt versus another? Why we split them this way and what we expect to realize because of that? **(during presentation)**

**Darren DeBlois:**

A lot of times harvest objective management strategy will be used if you're trying to have a management level population effect on lions on a particular unit. So, you're concerned about maybe prey species or the numbers where you're seeing a lot of lions show up in town. That way you set a quota, anybody can buy a permit who wants to go hunt that unit and so you get a lot of people hitting it fairly quickly and sometimes aren't as selective as they would be if they know that they were only the five people that had a permit. Limited entry is sort of the other end of that spectrum. A set number of permits, people have a season, they know there's only a set number of people that are going to be out there in the field and they have the area to themselves. People tend to be more selective so if we were concerned about for example, females in the harvest, we might

choose a limited entry strategy to try and give people a chance to let a female go and not feel like someone is going to come in behind them and harvest and animal out from under them.

**Scott Jensen:**

So, when there is opportunity or where there's years that you're switching between one or another it might be one of the justifications?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah and when we look at it unit by unit maybe we can make some of those distinctions. And split is kind of a little bit of both. You probably, in these cases you want to allow that sort of exclusive opportunity, this is mainly social and a kind of exclusive opportunity up front but you still want to hit your management objective with a quota. So, you want to make sure those number of animals are taken. So, you would then open it up as harvest objective to fill the remainder of the permits. **(during presentation)**

**Ben Lowder:**

Darren, I may have missed this. Was that camera part of that study on the Book Cliffs?

**Darren DeBlois:**

It is, yeah, out on the Book Cliffs.

**Danny Potts:**

Darren, so we saw previous collared kitty that went from the Elkers all the way to Colorado and back to the Elkers. Here we are managing, trying to herd cats, using these smaller units. I can understand that for bighorn sheep and protecting them, that makes all the sense in the world but we've got some new studies out that indicate that deer and elk... that might not be as functional. Could you address the whole issue of these movements, they are just all over the place?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Right now we've got 13 mountain lions that are wearing collars. Two of them have made these kinds of movements. The rest have set up local territories and they pretty much hand and some of them overlap and we're curious to see if...

**Ben Lowder:**

These are female, right?

**Darren DeBlois:**

They are all female. We did have one on the Book Cliffs that went almost all of the way almost to Craig, Colorado and she's turned around and come all the way back to where we caught her. The literature seems to indicate that you have these local populations at a relatively small scale, maybe even at a unit level, and then you have this transient population that's sort of constantly there. As territories may open up then they will fill those niches. Hunting, for this kind of animal, it is more of a "how do you regulate pressure of human hunting on the landscape" but you really do need to be thinking of a much larger scale in terms of population management. Some of the things that... what that means is a lot of times we'll have these refugia that are sort of supplying areas where we might see higher hunter harvest. We saw on the Monroe when we experimentally reduced that population within three years of backing off, that lion population rebounded.

It happens really fast because there's this movement. Also, lions reproduce quickly. They can have two, three, four kittens. They are very much like your house cat just a lot bigger. Their behavior is a lot the same. They can be in estrus any time of the year. They don't have a seasonal breeding cycle.

**Ben Lowder:**

Darren, if I recall correctly, the Southwest Manti unit, you're looking for a reduction of three permits, how's our deer herd doing on that unit. I know last year there was some discussion on permits of that unit.

**Darren DeBlois:**

I think maybe what I'll do is let Rusty speak to that. And Brock actually has some knowledge. He might be able to inform that too. BYU has been conducting a study as well.

**Rusty Robinson:**

So that deer herd has been fairly low density for years now. I had BYU pull some data for me leading up to this. Some of the interesting data was that basically, deer there have very good body conditions. It's not a habitat issue in my opinion and I don't think we had with all of our collared does and fawns we haven't had a single deer die of starvation in the last two or three years. That's pretty incredible. So, I don't think it's a habit issue, I think probably something initially knocked those deer down and I think lion predation is probably keeping them down for the time being. This year's data looks really good as far as high doe survival but we're still early. Time will tell how that ends up. The past couple of years they've been in the 70's as far as adult doe survival which isn't great.

**Ben Lowder:**

That's why I ask. It surprised me to see that reduction in permits on lions considering what we're seeing happen on the deer down there. Would it be within reason to leave those permits where they were at last year?

**Rusty Robinson:**

I think the thought process there, where I know because I did it, a couple of years ago we were at eight permits on the unit and with eight permits we had a 10% female harvest and we said we really need to get with the plan here. We went to 12 permits and we got 33% female harvest and this year, we're at 18 and we got to the mid 40's female harvest. So, if you throw out that first year, I know we're managing a three-year cycle but I think that first year is really dragging that average down to the 30's. So, the thought process was to still keep after the lions but just let off the gas a little bit.

**Ben Lowder:**

To compensate for that over harvest in the females?

**Rusty Robinson:**

Yeah. And I think whatever harvest we get this year, we'll be at 40. We'll be right there.

**Steve Lund:**

Darren, I have a question about the transient lions and about those that set up their own boundaries or territories. Does age factor into that at all?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Typically the lion that you are likely to see show up in town is a two year old male lion that literally has got to move or that big male on the mountain is going to take him out. It's a little more unusual to see these big movements with females. They seem to be more tolerant. Again, we are seeing some overlap and we've taken some DNA samples are going to have that analyzed. We're curious to know if they are siblings. There's been some work up on the Teton's that show that kill sites sometimes females will tolerate and sometimes a big male will come in and it's similar what you would see with African lions, the male eat first but the females will tolerate that. So, there's some social stuff that people are learning with a lot of this new technology. Even back to Hornocker in Idaho, looking at transient animals... we've know that for a long time that there is always this young moving population that is responsible for filling those habitats as they, either through natural mortality or hunter harvest, get vacated.

**Brock McMillian:**

Darren, is there a target population size for the state?

**Darren DeBlois:**

No, there isn't. The objectives in the plan are just to maintain. So, the target would be to try to maintain a healthy population of lions and that we're not overharvesting. We do that be meeting these harvest criteria. But there isn't a population target like we would have with big game.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, is it correct that over the last 14 years, the population has been increasing by about 7% per year?

**Darren DeBlois:**

It looks like it, yeah.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, if you had 34 more tags, that would still be increasing by 5% a year.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah. The thing that seems apparent to me is that lion numbers grow if their food grows.

**Ben Lowder:**

Darren, I don't remember who made the statement or which meeting it was in but from what I recall, recently there was a discussion, it may have been the mule deer committee that out on the Oquirrh Stansbury, since their most recent sheep transplant we've lost I believe five sheep to lion kills. Has that number changed? Has it gone up at all?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Jason probably knows.

**Jason Robinson:**

Yeah, that number hasn't changed. Once the snow melted it seems like predation basically stops. So, our last one was in May.

**Ben Lowder:**

Refresh my memory, when did that transplant happen?

**Jason Robinson:**

It was the end of February.

**Ben Lowder:**

And we lost five sheep out of 20, correct?

**Jason Robinson:**

Yeah. So, we lost 25%. The first loss occurred 10 days after the transplant. It was pretty quick.

**Brock McMillian:**

I have one more question. Can you explain... it appeared that when you talked about the recommendations, Current Creek had 0% female harvest but you're not recommending any increase. Can you explain that?

**Darren DeBlois:**

That was one of those small sample sized ones.

**Brock McMillian:**

OK. It is small, I think it was only four.

**Darren DeBlois:**

We could look at the numbers but a lot of these low sample sized units aren't meeting the quota as it is. They have a quota of six but they take two or something like that.

**Brock McMillian:**

Last question, is there any concern with the population continuing to go up? So, say it goes up 5% a year, in three years what you are recommending here, that's 20,000 more deer a year that these lions are going to be eating just because the population increase. Does that concern the division?

**Darren DeBlois:**

It seems over time, I think lions have a carrying capacity on the landscape and it's tied to their prey base. So, if we see declines in mule deer, especially, lions tend to follow that too. So, at some point we'd expect to see that level off.

**Brock McMillian:**

Other questions from the RAC? OK, we'll have questions from the public but there were a few people that came in late. If you want to comment on this recommendation, you need to make sure that you filled out one of these cards and get it passed in to somebody.

## Questions from the Public

### **Jason Walker:**

I just an old hound dogger, I'm not representing anybody. I was curious, what was the population estimate back in 2009?

### **Darren DeBlois:**

We can go back to that but again, with that slide I want to be real cautious about looking at the number. It's more the trend. Also, the further back you get into time, the less reliable the estimate is.

### **Jason Walker:**

OK. It just seemed pretty drastic.

### **Darren DeBlois:**

Right, it looks like in 2004 it's probably about half of what it is now.

### **Jason Walker:**

It almost seems like we had more then. That's why I ask. Thank you.

## Comments from the Public

### **Matt Farnsworth:**

Thank you. I have e-mailed back and forth and I've spoke to several of you guys personally. I just want to make sure I'm clear here. I'm representing myself tonight. I'm not representing the Hounds Association. I am here for myself. This is a unit that, I talked to Darren a little earlier and he brought it up, said it pretty accurately, everybody has their pet unit that they know more than the biologist, they want to take care of it. I have a couple of those and I'd like to speak to those today. The first one is the Southwest Manti. We've heard some talk back and forth about that. I want to thank Rusty. I think his recommendation was spot on. I like the decrease in tag. It's not to see that he's being proactive about that. He recognized what's going on and is acting in accordance with that and, thank you for that. I appreciate it. The second one I'd like to speak to is the Vernon unit. It's one of those that fell under the low sample size. I brought this up every RAC for the last three years, every board meeting, every hounds association meeting. It never seems to take traction. I would like to try one more time. In the 2016-2017 season, there were 12 tags. There were three lions harvested. In the 2017-2018 season, 12 tags, three lions harvested. In the 2018-2019 season, best snow conditions that we've had on record, four lions were harvested but still the 12 tags. This last year we had 75% female harvest. I understand the low sample size and reacting to that but why are we giving 12 tags when we're not even killing a percentage of that number? The highest number we've had killed over the last four years has been four. That's a split unit. Two of the most successful lion outfitters in the state live within and hours drive of that unit. They don't hunt. They don't hunt that unit, when it opens up to 1500 harvest objective tags later in the year. There's a reason for that. It's because the lions aren't there. I'd ask you to consider that unit. I agree with Darren. It is a low sample size. When you're only killing four lions, tops off of a unit, it's hard to come up with a good estimate. What we're doing is not working. There's no predator management plan on that unit. There is zero wildlife service harvest on that unit. There is zero mortality on that unit. The lions just aren't there.



**Cory Huntsman:**

I'm with the Utah Houndsman Association. I live in Erda in Tooele county. I'd like to thank the chair and the board. We appreciate the opportunity to be heard. I'd like to thank the biologists that have taken the time to meet with us this year prior to these meetings. I'd especially like to thank Darren. There are several new board members, myself included this year in our club and Darren has bent over backwards getting us caught up to speed. I'll start with the divisions cougar recommendations. We support all of them with the exception of a couple. The first one is the Southeast Manti. The division recommended an increase of two. We recommend zero increase on that. The reason is that since 2015-2016 we've seen 100% increase on our Southern Manti unit. It used to be the premiere lion unit in the state and we didn't even fill the quota last year with record snow. The second unit is a little bit different scenario. The division proposed a change in the Southwest Manti to a limited entry from a split and decreasing by three. I know that Darren was shocked when he opened up his email and we opposed that. The reason is, is that we heard that SFW and probably the Mule Deer Foundation was going to propose an increase because they are concerned about the deer herd populations. We were trying to be proactive and come up with a compromise. So, we proposed leaving it as split but going with the division's recommendations of decrease of three. I apologize to Rusty and the gentleman that he met with. We didn't know that he was already working with some houndsmen or we would have coordinated with them, prior. They spent a lot of time getting that to a limited entry and a compromise there. That's all I have on those two. The third thing is, the three-year decision criteria, we strongly support that. The only issue we have there is the Oquirrh Stansbury East, not the West with the sheep. It's at eight right now with the conservation tag that we sell, so nine. We feel that three years at nine is too high for that unit. With it being a limited entry unit. This year, the tag holders were friends and family of some pretty good houndsmen and a couple well known outfitters had clients on that unit. We hit every horse trail, hiking trail, snowmobile trail, anything you can get up that mountain, we turned it upside down and we came up with one tom over five years old. We did kill an old female which kind of threw off the percentage of that age that kicked it out of the management plan for a decrease. We just didn't feel that a 17 year tag to draw, we should be killing a couple of five year old lions on there. Especially this year with record snow and we still couldn't come up with five lions. They are just not there. We go three years with nine lions it's just going to get worse. We recommend a decrease of two. The Oquirrh is a unique unit being kind of an island. They just don't backfill like the other units do. In 2007, we really knocked the population down and it took from 2007-2012 we averaged two lions and that's where the Oquirrh and Stansbury were combined. So, two mountain ranges took six years to bounce back after we overharvested it. Our other proposal on changing the criteria on the limited entry, we will wait until the management plans on that. I think we sent it in the letter but we'll hold off on that.

**Kevin Norman:**

I am representing SFW tonight. Thank you guys for the opportunity. We're here tonight to support the division's recommendations as presented with the following exceptions. First being the Cache. Brock, you're familiar with the situation up there. The deer herd is suffering greatly. We have a fawn study going on that Brock's grad students are working on now and it's pretty alarming over the last four years, the Cache fawn survival rate is

averaging 27% which should tell you that the future isn't that bright as well. SFW is throwing everything we can at the Cache trying to suppress the coyotes, the predation problem that is up there. There was a, in the presentation it was recommended that the permits are dropped to 22, I believe and we are proposing that those stay at 25. You know, we're fine with a healthy lion population as long as there is a healthy deer population. If the deer herd is suffering we're fine with the lion population being suppressed as well. The next would be, on the Southwest Manti. We're with the hound association on leaving that a split unit instead of moving it to a harvest objective. We would like the permits numbers stay at 18 on that unit. It's the same scenario other than looking at the data as they talk about the adult doe survival is suffering from predation, greatly. On the Southeast Manti, we're recommending an increase to 26 permits. On the Oquirrh Stansbury West with the sheep, we know that the management plan can only allow 100% increase which would move to 8 which is what was recommended. We would like to see that bumped even higher to 12. You guys have the power to vote on that and do so. We thank you for your time and hope you consider these recommendations. Thank you.

### **Sundays Hunt:**

I'm here representing the Humane Society of the United States. On behalf of our supporters in Utah I respectfully request that this council reject the Division of Wildlife Resources proposed cougar hunting quotas which are unsustainable and not informed by the best available science including decades of Utah based cougar studies. The recommendations allow an unmitigated slaughter of one member of Utah's native wildlife. The proposed 2019-2020 cougar hunting quota of 678 cats which doesn't include the four units with unlimited quotas allows for the killing of up to 40% of Utah's adult and sub adult aged cats. The DWR's proposed quotas not only far exceed the limits in the DWR's own Utah cougar management plan but they also exceed four times greater than what is biologically sustainable. Western cougar biologists have found that cougars can not endure population losses greater than 14%. Accepting the DWR's recommendations would represent a failure to use sound science to inform these decisions. As well as the failure to protect wildlife for all Utahns. Utah cougars at this extreme rate will exasperate conflicts with livestock. The constant chaos from hunting and predator control disrupts stable family units. When the stable adults are replaced by an influx of young males, the teenagers, Utah's ranchers are more likely to lose their unprotected livestock. Moreover, research shows that cougar and human conflicts are higher in areas where cougars are hunted or killed by predator control agents. Killing cougars to grow mule deer or bighorn sheep herds won't work either. In studies where researchers deliberately removed predators from the landscape, they saw no benefit on mule deer herd numbers. That is because access to adequate nutrition that is moisture for plants from rain and snow and the ability for herds to migrate along their historic corridors is a key factor in growing mule deer herds. Killing predators will not bring Utah's deer herds back, as decades of evidence has already proved. Including, Utah's expensive bounty on coyotes. Cougar reduce or eliminate chronic wasting disease in deer herds. Researchers found that adult mule deer preyed upon by cougars were more likely to have CWD than deer shot by hunters. Moreover, the study found that cougars consumed over 85% of carcasses thereby removing a significant amount of contamination from the environment. The current proposals are not based on science, are not in conformance with the DWR's own cougar management plan and they won't help

the mule deer population or the ranchers. The state's proposal is not based on sound science and respectfully, it is therefore the duty of this board to reject this proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

**Wade Garrett:**

Thank you to the RAC for the opportunity to comment. I'm representing Utah Farm Bureau and the Ag folks in the state. We support this plan along with working with you on the depredation plan of cats that are causing livestock and ranchers problems and also educating our folks with the opportunities to take care of those depredating cats. As you saw the last of Darren's presentation, we are having higher conflicts but for whatever reasons our government trappers have leveled off in what their wildlife services are taking. So, some of these other options that are out there and Darren and I have spoke before this about ways to educate producers on ways to take care of those cats through other means. I appreciate the opportunity to comment and working with you guys to help protect the livestock interest in the state. Thank you.

**Andy Lyon:**

Hello, I'm representing myself. I'd just like to thank all of you guys for everything you do. I'd like to thank the DWR for what they do. In particular, I'm here in support of the presentation the DWR has made on the Southwest Manti. I've had the opportunity to meet with Rusty in great length and go over his data and he is spot on down there. So, I'm in support of what he's recommending for the Southwest Manti. Thank you.

**McCray Christiansen:**

I'm representing myself. I'm in support of Rusty's recommendations to drop the number to 15 permits and limited entry. Thanks for your time.

**Robert Olsen:**

I'm representing myself. I'd like to thank Rusty and Darren for the efforts they put in to finding out what's going on in a specific area like the Southwest Manti. They are going down there and talking to us that hunt there and have a good knowledge of what the population is like down there. It's refreshing to see this effort and I back their recommendation fully, especially on the Southwest Manti. Thank you.

**John Ziegler:**

I appreciate the opportunity to chat with you all. I'd like to make five points to you today some of which may be news to one or more of you. I am representing myself. First off, I'm against the proposed increase in cougar tags for this coming season. In fact, I'd like to see a decrease in tags for reasons to follow. Commonsense wise, 6:30 p.m. on a Wednesday evening in Springville, Utah is hardly a convenient time for citizens throughout the region of the state to attend a meeting. It is well recognized that the RAC process severely inhibits input and participation by the general citizenry. Most of whom are unlikely to know the date, time and location of the RAC meetings where topics of interest to them are being discussed. Trust me, this is a topic of interest. It is well recognized that most citizens in the state oppose trophy hunting of cougars. DWR data is at best a rough estimate when it comes to the number of cougars in the state which likely may range anywhere from 2,000 to maybe 4,000. Also unknown is the number of all cause of death of cougars each year. Filled tags, Wildlife Services for depredation issues,

vehicular incidents, poaching, natural mortality, etc. We really don't have a good handle on how many cougars are getting killed each year or dying each year. For example, the best guess or natural mortality is anywhere between 10% and 23% of the population. This equates giving our unclear number of cougars that are here, perhaps 2,000 or 4,000, that 10-23% results in a range of 200-900 natural deaths expected in the population aside from hunting and such. Do the math. We may well be removing too many cougars to sustain healthy populations going forward. Houndsmen, as with last year as some have spoken tonight, many of them as boots on the ground believe that the cougar population is generally dropping and oppose an increase in tags. Also, many acknowledge that it's almost impossible or often impossible or very difficult to actually determine the sex of a treed animal or reliably tell whether it's lactating. Last but not least, I'd like to talk to you about transmissible spongiform encephalopathy. That's quite a mouthful. Latest data from the CDC suggests that chronic wasting disease is pathogenic. It causes illness in a number of primates closely related to man. There's a growing concern that chronic wasting disease prion ingestion or exposure may be a cause of disease in man including neurodegenerative disease syndromes causing a variety of systems. The CDC guidelines in handling body fluids, organs, meat, etc. from deer or elk or moose that may possibly have chronic wasting disease, possibly, require extensive personal protective equipment. You must avoid fluids and such. This is the punchline you all need to hear. The spread of chronic wasting disease over the past several years is correlated with predator removal in a number of provinces in Canada and states in the U.S. Chronic wasting disease is currently found in 24 U.S. states and growing. Predators such as cougars select our injured and diseased animals as prey. Often before overt symptoms of disease are visible. Chronic wasting disease is now in several, mostly Eastern counties in Utah, including Utah and Wasatch counties. To continue to recklessly overhunt the Utah cougar population is a mistake that may well prove to have terrible consequences. As a physician, who has been involved in clinical research oversight for over 30 years, I ask that you do the responsible thing and recommend to the wildlife board that we lower or at a minimum freeze, rather than increase the number of cougar tags this coming season. I hope you all heard what I said about the CDC recommendations. Utah and Wasatch counties are known to have chronic wasting disease and their recommendations are very clear that meat is to be avoided, the animal body fluids and such, this is a big deal. This has a potential to be a very big deal in years to come. Thank you for your time.

**Denise Peterson:**

Hello and thank you for your time this evening. My name is Denise Peterson and I am representing myself tonight. I'm going to take a chapter from John's book and read so I don't overlook anything. So, a little bit about me, my background is in natural resources management, wildlife biology and GIS. Over the last several years I've spent quite a lot of time studying cougars both through literature and boots on the ground. I do a lot of camera trapping up in the mountains here and have gotten to know our cats and track them and literally follow in their footsteps. So, their management is very important to me sufficed to say. So, when I heard that the UDWR wanted to increase the quota yet again, it gave me pause. Raising the quota again is not in line with the best available science which says that if you're harvesting more than 15-17% which is the intrinsic growth rate and increasing the quota to about 678 I think it was, is greater than 25% of the overall population which would lead to an overall decline in Utah's mountain lion population. So, for that reason right there, I can not support yet again increasing quota even if it is

just 34 tags. I'd also like to note that researchers have found that targeting mountain lions to boost mule deer numbers may actually be having the opposite effect. I know it makes sense, ok, we take out a predator that eats mule deer our mule deer are going to rebound and do alright. But a study that was released this year actually found that by heavily hunting a population, hunters generally target that trophy tom, the big boy. Who wouldn't want that cat? So, what that does is leave the younger cats to fill that void and these younger cats specialize on mule deer where the older toms specialize on larger prey like elk for instance. So, increasing quotas and heavily hunting a population is actually having an opposite effect and is affecting our deer. I do come from a hunting background. I love venison just as much as the next guy so, it stuck in my mind that we can't keep raising that number because we want to boost deer when we're actually having the opposite effect. One other thing and this came from another study that was released this year. Researchers found that delaying the start of mountain lion hunting seasons until December 1<sup>st</sup> would actually protect about 91% of kittens from perishing as a result of being orphaned by hunters. So, if a female with kittens is killed and I know that it's illegal to kill a female with kittens, you don't always know because they leave the den often. So, when a kitten is orphaned even if they are 12 months of age, they are not equipped with the skills to survive. By delaying the start of the hunting season to December 1<sup>st</sup> could effectively reduce the amount of kittens that die from being orphaned. Last thing I wanted to mention is in the last year, I've had the pleasure of getting to know a couple of houndsmen which I hadn't had that opportunity before and I've learned from my conversations with them that they've got a really good sense of what's going on, on the ground. So, I think it would behoove all of you if you'll listen to the recommendations and take them to heart. Thank you.

**Garrett Smith:**

My name is Garrett Smith. I'm representing myself. I'm an outfitter here in the state and you guys are doing a good job. Rusty, I met with him the other day and you know he's willing to learn what we know. I specialize in lion and spend most of my life chasing them and you guys are doing a great job. I think our numbers are fine. The only thing I'd like to see is a little better age class on the males. I don't know what the recipe for that is. It's a tough one. I can go find a multiple lion most days. So, I think you're doing a great job. Like I say, the only thing that seems like could improve is the age class. You know hearing some of these things brought up, I think there is plenty of lion in people get out there and do what they need to. Thank you.

**RAC Discussion**

**Ben Lowder:**

I'd like to address some of these comments from the public. I think largely, I'm going to be preaching to the choir but I'm going to address some of them anyway. There's been some comments regarding that we aren't using the best available science for our cougar plan and our cougar recommendations. I think we have some of the best biologists in the country here and we are doing more research and collar studies and partnering with universities like BYU who I respect. You, Brock and your students. I've interacted with them and we are learning by leaps and bounds over the last few years. Stuff that we've never learned before. I think we're leading the county in the science if I'm being honest.

It's been said that these recommendations are recommending an unsustainable number of permits and yet Darren showed us a graph with over the last 20 years a steady increase in population.

**Brock McMillian:**

Is that true, Darren? I thought I saw 7% annual increase as the average.

**Ben Lowder:**

It was from 1000 to 2700 from what I recall on the graph.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Right. The only thing I would preface that with is that all models are wrong. But some are useful.

**Ben Lowder:**

But you referred before that the important part is the trend and the trend is trending up for 20 years. There it is right there. At a fairly steep angle as well. So, I don't buy into that argument that the number of permits we're issuing are unsustainable at all. I'm looking at the data. I'm looking at the science. It was also just suggested that these proposals don't follow the current plan. I think they follow the plan exactly as the plan was written and meant to be followed. John here in the audience and a couple people suggested that cougars select CWD animals, I don't know if that's true or not. Maybe they do, maybe they don't but what I can tell you is about a month and a half ago, on the mule deer committee we brought in a biologist from Colorado that has been managing deer from CWD for 20+ years. We discussed CWD and how to manage CWD for two and a half hours. I never once heard a word about cougars. Colorado, I think is leading the country in managing for CWD and cougars isn't part of their equation. Something that we need to keep in mind here as we address the cougar recommendation, when we talk cougars, we're not just managing cougars we're managing deer and sheep as well. We need to keep that in mind as we make our recommendations. Now more on positive notes, big had to the DWR on their recommendations. I'm looking through my notes here and looking at where the DWR's recommendations differ from some of our sportsman's recommendations and I think across the state the variances in recommendations is single digits. That's saying something. We're really dang close to where everybody wants to be. So, congratulations to Darren and team on that. With that said, that's pretty much what I want to address. There's a few things here that our sportsman's organizations brought up, some small variances that I think we should when it's time probably address those. Maybe on a unit by unit basis but generally, I'd support the plan as was presented by Darren.

**Ken Strong:**

I'd like to second what Ben said. I think that they have done an excellent job in trying to figure this situation out. Now with the collars it'll give them a better understanding of what's going on. My concern that I have right now and maybe this is what Ben wants to talk about but the Southwest Manti, we lowered the permit down three but last year we went around and the division told us that we have the best health for the deer herd, we have plenty of habitat, everything seems to be going good and the number one thing that was happening to the deer was lion predation. Now, we're lowering the tags. I do have a

problem with lowering the tags. I still think it ought to be maintained a split unit. We can discuss that later.

**Brock McMillian:**

I will comment on that Ken. I have a little insider knowledge there. So, two years ago, adult survival on that unit was 71% which is abysmal. Adult deer survival. And more than 50% of that was due to lions. About 70%. Last year, adult survival was 72%, still abysmal, this year it's at 91% right now. So, it appears, I mean we still have part of the year left but they've made it through the winter with relatively high survival suggesting that we are having an effect. I'm not advocating one way or the other but that's a more complete story of what's happening on the deer herd there.

**Danny Potts:**

It was never brought up really, but it seems to me that this last winter and spring as been indicated by Jason has been truly catastrophic in a lot of ways. Not just to bear but a lot of things and we'll probably find ourselves in a fire season again this year. My point is that I think that should give us pause and at least make us hesitate on moving ahead with things where we're not really sure what's going to happen in the near future. Even though it's a three-year period that we're looking at, I just always hedge on the side of caution rather than aggression.

**Ken Strong:**

I understand what you're saying but I still think I look at the projections that the division has and I believe what they are doing is correct. Our lion population continues to increase. So, I don't know that we're really worried about... I think they know what they're doing when they say this stuff and I'm not holding back on trying to be too cautious.

**Danny Potts:**

Right. My response to that is that there's a huge difference between four two-year-old toms and one six year old tom. Huge difference. That biologically also, probably one of the largest predators of cougar are cougar. So, that has some social value to the whole population. That's why I say I'm just a little bit cautious that way.

**Ben Lowder:**

I'm with Ken on this one. I'm not too concerned about an overharvest over three years. Again, not concerned. I'm looking back here at our graph. I was wrong on the 20 history but it's closer to 15 but our population is at an all time high as far as I can tell off of that graph. If over three years we overharvest as little bit, it's not going to decimate it and as Darren eluded to earlier, cats are very resilient in bouncing back. I'm going to reach back several years ago when Mr. John Bear was prior to his RAC experience and showed up to a meeting and was discussing elk and made the comment that if we kill too many we'll just grow more. I think that comment applies very much to this right here.

**Brock McMillian:**

Riley, I have a question. I didn't think that CWD was in Utah or Wasatch county. I thought it was along the South Manti and the La Sals and in extreme Northeastern Utah. I didn't think it was here.

**Riley Peck:**

We haven't found it yet in either one of those counties. I've been on the phone back there after that comment talking with our state vet and we have not. We've had a pretty extensive sampling

effort along all of those counties, not only with hunter harvest but with road kill and have sampled hundreds of animals over the last few years enough to detect 1% prevalence and we have not found it in those counties. Speaking to CWD a little bit. We've had the opportunity to collaborate with multi state and Canadian provinces on multiple CWD studies. It is a serious and interesting effort that's taken place. Utah right now has it in three or four spots at 1% prevalence. We were able to go to Colorado and have joined up in study with Colorado, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Alberta and a bunch of different states where they are seeing it at upwards of 25-28% in some places up to 45% prevalence. So, it is increasing in places. It is an interesting thought that we're working towards but as far as the data we collect towards 1% prevalence we've not seen it in those counties. San Pete county, towards Vernal, out towards the La Sal Mountains but not yet in Wasatch and Utah counties.

**John Ziegler:**

The CDC is very clear on the counties in Utah that are affected. It's a point (I can't make out what he's saying)

**Brock McMillian:**

Thank you. I'm actually helping write the CWD management plan and so, I've looked at all the literature that's out there related to wildlife populations and the number one effective thing for reducing CWD is having male biased harvest because it's twice as common in males as it is in females. If you have a male biased harvest that's significant it'll keep it between 1-3%. You can't get rid of it. So, that's what we're seeing. We already have a strong male biased harvest and we're key seeing it's been here 15-20 years now and it's still sitting at 1% in those units. I think you're right, it could go but their monitoring it. I know that Annette's monitoring it really close, the state vet.

**John Ziegler:**

We already know the (??) ... It shows a healthy predator population does help CWD in check.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, I've read some of that literature. Definitely, that is true for pursuing predators, it's not as true from ambush predators which is what cats are. They take what's available on the landscape much more than a pursuing predator. We don't have wolves here. I'm not arguing one way or another. I'm trying to give you what I understand too. So, the other comment I have is many of you said against the plan. I'm a little concerned about that. The state is mandated by law to manage to the management plan. So, to me a lot of the comments that where here should be going into the cougar management plan that's coming up in the next year because they are bound by law to manage to the plan that's on the books. Is that correct, Darren?

**Darren DeBlois:**

I'll speak to that for a minute. The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is actually currently revising the cougar management guidelines and that will take into account all the latest literature and research up to present. My goal would be once that is available, it looks like it ought to be available within the next year or so, that we ought to take a look at our plan and see if anything we need to incorporate from that new document in our plan. Timeline wise, that's probably what we're looking at.

**Danny Potts:**

Darren, don't go away. I really appreciate the one slide that you included demonstrating depredation costs. We need to do the exact same thing with cougar/people conflicts. We need to keep track of those numbers. See, the public, some of these people are referring to the public that isn't here. The public wants to see that stuff. It's the stuff on the TV set that they... they want to



know that the management plan is going to reduce their cat in the back yard being eaten by a cougar. I think if you add that slide and go back and get that information, I think that information is available. I think that would really help the public.

**Darren DeBlois:**

We have that and I probably can't quantify it but I can tell you that this region in particular was scrambling last year dispersing juvenile males showing up in urban areas. Catching them and moving them.

**Danny Potts:** Her and other peoples point. Yeah.

**Steve Lund:**

I too want to thank the DWR for all that they do and to assume that they are out of touch or disconnected with cougar population or the deer populations or with CWD is the height of arrogance. I think this group of professionals does a very, very good job. I think they are on top of their game and I think they understand very well what the biology is and also what the potential for CWD is out there. As far as cougars in the population in populated areas, down in San Pete County, we're not particularly populated but quite often we so appreciate the young female cougar that will come in and eat a whole bunch of cats. I'm just saying.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, from my notes the topics that were brought up repeatedly, that were consistent with the plan as I understand it were the South Manti. I heard a comment to not increase the Southeast Manti. I heard a comment to support the Southwest Manti. I heard a comment to increase the Southwest Manti back to where it was to 18. I also heard a comment from both the houndsmen and SFW to keep it a split unit. Does somebody want to address?

**Ken Strong:**

I'll make a motion on that. I'll make a motion that we leave the permits at 18 and that we take the Southwest Manti and leave it as a split unit.

**Brock McMillian:**

There's a motion. Ben Seconds. Any discussion on that?

**Ben Lowder:**

I'm sorry I misunderstood the motion. I need to withdraw my second. I thought the motion was to go with the divisions recommendation on numbers and make it a split.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, that was the compromise that some people talked about. It was to leave it split and leave the recommendation of 15 the same. So, you've withdrawn your second?

**Ben Lowder:**

I apologize. That's what I thought you were suggesting.

**Ken Strong:**

I understand that. I'm just concerned with the issue that we had last year and I'm not so sure we don't have it this year.

**Ben Lowder:**

I understand your concern there. I had the same concern coming in here tonight. After hearing Brock and Rusty speak to that, I'm more comfortable with the recommendation. But I do like the compromise of leaving it a split.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, there's still a motion on the table. Is there a second or not? Motion dies. I would be willing to consider another motion.

**Ben Lowder:**

I'll make the motion that we go with the compromise of the permits as recommended with the split season.

**Ken Strong:**

I'll second that.

**Brock McMillian:**

Ken seconds. Any discussion on that? So, the motion is the unit remains split, it doesn't go to a limited entry which is against the division recommendation but the tags remain the same as the recommendation at 15. Is that correct? All in favor? 8 to 1

**Danny Potts:**

I'd like to make the motion to support the Utah Houndsman Association to not support that two-tag increase on the Central Mountains in Southeast Manti.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, you're making a motion on Southeast to not increase by two but keep it the same. Is there a second for Danny's motion?

**Scott Jensen:**

This is in alignment with UHA's recommendation?

**Danny Potts:**

Yeah, that's why I'm making the motion. We've got to support somebody attending these RAC's.

**Brock McMillian:**

It appears the motion dies. The other one I have here is Oquirrh Stansbury East- eight tags is too many. Does anybody want to address that or not?

**Ken Strong:**

I think that with the loss we had with sheep, of course that was right at the first but being a new sheep unit, new herd, I think we need to leave the tags at eight. I would like to see the tags stay as the division proposed.

**Someone from the audience:**

That's not a unit. We don't have sheep on the East.

**Ben Lowder:**

That was my question. I'm not sure who should address that. Is East the Oquirrh's?

**Brock McMillian:**

The East is the Oquirrh's. Yeah, so East is the Oquirrh's so, that's on the East side of Tooele. There are not sheep. The other would be the Stansbury's where we have sheep. Is that correct?

**Ken Strong:**

Well I just see the Stansbury Oquirrh.

**Scott Jensen:**

So, which is the sheep unit?

**Brock McMillian:**

The West.

**Scott Jensen:**

Oquirrh Stansbury West?

**Brock McMillian:**

Yes.

**Scott Jensen:** Where does that fall on our sheet? Oh, up here 18b.

**Ben Lowder:**

Darren, how many tags were on the Oquirrh West? How many are you recommending?

**Cory:**

There's a recommendation for a four increase from four to eight.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Right. We did have some sheep mortality. We roomed a couple of lions. The plan will only allow up to 100% increase so, we're going from four to eight on the sheep unit. The Kenicott and the Oquirrh property, that's what Cory is talking about.

**Ben Lowder:**

So, you're recommending the maximum increase you can recommend?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Under the plan, right.

**Ben Lowder:**

SFW asked for more. And given the situation with the sheep on there...

**Scott Jensen:**

How much did we spend on transplanting 20 sheep out there?

**Ben Lowder:**

It's not cheap. I'm kind of leaning towards supporting SFW on that increase. I'm reading that the division went with the max recommendation they could. They can't recommend more than that. So, I'm not so sure if they could if they wouldn't recommend more.

**Brock McMillian:**

I'm kind of a fan of following the plans. It keeps us safe. That's a personal opinion.

**Eric Reid:**

Are we allowed to go outside what their plans are?

**Brock McMillian:**

We're allowed to make recommendations but it doesn't mean the wildlife board is going to accept it. But we can make recommendations.

**Ben Lowder:**

Ken, you originally started to address the Oquirrh Stansbury East but

**Ken Strong:**

It was meant to be the West.

**Ben Lowder:**

I would make the motion that we accept SFW's recommendation to increase to 12. The explanation of why is I'm concerned about the sheep out there. In a few months we've lost 25% of that herd. Sheep are expensive.

**Ken Strong:**

I'll second that Brock. On the same situation, when you lose 25% and the cost that we spent to get those sheep here, we can't afford to lose anymore.

**Brock McMillian:**

Any discussion with that? All in favor? Opposed? Passes 6 to 2. So, the motion is to increase the tags to 12 instead of eight on the Oquirrh Stansbury West. That motion passed 6 to 2.

**Jason Vernon:**

Who was opposed?

**Brock McMillian:**

It was Eric and Danny. OK excellent. The next one down my list of comments that I heard was to keep the Cache at 25 instead of 22. So, they proposed a decrease if three to 22 and somebody in the audience had commented to keep it at 25. The SFW I believe made that comment.

**Ken Strong:**

I think with the deer population that we have up there in the Cache, we need to keep it at 25. I would make a motion that we keep it at 25.

**Brock McMillian:**

Let me comment on that if I can. I should have been more prepared for this. So, I went and looked at the data because Steve Sorenson from up in the Cache called me about this issue. The population size of deer since 2013 has grown from 15,300 to 20,800. That's with two extraordinarily heavy winters in the midst there. They're currently at 83% of their objective so to go under predator management they have to be at 75% of objective.

**Darren Deblois:**

The population has to be declining.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, the population is increasing and it's above where it is at objective to fall under predator management. I'm not going to vote on this I'm just giving you more information on what's happening with the deer herd there.

**Ben Lowder:**

Brock, I appreciate that information. You've got a student with a study up there, right?

**Brock McMillian:**

That's correct.

**Ben Lowder:**

So, I know there's been a couple winters where we've heard that the fawns survival rate has just been horrendous up there.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, last year we lost 60% of the fawns. About 70% of that was to predation. Half of those were to lion. This year, it's not as high yet. We've lost like 35% of the fawns right now.

**Ben Lowder:**

So, I'm just trying to reconcile the low fawn survival with an increase in population.

**Someone from the audience:**

Last year was 0% fawn survival.

**Brock McMillian:**

That's true but it was 60% survival until winter got the last 40%. You're right it went to zero but a big chunk of that was winter, not lions.

**Someone from the audience:**

In the last four years it's averaged 27% fawn survival.

**Brock McMillian:**

That's correct because two of those years there was a complete winter kill.

**Ben Lowder:**

So, Brock you're a deer biologist, help me understand. Help me to reconcile this, fawn survival rate in the 20%'s and we're growing deer? Help me understand.

**Brock McMillian:**

That's the division's numbers. I pulled those off of the division's big game numbers.

**Ben Lowder:**

I'm not questioning the numbers. How is that happening? That's my question.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, it wasn't a consistent growth, Ben. What it shows is 15,000, 17,000, 19,000, 18,000, 17,000, 20,000. So, the winters do knock it down. And we've been able to show that when the population is below, predator control can enhance fawn survival and when the population is not in good shape it does nothing. But when the population is below carrying capacity it can have an effect.

**Scott Jensen:**

So, where are we now on that curve? Population curve?

**Brock McMillian:**

So, it's at 83% of the population objective. It's hard to say where we are on nutritional carrying capacity because last year was such a dry year. The deer were in poor shape last year. This year they are doing really well right now. Did you make a motion?

**Ken Strong:**

I made a motion that we keep it at 25 on the Cache instead of changing it to 22.

**Ben Lowder:**

Darren, can we bring up the recommendation on that? I want to see where we lie on the various components on that recommendation.

**Darren DeBlois:**

The Cache is not meeting the females on the harvest criteria. The only option in the plan, we want to stick with the plan, is to decrease permits. It doesn't say, "may decrease" it says, "decrease".

**Ben Lowder:**

And that's because we're over

**Darren DeBlois:**

It's not under predator management. It doesn't qualify.

**Ben Lowder:**

And we're over 40%?

**Scott Jensen:**

We've got 44% harvest with a 13% five years or older.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Right.

**Ben Lowder:**

I'm torn on this one because I realize I went outside of the plan on the Oquirrh's but I feel that's a special exception with the sheep.

**Brock McMillian:**

So, I believe Ken has a motion and it's hanging right now.

**Ben Lowder:**

I think it deserves a vote so, I second that.

**Brock McMillian:**

OK, any discussion? So, the motion is to keep the tags on the Cache unit at 25 rather than following the recommendation to reduce them to 23. All in favor? Opposed? Motion fails 5 to 3.

**Jenny:**

Who opposed? Danny, Scott, Eric and AJ opposed. OK.

**Brock McMillian:** Other comments were unsustainable harvest. Again, I think that's one that needs to be addressed in the cougar management plan. My personal opinion but if somebody wants to address that they can. That's all I have that's consistent with the plan. Is there any other comment?

**Ben Lowder:**

Motion to accept the balance is presented.

**Danny Potts:**

I'll second that.

**Brock McMillian:**

Ok. Motion to accept the balance of the recommendation. Any discussion? All in favor?  
Unanimous. That is all I have. I appreciate the comments and I strongly encourage people that were making recommendations to get involved in the cougar management plan next year as it's rewritten. That's what the state's bound by managing to and we try to support those plans. We go through a really strong public process to write those plans and we try to have every stakeholder in the room when those plans are being written and they really guide the decision we make. So, if there are things that aren't happening that you think should be, I encourage you to get involved with the creation of those management plans.

**Ben Lowder:**

Brock, question on that. I may be wrong but I thought this plan was a ten-year plan written in 2015. What am I missing?

**Brock McMillian:**

I think you're missing that WAFWA is coming out with guidelines all based on the latest science and if those are significantly different... I'll let Darren respond.

**Darren DeBlois:**

The only thing I'd add to that is that there is a five-year review period in there. So, 2020 would be the year but with this document, just hitting the street about the same time I'd like to see that hit the street first then take a look at it.

**Ben Lowder:**

Are you anticipating a rewrite of the plan?

**Darren DeBlois:**

So, we're part of the process. We're looking at the research chapter but I don't know yet. We'll see what the other chapters say and what happens there.

**Ben Lowder:**

OK, thanks Darren.

## **VOTING**

Motion was made by Ken Strong to make the SW Manti a split unit with 18 permits.

Seconded by: NONE

Motion failed due to lack of second

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to make the SW Manti a split unit with 15 permits

Seconded by Ken Strong

In favor: Ben Lowder, Scott Jensen, Danny Potts, Eric Reid, Steve Lund, Ken Strong,  
Paul Gauchay

Opposed: AJ Mower

Abstained:

Motion passed 7 to 1

Motion was made by Danny Potts to keep the permits the same as last year on the SE Manti  
Seconded by: NONE  
Motion failed due to lack of second

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the SFW's recommendation to increase permits on the Oquirrh-Stansbury West unit to twelve (12) instead of eight (8).  
Seconded by Ken Strong  
In favor: Ben Lowder, Scott Jensen, AJ Mower, Steve Lund, Ken Strong, Paul Gauchay  
Opposed: Danny Potts, Eric Reid  
Abstained:  
Motion passed 6 to 2

Motion was made by Ken Strong to keep permits on the Cache unit at 25 instead of going with the Division's recommendation of 23  
Seconded by Ben Lowder  
In favor: Ben Lowder, Ken Strong, Steve Lund  
Opposed: Danny Potts, Eric Reid, AJ Mower, Scott Jensen, Paul Gauchay  
Abstained:  
Motion failed 3 to 5

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the balance of the Division's recommendations  
Seconded by Danny Potts  
In favor: Ben Lowder, Danny Potts, Scott Jensen, AJ Mower, Steve Lund, Ken Strong, Eric Reid, Paul Gauchay  
Opposed:  
Abstained:  
Motion passed unanimously

**Brock McMillian:**

The other thing I'd like to say is I really appreciate everybody showing up tonight and commenting. I think it's nice that we get people coming that care about wildlife in the state. It's important to me and I'm sure it's important to everybody up here and the people that are sitting in the back of the room as well. So, thank you very much. Meeting adjourned.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:54 pm**

**In attendance: 26 public, 14 DWR employees, 9 RAC members 49 total**

**Next board meeting: August 21-22, 9:00 am, DNR boardroom, Salt Lake City**

**Next RAC meeting: September 3, 6:30 pm, Central Region Conference Room**



# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7-31-19

Name John Ziegler Phone Number 435-901-5662

Address 3255 MEADOWS DR PARK CITY, UTAH

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? #6 cougar Res

COMMENTS TO BE SPOKEN.

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

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 2-31-19

Name Chase Braxton Phone Number 435-671-2831

Address 1600 S. 3600 E Heber UT 84032

Who are you representing?  self  group Utah Trappers Ass.

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Bobcat Harvest Recommendations

COMMENTS The U.T.A. will support the loss of one Bobcat Permit and one week on the beginning of the season as per the Bobcat management Plan.

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

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name Garet Smith Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

6

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7/31/19

Name DEWISE PETERSON Phone Number 801-628-1211

Address 6818 S 1300 E, Apt 64, Cottonwood Heights, UT

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? 2019-20 COUGAR REC'S

COMMENTS I DO NOT SUPPORT THE PROPOSED  
OVERALL QUOTA INCREASE AS IT IS NOT IN  
LINE W/ THE BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE.

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

6

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7/31/19

Name Robert Olson Phone Number 435 469 0057

Address Milburn

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Cougar

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

6

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7-31-19

Name McCrue Christianesen Phone Number (435) 851-6492

Address 960 N 200 W

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? SW Manti Lion

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

6

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7-31-19

Name Andy Lyon Phone Number 435.856.1524

Address 725 N. 500 W, Madrid, UT

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Cougar

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

6

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7/31/19

Name Wade Garrett Phone Number 435-660-9292

Address 9865 S. State Sandy UT 84070

Who are you representing?  self  group Utah Farm Bureau

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Cougar Recommendations

COMMENTS Support Plan continue to work with Division  
on removing problem cats with my investment

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



COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7/31/2019

Name Sundays Hunt

Phone Number 801-~~5580~~ 455-8118

Address P.O. Box 17008 Holladay, UT-84117

Who are you representing?  self  group Humane Society of the United States

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Cougar

COMMENTS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

6

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7-31-2019

Name Kevin Norman Phone Number 435-770-5978

Address 8087 S Yous w Paradise UT 84328

Who are you representing?  self  group SFW

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? #6 Causes

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

# COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7/31/19

Name Cory Huntsman Phone Number 801-875-5367

Address 1786 Bryon Rd.

Who are you representing?  self  group Utah Huntsman Association

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Lion Recommendations

COMMENTS I'd like to speak representing the Hummel Assoc.

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\_\_\_\_\_

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

6

COMMENT FROM RAC MEETING

Date 7-31-19

Name Mgt Farnsworth Phone Number 801-404-7071

Address 668 n 100 w Santaquin UT

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

Would you like to address the RAC today?  yes  no

Which agenda topic? Lion

COMMENTS Manti Sw / Vernon

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

6

**Northern Regional Advisory Council  
July 30, 2019  
Brigham City Community Center  
Brigham City, Utah**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

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

**RAC Present**

Paul Chase- Forest Service  
David Earl- Agric.  
Junior Goring-Agric.  
Randy Hutchison-At Large  
Christopher Hoagstrom- Noncon.  
Emily Jensco- BLM  
Aaron Johnson\_ Sportsman  
Matt Klar- At Large  
Mike Laughter - Sportsman  
Kevin McLeod- At Large  
Justin Oliver- Chair  
Darren Parry- Shoshone Nation  
Casey Snider- Elected

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Justin Dolling  
Randy Wood  
Dave Rich  
Chad Wilson  
Jim Christensen  
David Beveridge  
Krystal Tucker  
Eric Anderson  
Darren Debloois

**Wildlife Board**

Byron Bateman  
Bret Selman

**RAC Excused**

Ryan Brown- At Large  
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.

**RAC Unexcused**

**Agenda:**

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
Approval of Agenda and May 15, 2019 Minutes  
Wildlife Board Update  
Regional Update  
Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020  
Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020

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

Justin Oliver- Chair

Agenda Approved

### **Item 2. Approval of May 15, 2019 Minutes**

-Justin Oliver- Chair

Minutes approved as circulated.

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

-Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Turkey transplant list- The board moved to accept the wild turkey transplant list as presented and was unanimous.

Collection importation and possession rule- The board moved to accept the rule amendments as presented which passed unanimously.

The board held elections for a new chair and vice chair. Byron Bateman is the new chair of the wildlife board and Kevin Albrict is the new vice chair.

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

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Law Enforcement- Fishing in the high Uinta's picking up along with violations. Focusing their effort in the high country area. AIS program is now under law enforcement and have an army of techs that check boats in the northern region. Sending some techs to Lake Powell on the weekends to be more proactive with stopping quagga mussels.

Habitat- Lop and scatter treatments on the Cache. Water developments in west Box Elder County for big horn sheep and guzzlers outside of the Park Valley area for chukars and big game.

Outreach- Interviewing for outreach specialist. Holding waterfowl clinic at the Farmington Bay education center in early August. Planning for field dressing clinic later in the year.

GSL program- Annual phragmites treatment starts August 12 through the first week in September. Banding ducks at night through the month of August. Plan to band Pelicans on Gunnison Island August 6th.

Wildlife- Finishing sheep and goat management plan. Rabbit counts in Box Elder and Rich county. Pre-season pronghorn classifications. Setting up trail camera's to see chukar usage on guzzlers.

Aquatics- Aerial stocking in the Uinta's this month. Andy Adams Reservoir in Kaysville has an aeration system installed. Division has started to pre-record the presentations and post on website.

### **Item 5. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020**

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Matt Klar- Could you go back to some of the graphs. Is that cycling on a 7-10 year cycle?

Darren DeBloois- Yes, I think the most telling one is probably the juveniles and the harvest. That would be an indication of reproduction and how much is going on. This corresponds with what we see in rabbit numbers.

Emily Jencso- For the kit fox, which is a BLM sensitive species, when was the last time DWR did monitoring?

Darren DeBloois- I don't know how to answer that. I'm not sure we have done much monitoring.

Emily Jencso- Other than on Dugway.

Darren DeBloois- Yes.

## Public Comment

Cody Bassett- Utah Trappers Association- Supports the bobcat management plan and the recommendations presented tonight.

Sierra Nelson-Utah Wool Growers Association- Supports recommendations by the division.

## RAC Comment

Emily Jencso- In regards to beaver, just want to note that the BLM has been partnering with DWR to manage habitat and the beaver dam analogues and we will defer to DWR for management of the populations, along with kit fox.

## Motion

**Motion-** Kevin McLeod- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020 as presented.

**Second-** Aaron Johnson

**Motion Passes-**Unanimous

## 6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020

- Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

## Public Questions

Sierra Nelson- With the GPS rule change, that is going to be on everything across the board? Or just the hunt ones?

Darren DeBloois- Right now, it is the ones we check in. We are working with wildlife service's on some of the other stuff.

Sierra Nelson- Thanks.

Calvin Duncan- Have you had the chance to pull DNA from each of these cats across the state when they are killed?

Darren DeBloois- We have done that in the past but don't do it right now.

Kenneth Duncan- Wondering if you have the ages of the cougars killed in East Canyon this year and last year?

Darren DeBloois- Yes, East Canyon 3 year average was 4.

Kenneth Duncan- You don't have a breakdown?

Darren DeBloois- I do, I can get it for you. Maybe I can look that up while we have other questions and comments.

Kevin Norman- Would you consider the Cache deer herd stable, declining or increasing?

Darren DeBloois- Maybe we ought to let Jim answer that.

Jim Christensen- The Cache deer herd is fluctuating. The purpose of the predator management plan, our deer survival is on a December to December basis. We are using 3 winters ago data. That was a good mild winter, then we had the bad winter 2 years ago and then a mild winter again. This past winter was another bad winter. With mild winters, we have really good survival and production. We increase following the bad winter, we grew almost 3-4,000 deer on the Cache unit. With this past winter, we are going to see a huge decline again but still have adult survival to calculate throughout the rest of this year to December. Overall, we are slightly trending down now but a good mild winter will shoot right back out. The Cache is very productive on a good mild winter. If we get good moisture through the summer this year, we should get good health assessments when we look at the deer in December. We should be seeing higher survival through this winter coming up.

Darren DeBloois- The Cache performs like a typical northern unit where you get these fluctuations over time because winters can be hard. To answer the earlier question, In the last 3 years on the East Canyon: 2017 the average age was 3.8, in 2018 the average age was 3.1 and in 2019 the average age was 4.0.

Dennis ?- Does the harshness of the winter affect the mountain lion kills? Does that go up or down with the winter?

Darren DeBloois- To the extent that lions are more accessible.

Dennis ?- Killing deer?

Darren DeBloois- I don't know that we have really good data. We know when they kill a collared animal. Jim, I know you had some lion kill on adult doe's. Do you have a feel for that on your collared deer?

Jim Christensen- With our collared deer, we usually end up with 2 or 3 collared deer killed by cougars every year. Same way with our fall survival study right now. We have collared 50 fawns this spring. Of 17 mortalities, only 2 were attributed to cougars.

Scott Rees- The lion that was collared and the range of area that she covered, is this typical?

Darren Debloois- No, we have about 13 lions right now and 2 have made these big movements. Most are staying fairly close. It is an anomaly. They are capable of those movements for whatever reason.

Scott Rees- We have a lion problem. We don't know if it is one of these wide range lions or local population?

Darren Debloois- Typically, you have this established local territory. Then you have these transients that are always wandering. If they can find a good place to be, they will set up shop. We have captured one transient ones and are also seeing those local lions. You are more likely to take the lion that is local because they are still going to be there if you are trying to address a problem.

Scott Rees- Is there a sex difference on who does the traveling?

Darren Debloois- Typically, the males are the ones who do. It is unusual to see a female do that but they certainly do.

Scott Rees- Do you have an information or data regarding the population of your furbearers in relation to the population of your cougars. I ask that because we have a lot of trail cameras where we use to see bobcats, now all we see are lions.

Darren Debloois- I think when we looked at the bobcat data, there has been a decline in that population. I don't think it is related to lions. I think it is primarily related to that underlying prey base. That is why we are recommending cuts to some of those permits.

Scott Rees- Are you cutting back the furbearers or increasing the lions?

Darren Debloois- We did a little bit of both. Some units we stayed the same and others we increased.

Mark Thompson- On the Cache, it seems there has been several more sightings by communities. In your study, do you take that into consideration?

Darren Debloois- Yes, absolutely. We take that into consideration. There was a bit of a spike in sightings this last winter. I think it had to do with the dense snow pack that we had. The lions will follow those deer down. The ones we had collared, did not really do that. They stayed on the mountain and made a living up there. The other pattern we see that show up in town tend to be those dispersing juveniles, mostly males. If we get called, we will come an investigate and try to remove that lion if it is a human safety concern.

Mark Thompson- Do you consider that an increase in numbers or decrease?

Darren Debloois- In terms of permits or in terms of lion numbers?

Mark Thompson- Lions.

Darren Debloois- It probably indicates a growing population when you have a lot of dispersing young showing up in places they don't typically show up. That is not the only thing you look at but certainly one thing including depredation. That is what we think has been happening over the last 5-8 years, that lion numbers have grown.

## **RAC Questions**

Aaron Johnson- The chronic depredation permits that are issued to ranchers, are those counted in the mortality data when you are adjusting the tag permits.

Darren Debloois- No. It is typically not a lot of animals and they are limited in geographic space. The intent there is that if there is a lion killing sheep, that is the lion we need to address. It is not an effort to do population level management. That is more on the sport side if we are concerned about overall numbers. Those are not factored into the percent females in harvest. The adjustment has to do with sport, the depredation side is more of a pragmatic way to solve problems and help producers with concerns.

Aaron Johnson- On the 3 year cycle that you proposed, I think we want it to match up with the bears. If we accept that recommendation and it goes to a 3 year cycle, would you change hunt strategies or would everything stay in the plan the same for 3 years.

Darren Debloois- The objective would be to stay the same unless there is some reason or concern. We feel like that is the best way to evaluate what is going on with the population.

Aaron Johnson- The proclamation numbers and hunt strategies would be the same for 3 years and take a look if it needed to be changed?

Darren Debloois- Yes.

Aaron Johnson- That would mirror the bears?

Darren Debloois- Yes.

Aaron Johnson- In the lion plan, it talks about that the division would explore ways to educate the public on the true effects of lions on deer. Is there any more information on that?

Darren Debloois- The literature, if you distilled it and go by rule of thumb, it indicates one adult deer per week. That varies a lot. We are all ready and are going to get some good information from these collared lions.

Aaron Johnson- The reason I ask is because I think there is a huge concern with sportsman and everyone with lions eating deer. What are these studies that we can say if it is one a week?



Darren Debloois- It has become the consensus based on different studies throughout the state. There is a lot of variance in that. You are talking about an average. We have a lot better data on our deer and elk now with these collared animals. We know what the primary cause of mortality is too. We are planning to marry up our predator populations with our prey populations and make those plans mesh. If predation is limiting, we can tell that from our mortality collared animals with a lot more precision than in the past.

Aaron Johnson- Are there any bounties on lions?

Darren Debloois- I think there might be some counties that offer it but I'm not sure.

Aaron Johnson- Is that legal?

Darren Debloois- As far as I know.

Aaron Johnson- To pay a bounty on a protected species?

Darren Debloois- As far as I know.

Aaron Johnson- I think we ought to check.

Darren Debloois- Yes, I can ask. I don't know for sure either. There is a rumor but I don't know for sure.

Aaron Johnson- The methods of taking lion, you have to kill it with a center fire rifle. Other than that, is the sky the limit? You can spot and stock or use hounds? Could you shoot one out of a helicopter?

Darren Debloois- No, all that is changing is the legal weapon type. It is not methods.

Aaron Johnson- Aerial gunning of a protected species is against the law?

Darren Debloois- Right.

Aaron Johnson- In all cases?

Darren Debloois- Yes.

Aaron Johnson- In the studies I have read and we have talked about, predator management is one of the least productive ways to regulate populations. Is that a fair statement? There are better ways like habitat management.

Darren Debloois- In order for predator management to be effective, there has to be room and resources for the prey population to grow. That is typically how it works. In order to put a predator management plan in place, we need to determine that is the case.

Aaron Johnson- Thank you for the GPS, that is something we argued over for years.

Randy Hutchison- You had two new hunts that you listed.

Darren Debloois- Chalk Creek and Kamas.

Randy Hutchison- Is that a single hunt that was split apart?

Darren Debloois- Yes.

Randy Hutchison- With the numbers you had on there for permits now, how is that compared to what was there before?

Darren Debloois- There were 12 total permits on that combined unit. The total for both units this year would be 20. That is primarily with focus on Chalk Creek and the concerns we have on that unit in particular. It is an increase from last year but within the plans parameters.

Randy Hutchison- A question came up about the health of the deer herd in Cache. What about the health of the lion population?

Darren Debloois- There are definitely lions there. The ones we have had our hands on are definitely healthy and making a living out there.

Junior Goring- Justification of the decrease of 3 permits on the Cache.

Darren Debloois- In order to maintain or increase permits, that unit would have to be meeting its management plan parameters and it is exceeding the females in the harvest. It currently does not qualify for predatory management. It is stable over time. The only option we had was to decrease permits according to the plan.

Junior Goring- Why are we relocating these cats that are caught in urban areas to small rural areas. Also, let alone the fact we are dumping in the middle of livestock operations. Why are we relocating to small rural areas?

Darren Debloois- We try to release them in a remote area and do take into consideration and what kind of livestock is in the area. We do not want to move a cat and make it a problem somewhere else.

Justin Oliver- One your slides, you showed the number of lions that were killed in certain units and in others you didn't. Is there a reason for that? Can you make those numbers available to the RAC so it is easier to make an informed decision.

Darren Debloois- We can do that in the future. If you are curious about a particular unit, I can pull that up.

Aaron Johnson- In years past, you have been able to go back and look at age class of lions and give us an estimate of a minimum lion population in a specific year. What would be your rough guess of minimum number of lions in the state?

Darren Debloois- That was the graph I showed with the deer numbers.

Aaron Johnson- If we have a lion that is 8 years old and was alive 8 years ago, it is a mathematic equation.

Darren Debloois- The graph I showed was based on a population reconstruction. If you take a lion on a unit that is 5 years old, you assume he was 4 years old and was on the unit the year before. Then you add him together with the lions that were 3 years old the year before. That gives you a base minimum. These are lions that come into our offices and know

they were alive and exist. You can only do that so far forward in time because you start running out of older age classes. It is always a couple of years old. The other thing we do is collapse that down so that anything that is 2 years old or older would be the estimate. It does not take into account natural mortality. It is all sport harvest or animals that are checked into us.

Aaron Johnson- It's a guess.

Darren Debloois- Yes, but the trend remains consistent.

Aaron Johnson- Do you remember what those numbers were?

Darren Debloois- This year, we are at about 2,500 two year olds and older in the state, absolute minimum.

Aaron Johnson- Do you have any idea what the deer population is? I know it is a rough guess.

Darren Debloois- It is about 375,000 roughly.

## Public Comment

Sierra Nelson- Utah Wool Growers Association- Thank the Division for the work done so far. Support recommendations of the division on this item. This relationship has been good and they have been listening to us. Would still like to see the numbers of harvest go up but appreciate what the division has been doing and would like to support them.

Tyler Farr- Utah Houndsmen Association- We do not support the 2 tag increase on the central mountains southeast Manti unit. We propose that the tag increases to zero and stays where it is now. UHA does not support the change from the split to limited entry on the central mountains southwest Manti unit. We support the 3 year review recommendation with the exception of the Oquirrh Stansbury East unit. We would like to see the numbers drop to 6 instead of 8. UHA is aware that the management plan would be reopen this year to predator management units. We ask to change the decision criteria in the plan for limited entry lion units only. These changes would include female percentage killed, dropped from 40 to 20% and the percentage of 5+ year old lions killed raised from 15-20% to 20-25% and only include toms on the age parameter. We support the rest of the plan.

Spencer Gibbons- Utah Farm Bureau- Farmers and ranchers are always struggling with wildlife/livestock conflict.

Appreciate efforts the division is making to mitigate losses. Increase in depredation fund and also part of this plan. We accept the recommendation this year. We support it and look forward to opportunities to work for you so there is plenty of opportunity for sportsmen but also livestock producers are protected and successful in their operations.

Jake Rees-Pass

Scott Rees- Pass

Necole Ontko- Curious if anyone has thought about introducing a sub-quota for females in the northern region to help decrease the number of females taken on the unit?

Darren Debloois- Currently in the plan, there is no provision for a sub-quota. We have done that in the past but that would be something we would have to address.

Justin Oliver- That is something that could be addressed when the plan comes around.

Kenneth Duncan- Want to thank the RAC for their decision last year on the East Canyon unit and backing what I brought up about leaving as it was as limited entry. Recommend we leave it at limited entry again this year.

Calvin Duncan- Thank everyone here. Recommend we study the cougar more and get more data.

Kevin Norman- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Support the divisions recommendations with the following exceptions: On the Cache, we do not support the reduction in permit numbers. We would rather see it kept at 25. On the Oquirrh Stansbury West, we recommend an increase to 15. The central mountains southwest Manti, we are recommending leaving it a split unit but also maintaining the permit numbers at 18. The central mountains southeast Manti, we are recommending increasing the permit numbers to 26.

Mark Thompson- Consider the public and the safety of the communities and maybe re-evaluate how many tags you are taking away or giving.

Devin Kunzler- Mr. Johnson eluded to the fact that all landowners make him a criminal by killing the cougars he came across. I am a landowner and that is not true. You are more than welcome to harvest a lion on my property at any time. All the chase permit does is torment them and make them smart and hard to kill. I think the chase permit is inhumane and ought to be eliminated. I think the numbers in the Raft River southwest desert area should stay the same. There is a lion problem and would like to see more killed.

Wyatt Selman- We run on the Box Elder desert, Cache unit and Ogden unit with our sheep. Everywhere we go, we have lion trouble. We have 20 confirmed losses since May. I support the plan this year. I always like to see tag numbers go up.

Casey Earl- I also run sheep on the Cache National Forest and in the last 3 weeks, I have had 6 documented confirmed lion kills with my sheep. With 6 or possibly 7 known lions in the small area there.

Jake Rees- I have to disagree with the Duncan's and the amount of lions we have been seeing. We saw 3 lions in the middle of the day. I saw 2 more two days later in the middle of the day. We have had fewer calves come home and whether they are correlated or not, I don't know. For our unit and our area, we do have a legitimate lion problem. I support the split for the East Canyon unit.

## **RAC Comment**

Paul Chase- We have specific recommendations from SFW, how many of those meet the management plan for cougars?

Darren Debloois- For the Minerals and Stansbury, those would be outside of the plan. Southwest Manti would fall under the biologist discretion category.

Mike Laughter- What about the Cache?

Darren Debloois- The only choice on the Cache is a decrease.

Junior Goring- Because of your collared lions, we know how many are in a given area because of 2 that have been killed and depredation. We know 7 lions are in a 5 mile radius in Logan canyon. How can we possibly justify a decrease in numbers? I don't see how that can be considered in the realm of his ability.

Darren Debloois- It might be helpful to think of this in two different ways. When we talk about permits and quota, that is sport harvest. When it comes to depredation, there is a lot of tools we have to help you guys out. We will do what we need to do to help with problems.

Junior Goring- I can't support a decrease.

Darren Debloois- I understand.

Randy Hutchison- Can the division recommend anything outside of the plan?

Darren Debloois- No, we need to stick to the plan. The RAC and board have some leeway, that is up to you. We are going to stick to the plan and do not feel like we should stray from it. Even if we think we would like to or if we think it is convenient, we need to stick with it.

Randy Hutchison- This plan goes through 2025?

Darren Debloois- Yes. We generally look at these every 5 years. We are looking at a review in the next year or so.

David Earl- When we talk about predation, all you tally is documented kills correct?

Darren Debloois- That is what we pay for, yes.

David Earl- Any idea what the total loss is above the documented kill?

Darren Debloois- That is a hard one. You know what you went on the mountain with and what you come home with and that is about it. There has been some studies in Wyoming. They are primarily looking at wolves and grizzly bears. Wyoming is taking that research and has made a guess at what the lost lions might be in other parts of the state. I think they are 3 to 1. That is the only state I am aware of that does a multiplier. It is tough for us. These are state funds and sportsmen dollars. It's tough to pay for stuff we can't confirm.

Emily Jensco- Of the 25 in the quota for the Cache, how many have actually been harvested over the last 3 years.

Darren Debloois- I think we have hit quota plus one. They are taking them every year.

Aaron Johnson- I think everyone on this board realizes I'm a houndsman. When the plan was written in 2015, at that time we were told that all lions would be counted in the mortality data. I specifically requested that because of the Wildlife Service's and accidental killings by trappers or roads. That could hurt or skew a population if you are only counting sport harvest. That is a concern of mine and I think it states in the plan that it should be counted. The recommendations Darren makes to us, the division has some leeway when they make some of those recommendations except when parameters call for a decrease and then the plan is very straightforward. Anytime the plan allows for an increase, it says "may". The division can do it and Darren explained that sometimes he has left that up to the biologist. To your comment, they can't deviate from the plan but there is some fluctuation where the biologist can recommend an increase in tags. I think they have done that through this cycle. Some have stayed the same and some didn't. I love the idea of having some limited entry areas. I'm on board with the 3 year plan and not changing anything but I think at least that East Canyon that we voted on last year should go back to limited entry instead of split. Regarding poaching, I don't want to go down this nasty, dirty road in public. I would be happy to set down with anyone to discuss. Aerial gunning is illegal but is happening. I have asked for years for fish and game to investigate lion poaching cases. If someone reports a felony and it is not investigated, they are decertified. 2,500 lions minimum, 52 deer a week, that is 130,000 deer. If they killed a deer a week, next year there would be no deer. We know the lions are not killing a deer a week because they are eating the sheep. The houndsman association are happy to help for free and use our members to help kill these depredating animals if the wildlife service officer can't help. Support moving back to limited entry. Support SFW and Houndsman recommendation to move Manti back to a split unit instead of limited entry. I do not support increasing the Cache, the plan does not support it. I do not support increasing 8 to 15.

Mike Laughter- If we voted one way last year and to come back a year later and accept the plan from the limited entry to harvest objective, I have a hard time agreeing with that. I don't think it has been given enough time to be seen through. We need to look at that 3 year average. Why do we go through the trouble of having the plan if we are going to keep changing it every year.

Kevin McLeod- I would really like to thank the division and the work they have done. I understand that they are locked into that plan. I still think there is some room for the RAC's to make recommendations or agree with some recommendations that may have been made.

## **Motion**

**Motion-** Kevin McLeod- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020 with the exception of East Canyon unit remain a limited entry and not go to a split. Recommend to leave the Cache Unit at 25 permits and accept the remainder of the plan as presented.

**Second-** David Earl

## **Discussion on the Motion**

Aaron Johnson- This motion is for the 2 changes and then the remainder of the plan or just the 2 changes?

Kevin McLeod- My motion was to accept the plan as presented with those recommendations.

Aaron Johnson- When we have these calendars for some of the more passionate groups of people that show up and there are several suggestions made, in the future I would like to see some smaller motions made so that we can hash out some of the motions by sportsmen groups or livestock/agriculture.

Justin Oliver- I respect that and I would agree with that.

Aaron Johnson- If the motion had a second, do we have to vote on it or not?

Justin Oliver- We will need to take a vote on that. We could also amend it.

Aaron Johnson- Only the Wildlife Board can re-vote.

Emily Jencso- In regards to the Cache, what I heard from the folks here is that it is from depredation of sheep. That is one of the reasons you would like it to maintain or increase. What I heard from the division is that the decrease is based on the plan, however, depredation can be dealt with in other ways. I don't support that motion when it comes to the Cache, I support the division.

Justin Oliver- As we vote, you can amend. Before we vote on it. If Aaron would like to make an amendment to Kevin's motion and then if he agrees to that and have a second on that, we can vote. I thought you brought up a valid point as far as other options.

Aaron Johnson- If someone on the RAC decides it is important enough because of discussion, to go over some of the points brought up by livestock owners and sportsmen groups. Then vote on some of those and then vote on the remainder of the plan.

Mike Laughter- I think that is valid but Emily has a good point. If we can address depredation issues with our agriculture people, then we could stick to the plan.

Aaron Johnson- That is a great point. Are we going to vote on it or amend it?

Emily Jencso- This is my first RAC meeting so I'm not exactly sure.

Matt Klar- It sounds like we are going to have to put the Cache part to bed. It does not sound like that motion is going to pass based on comments that have been made.

Justin Oliver- If you were to make an amendment. Kevin's motion was to accept the East Canyon and Cache and did have a second. Would your amendment be something other than those two items?

Aaron Johnson- Yes, both the sportsmen groups represented today with lions, talked about moving the central mountains southwest Manti to a split where the division was making it a limited entry. Both sportsmen groups supported that. I think that should be voted on.

Justin Dolling- You can amend the motion that way but need to amend it in a specific manner.

Matt Klar- Could I suggest amending the motion so we are just voting on the Cache first?

Justin Oliver- Cache and East Canyon?

Matt Klar- Just the Cache. If it is going to be a "no", then it will be a "no" for every single motion.

Aaron Johnson- That is cleaner to vote on these and put them to bed. There has been a motion and a second.

Justin Oliver- Kevin, would you be willing to withdraw your motion to accommodate this?

Kevin McLeod- I would be willing to amend the motion to include that Oquirrh mountain recommendation. It was suggested by both sportsmen groups. We can go back and vote on every one individually. I agree with giving study and reason to everyone's comment and what they would like. The comments I heard, for the most part, were just letting us kill

all the lions we can. That is not something we can really look at. We have a plan that we have all agreed to follow but I understand those requests. Those specific recommendations made such as the East Canyon, Oquirrh mountain and Cache, I think we can address those collectively or individually.

Emily Jencso- Would you amend it to just vote on the East Canyon and the plan and then do these other separately?

Kevin McLeod- That is fine. It sounds like the Cache is going to be probably more of a challenge than the other two.

### **Motion was withdrawn**

**Motion-** Kevin McLeod- Recommend East Canyon remain a limited entry unit.

**Second-** Aaron Johnson

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion-** Aaron Johnson- Recommend the Central Mountain Southwest Manti hunt strategy change to a split unit and not a limited entry unit.

**Second-** Matt Klar

### **Discussion on the Motion**

Aaron Johnson- The reason I made that motion is because both sportsmen groups supported that so it makes a lot of sense. By moving from split to limited entry, it should increase lion harvest.

**Motion Passes-** Unanimous

**Motion-** Kevin McLeod- Leave the permit numbers on the Cache Unit at 25.

**Second-** Junior Goring

**Motion Passes-** For: 7 Against: 6

Mike Laughter- The plan was put in place for 5 years. There was not the flexibility by the biologist to make that decision to do anything but decrease and I had to support the plan.

Emily Jencso- I agree with that and based on the division saying that there are other means in place in terms of depredation. I did hear the concerns of the producers.

Paul Chase- I agree with all that. With the winter last year, we had 100% fawn loss. Regardless if we had predation prior to that, we were going to lose those fawns anyways.

Randy Hutchison- Opposed based upon the plan and there are other ways to address predation problems.

Matt Klar- Same for me. In addition, we just approved this for 3 years even though they have been out of the management parameters for the prior three years.

Aaron Johnson- Repeat all that was said. The plan does not allow for it to stay at 25. The plan requires it to be dropped. Additionally, we had the biologist say that the collared deer, 17 fawns died and 2 were from lions. There is obviously something else killing them more, like coyotes.

Justin Oliver- Lets go with the Oquirrh. Does anyone remember what the divisions proposal was on that one?

Paul Chase- Increase from 4 to 8.

Aaron Johnson- The reason I did not make a motion is that they are increasing it 100% from 4 to 8. They are asking it to be increased up to 15, is that almost 300-400%. That does not fit within the plan. The plan allows for 100% increase.

Justin Oliver- That was SFW's.

Aaron Johnson- Someone said from 4 to 8 but I did not check that number.

Justin Oliver- There has been a sportsmen group that wanted to increase it to 15 so they would be increasing it 11 more tags correct?

Darren Debloois- We do have concerns about predation on sheep out there. We have had some losses to lions. We have taken some lions off the mountain. We increased it the maximum that we could. 100% is the most the plan will allow. We can't go beyond the plan.

Aaron Johnson- I'm not going to make a motion on the Oquirrh unless someone else on the RAC feels that needs to be made. It can fall amongst the other part of the presentation.

### **Motion**

**Motion-** Aaron Johnson- Recommend zero increase on permit numbers for the Central Mountain Southeast Manti unit.

Motion fails due to lack of a second.

**Motion-** Aaron Johnson- Accept the rest of the recommendations as presented  
**Second-**Christopher Hoagstrom

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

Aaron Johnson- The hounds association gave us a letter and had some things they wanted brought up in the lion. Do you have a copy of this letter?

Darren Debloois- I do and that is something we will look at when we re-visit the plan.

**Motion to adjourn**

**Meeting Ends- 8:33p.m.**

DRAFT

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING**  
**Sevier School District Office**  
**180 E. 600 N. Richfield, UT**  
**August 06, 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>
Brayden Richmond Tammy Pearson Craig Laub Chad Utley Nick Jorgensen Gene Boardman Sean Stewart Bart Battista Verland King Riley Roberts Sean Kelly	Kevin Bunnell Johnny Neil Phil Tuttle Denise Gilgen Darren Debloois Eric Bond Paul Washburn Greg Baird Teresa Griffin Jim Lamb Vance Mumford Mike Wardle Tyrell Orme Dave Smedley	Donnie Hunter Wade Heaton Kevin Albrecht	Austin Atkinson

Brayden Richmond called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 21 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Brayden Richmond introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Brayden Richmond explained RAC meeting procedures.

Welcome and Intro Appreciation

- **WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES- Brayden Richmond**

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

**Nick Jorgensen**

**Riley Roberts, second**

**Passed unanimously**

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE- Brayden Richmond**

Usually we have a little bit of information on these but this last Board meeting was fairly straightforward. It was on the turkey transplant list the CIP and what was the one other item on there? (I think that was it). And we didn't really have a lot of recommendations on that, the Board passed it as presented. So we'll just leave it at that for the Board meeting update. I'll turn it over to Kevin for the Regional update.

- **REGIONAL UPDATE - Kevin Bunnell**

Ok, thank you Brayden. I'd also like to welcome Bart and Chad and let you know a little bit of the process we went through to select the two of them and Austin. Riley and Brayden and I interviewed several people for each of the seats we had open with phone interviews. Austin Atkinson from Cedar City and Chad and Bart that are here made it a pretty easy choice for us in selecting them. You'll notice our RAC is a little bit smaller. We had five people leave and we only replaced them with three. Hopefully it's a little more manageable for setting up our venues for Phil and his crew and having enough microphones to go around and I think the public will still be well represented. Appreciate you guy's willingness to serve along with the other RAC members and look forward to getting to know you better and working through some issues. As far as the regional update. From our Aquatics section, if you've been up to Fish Lake recently in the past couple of weeks you'll notice there's a lot of heavy equipment rolling around up there. They started reconstructing the marinas up there. That will be a three to five year project and at the end of it Fish Lake will be a different place. The marinas will be much more user friendly for the boats that people are using now versus the boats that people were using 70 years ago when those marinas were first put in. In terms of being deeper, larger slips, easier to maneuver boats and just larger in general. We look forward to continue working with the Forest Service and our funding partners on that. Our aquatics section is also working on developing, in coordination with the outreach section and Phils crew, a stream fishing video. We have some fabulous stream fishing in southern Utah that goes very underutilized. They are trying to drum up some attention there and make people more aware of that resource. The aquatics filled a net of the Kokanee at Fish Lake today, I haven't had a chance to get a report back. Jim how did it go?

Jim Lamb: Great. The populations and fish are in awesome shape.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Okay, and you'll remember it's about three years ago that we first put Kokanee into Fish Lake as a new resource there and that seems to be working very well. Another bit of kind of exciting news. With our surveys of lakes on the Boulder Mountain this year we had less winter kill than we expected. Particularly given the heavy winter. I think that I've mentioned before that we've been doing some experimentation on some of the lakes on the Boulder by putting some aerators in that are solar powered, they run through the winter and keep some oxygen levels better in some of those lakes. It's too early to say that that's completely making the difference but certainly the data we have right now



is promising. If we can over winter some of those lakes on the Boulder, they are so productive they grow big fish in a hurry, if we could just help them survive the winter. We'll keep working on that, and that's exciting. From our wildlife section, I mentioned in our last meeting that we were interviewing a new biologist for our Panguitch district, Mike Wardle. Mike do you want to stand up? A lot of you will recognize Mike, he was in the region prior to a couple of years ago and then he went up to Salt Lake and he was serving as the Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator and he came to his senses and came back down to southern Utah and is now our biologist in Panguitch. We've been having a few bear conflicts across the region. We've had a couple of bears that have actually been killed by the public in conflicts and one that we've had to remove, then some others that we've had to deal with. Any chance that you get to remind people about keeping campgrounds clean and those sorts of things makes our lives easier when it comes to dealing with bears. The biologist right now are in the middle of their elk classifications. They are probably pretty close to wrapping that up but that's what's been keeping the biologist busy lately. In our habitat section the funding decisions are out for WRI for the next year. Within the southern region we have 69,000 acres and about 4.5 million dollars worth of projects that are approved to be done within the next about eight to ten months. Our habitat section along with our partners in the Forest Service and the BLM are extremely successful about going after that money. We typically get about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the money that is allocated throughout the state and do somewhere between  $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$  of the acres treated and that's no different this year. Law Enforcement we also have some new faces there. I think Greg Baird is here, Greg would you stand up? Greg is our new officer in Millard County. You'll see he has a couple of babysitters here with him tonight and he'll continue with somebody at his shoulder for the next little while. We also have a new officer in Beaver County, Jeremy Butler and a new officer in Kane County, Thomas Six and they're both in the middle of their field training part of their training right now. AIS or all the quagga mussels issues kept us very busy with our law enforcement issues this year. There's a lot of news articles that have been written on that. What was happening this year was as the water in Lake Powell came up, it came up about 40 feet higher than it was last year. You had all those essentially dead muscels as the water came up they came out into the channel and every boat that was coming off of Lake Powell, specifically at Antelope Point, was covered in shells. We have no way to tell at that point if they are alive or dead so we have to treat everything as if it's alive. That really slowed things down and created a tremendous amount of work at Lake Powell. That problem seems to have mitigated itself and we're kind of back at normal business but there was a three or four week period there when we weren't sure if we were going to survive the summer but that's abated. Our outreach section, many of you know Heather Talley, she has left. She has gone the opposite of what Mike did and she has accepted a job in the Salt Lake office as our new upland game coordinator. We'd like to congratulate her. A really busy time of year with dedicated hunters. We have more and more dedicated hunters every year and this is the time when they are looking for hours so they can get their tags so that's been keeping them very busy. The outreach section also did a field dressing clinic that went very well and a lot of partners that helped there. Then just another two more notes on from our admin services folks, any bull elk permits this year sold out in 11 days. It wasn't very long ago when you could buy one of those permits up to the week before the hunt started, probably three years ago that was possible. This year they sold out in 11 days. Just another example of the demand that's out there for people to go hunting. There are about 7,500 spike permits left. If you are wanting to hunt elk this fall that is your opportunity. That's all I have Mr. Chairman unless we have questions.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you. We'll turn it over to Darren to present on the bobcat harvest recommendations.

- **Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020-** Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See Slideshow

### Questions from the RAC:

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Darren. So just a reminder to everybody we'll do questions from the RAC then we'll do questions from the public, and that will be just questions. Then we'll go into comments. If you have any comment cards please hand those in and we'll bring them up front. In order to make a comment we'll need a comment card filled out. Questions from the RAC?

**Nick Jorgensen:** Darren I appreciate your presentation and the only question I have is from curiosity more than anything. You talked about the proportion of females in the harvest and the number is too high. What actual number does that represent, I figure in the percentage you'd have to know the number harvested right?

**Darren DeBloois:** Right, yeah every bobcat that is harvested in the state has to be checked by us, so we see every animal. So these are numbers that come into our office and we check. Does that answer your question?

**Nick Jorgensen:** I just wondered the actual number was.

**Darren DeBloois:** Oh, the total harvest? I can look that up. Hold on.

**Nick Jorgensen:** I was just curious.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any other questions from the RAC?

**Tammy Pearson:** This is just a question coming from a range person. Is this also in sync with the drought and that too? Obviously everything that we do is involved with wildlife or livestock or whatever and you know dependant on the weather.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, the weather drives a lot of this. It's weather but it's based on prey. So the drought effects rabbit numbers or prey numbers and you'll see bobcat numbers fluctuate. The total last year Nick was 1,652 total bobcats taken. So the long term average since the early 90's is about 1,700. So it's below the average.

**Bart Battista:** So pardon the ignorance. In reviewing the management plan kind of a quick overview of it and it says that populations were going through some studies that are pretty old. So when we look at the tumetrics one is adult survivorship, I mean if those are trend data from 30 years ago, how do we...

**Darren DeBloois:** It's based on the harvest each year and it's by square analysis. So you're looking at your expected population compared to what you actually see and that's how that is calculated. So the calculation is up to date but these plans we always plan on looking at them if there are some things that need some tweaking then we would. So that's how that is calculated.

**Bart Battista:** Okay, right, so it's an analysis using old data as your initial starting point. Is there any plan ever to do a statewide census or survey?

**Darren DeBlois:** Right, yeah we don't have any concrete plans but I think it would serve us well to look at. You know bobcats are hard to count so these metrics are sort of a way to get numbers with the numbers that we have. But there has been some interest with the trappers association to look at having maybe USU or one of the university's do one. With some of the new technology they could probably do some camera trapping. See if we can get some of the other methodologies and we'd be interested in looking at that, yeah.

**Bart Battista:** Thank you

**Chad Utley:** I just have a question on this as I look at some of these charts they kind of zig zag up and down over time and is that the result of this management plan? If you put similar proposals in place before and they've gone up?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, yeah, they do. I think largely bobcat population just kind of fluctuates and this harvest even though it seems like a lot is a relatively low number of animals compared to the number there on the landscape. But we have had fewer numbers in the past and I think as recently as five years ago, Kevin might know, I think it was like three per person, so we have been quite a bit lower than we are now and this plan actually raised the threshold for a lot of people to have more tags with the understanding that we would be sensitive to those swings and try to reduce when we needed to.

**Kevin Bunnell:** May I Darren?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, absolutely.

**Kevin Bunnell:** So, I think it would be an error to think that our management is driving those populations. The management plan is set up so when we have these natural fluctuations and it's in a downward trend that we don't drive it deeper than it would anyway. So we back off allow the natural process to take place and allow it to start swinging upwards. On the upper end we're just, there's plenty of opportunities and we're trying to allow the opportunity. When we're in a downward trend like we are right now by us backing off we're probably not influencing that population in any other way than not driving it lower than it was going to go just as it follows the rabbit populations. Does that help Chad?

**Chad Utley:** Thanks a lot.

**Darren DeBlois:** Thanks Kevin.

**Brayden Richmond:** If there's no other questions let's entertain questions from the public.

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

**Darren Green:** I've noticed and I've trapped most all my life and the last five years I've found more coyotes, cougars, and bear in the same area in where I'm trapping my bobcats. My bobcat numbers have dropped almost 40%. I've put a lot of time in, I'm on that mountain 48 hours every week. I'm finding from the top of our Arsenic Canyon to the bottom that this roller coaster has really magnified itself

where there is a heavy coyote population and lions the bobcat population is down. On the chain of food-fox, bobcat, coyote, lion, bear and wolf. And you can run that pretty well wherever we're at. Thank you gentlemen for your time.

**Brayden Richmond:** Do you have a question?

**Darren Green:** Yeah, the question is, I've trapped with three permits, I've trapped with five permits, I've trapped with open permits back in the 60's and the thing I see that we have problems with and the only thing I can see is to rectify that problem is to put a cap on the permits. Because family members, like I've trained my kids to trap, every trapper has someone that they've helped learn how to trap. We've got more trappers, they're spending more money for six tags and normally if they get three, maybe four they've had a good season. So we're taking the same amount of cats, we're putting more money out but when we capped it with three tags everybody thought that was a hardship but I think that was one way that we stabilized our bobcat population, that would be one way. And to put a bigger bounty on coyotes. Thank you gentlemen.

**Brayden Richmond:** Okay, just a reminder, this is a questions. Do we have any questions from the public? We'll do comments after the questions.

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

**Ronnie Hunt:** Okay, thank you. I'm Ronnie Hunt I represent the Utah Trappers Association. I'm the president. We're on board with the bobcat management plan. We support the data that has been presented here this evening and we support the proposed recommendations as presented by Darren. Thank you.

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Ronnie. Ok J.J. Brewer.

**J.J. Brewer:** Uh, J.J. Brewer, just representing myself. Previously asked for a houndsmen furbearer license if that could be something we could look into, if that was a possibility. Somebody that was not interested in trapping but using their hounds to pursue bobcats. We talked about that last year, I'm curious if anything came of that?

**Darren DeBlois:** You can pursue bobcats with hounds.

**J.J. Brewer:** But I'd have to take a trapping class first. So my question from last year was would it be possible to come up with a furbearer license for houndsmen that don't take a trapping course where I will essentially never trap.

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, this is a good time to talk about that because it's something that would have to go through the legislature. Let's get together and talk about it.

**J.J. Brewer:** Great. Thank you

#### **Comments from the RAC:**

**Brayden Richmond:** Darren could you clarify for me, you said that would have to go through

legislature. That is something we would need to make a recommendation in here right?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, any new permits or fee changes that all has to be approved through the legislature.

**Brayden Richmond:** I do remember that comment from last year but I don't recall any action taking place on it and maybe that's why.

**Darren DeBloois:** I can sit down with the houndsmen and see if there is something we can work out. It makes sense that if they're not using traps then they probably don't need to take trappers education. I'd rather sit down and try to have a discussion rather than try to figure it out tonight.

**Brayden Richmond:** Great, thank you.

**RAC discussion and vote:**

**Verland King:** Okay, did I hear you right? You said they harvested 1,652?

**Darren DeBloois:** That's correct, yeah.

**Verland King:** And you put a cap on the permits for this year at 6,460?

**Darren DeBloois:** Right. Which is 80% of last year.

**Verland King:** And so you're not even harvesting 25% of what you're selling tags for. How much does a tag cost?

**Darren DeBloois:** \$15 a piece.

**Verland King:** Pretty lucrative deal there. That's all I've got.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Verland, you also got to remember that the bobcats pelts get sold for about \$400 a piece. So I would say they are getting a pretty good deal too at times.

**Brayden Richmond:** If there's no other comments we can entertain a motion.

**Brayden Richmond:** You can make an amendment to the motion, or make a comment afterwards.

**MOTION to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020 as presented.**

**Tammy Pearson**

**Verland King, second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Brayden Richmond:** Ok thank you. Bart you had an additional comment there.

**Bart Battista:** My comment is we are using old data to extrapolate a current population and I think we may want to look into doing a new survey with USU or somebody to get a new population data.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Do you want to comment on that, and then I will as well Darren.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, I'm open into looking into working with the university on something like that. Again, the data is current but we don't manage based on a population estimate. But anything we can learn about these animals really helps us in the long run, so I'm open to that.

**Kevin Bunnell:** And Bart, we are always open to research that's why we got into this profession, we enjoy it. The plan is set up to detect trends rather than a population and what's driving those trends. Even though that data is collected back in the mid-early 90's. What's driving those trends probably hasn't changed. So we feel pretty good and confident whether we're able to detect if the population is going up or down and that's about as sensitive as we can get with bobcats unfortunately because of their nature.

**Brayden Richmond:** Okay, Darren we'll turn the time back over to you for the cougar recommendations.

**Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020-** Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See Slideshow

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

**Brayden Richmond:** Thanks Darren that was a really good presentation. I think you had it well organized. Questions for the RAC. Before I turn it over to that we only have one comment card right now. We have quite a few people here. I'd hope you'd take the opportunity to comment if you're here. I think you came to have opinions. I'd like to encourage you to get your comment cards in. I'll turn it over to the RAC for questions. I'm glad to see there are some cards popping up.

**Brayden Richmond:** Go ahead Tammy.

**Tammy Pearson:** I've got questions. So some of your numbers obviously have increased and that's apart of your recommendations. My question is have you, of course because of social media and the news or whatever, you see a lot of that in the news on the urban interface. Are you having an increase of that or is it more...

**Darren DeBloois:** We had quite an increase in the central region over the winter and they are primarily yearling males dispersing. They really scrambled this winter to handle lions turning up in town. That was an unusual.. we ran the numbers. It's not historically more than usual but it was a high year for that kind of thing. Kevin may...

**Kevin Bunnell:** We have really good lions in the southern region Tammy. We had a young one show up in somebody's yard in Cedar City, so we were scrambling. It was a hard place to try to do anything

with because of fences and yards and dogs. So that lion took care of itself and was hit on I-15 the following night.

**Tammy Pearson:** You made him suicidal?

**Kevin Bunnell:** He took care of himself.

**Darren DeBloois:** So to answer your question it seems like yeah overall we've definitely seen more of that.

**Verland King:** On the depredation permits you can give out. How many have you been giving out? Is that something that's taken advantage of quite a bit or..?

**Darren DeBloois:** It depends on the region. Some producers use that quite a bit, others haven't, but it's an option. So if producers want to do that they just need to get with their local biologists. Again, it needs to be chronic. We'll usually limit it. What we want to do is catch the animal that is causing the damage so we will try to focus on an area. They can contact their biologist and work through that.

**Verland King:** Okay.

**Brayden Richmond:** Bart, go ahead.

**Bart Battista:** So, I understand the management plan says that to facilitate or help mule deer populations, cougar management/predator management is a method. But it also says that it's a very minor act. The bigger act is survivorship, habitat quality things like that. So when do you ramp this up or when do you ramp up habitat management?

**Darren DeBloois:** Right, there's a certain criteria. So we look at where the population is in relation to its population objective. We also look at adult survivorship. At the time when the plan was written we.. let me put it this way.. We've actually gotten a lot more data from our collars on our big game than we had at the time so that group was trying to figure out a way to get to that. When is predator management going to be a way to be effective and at times it's not. You need to figure out what is limiting your population and that is what we ask our biologist to do. They have the advantage on a lot of units of having cause specific mortality data and so the plan runs through 2025 but with a five year evaluation period, so it's actually timely, we probably want to start looking at some of that stuff. We have seen on some units deer that are in good body condition entering the winter with low over winter mortality, and high specific adult mortality. Those types of units I would probably argue more for a predator management strategy. Big horn are a little bit different situation. But for deer, you're right, the literature shows a lot of times, especially for a winter time limited population that predator management is probably not going to be panasy as far as growing a herd. It can suppress a herd. So I'm really excited about all this cause specific stuff. I think we'll be able to tweak how we determine whether predator management will be effective using that data. So we're looking at that.

**Bart Battista:** Alright thanks.

**Brayden Richmond:** Craig.

**Craig Laub:** Ah, my question is on pursuit permits. If you buy one, you can pretty much go on any of the units whether its split, or harvest, or whatever. Any thought of maybe changing that? And the reason I ask is because the houndsmen I've talked to, sometimes it gets a little crowded in some areas.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, we haven't had much discussion on that but we, with regards to lion. On some units we've had some concern on numbers with regards to bear hunting primarily in the spring. We're always open to conversations but we haven't had a lot of discussion about it, at least I haven't. It could have happened in the past, but I'm not aware of it.

**Brayden Richmond:** Darren, I have a question on the predator management areas what's our sideburns on the increases we can do on cougar permits. My question really permits to the Stansbury. My understanding is those cougars are significantly impacting those sheep, so we are doubling those tags. Is that the limit?

**Darren DeBloois:** The limit in the plan under predator management the maximum you can increase in a year is 100%, we have increased it the maximum.

**Brayden Richmond:** That's interesting I'm surprised we have a limit on predator management.

**Bart Battista:** Uh, I think I might have missed it. So in the areas where we are increasing it, your recommendations for this three year plan. So will those increases be effective the whole three years or just for this year?

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, we would set it where it is for this year, if the Board approves it and the objective would be to remain there for three years. Look at the last three years and make adjustments accordingly, then make adjustments for the next three years. So again with managing these types of animals being really schizophrenic about how we adjust permits we may be counter productive. We feel like biologically it makes more sense to take it in three year chunks.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any other questions from the RAC?

**Riley Roberts:** So bear with me, there will be a question at the end of this. So I've had a, first, the video was amazing and the presentation a lot of amazing information there. I've been contacted, obviously I live on the Paunsaugunt, I've been contacted by quite a few individuals down there. I know that we just changed to the split this last year and there was a lot of concern, to be honest I didn't quite understand it until we saw the harvest, there was only one lion that was harvested in that. So living right there I can totally understand. Especially changing the split, the whole motivation behind that was to increase harvest and there's quite a bit of pressure now to change that back and I know that they've contacted the houndsmen and sportsmen and I'm getting this. The question is if that proposal was made from the RAC tonight to change that back would that be supported by the Division?

**Darren DeBloois:** Let me tell you why we did it the way we did it, or do you know Riley?

**Riley Roberts:** I do know why we did it that way and again I understand that a lot of what we deal with is social, a lot of what we deal with is biology so obviously this one is somewhere in the middle because we have a low harvest. We don't even have any numbers because the harvest was so low. It's hard to get any projections on anything. So coming from the sportsmen side with the information that's coming I



mean I am inclined to support them and say yeah we want to do that, the question would be, would the Division support that?

**Darren DeBlois:** Let me say, we have already had two RACs and it didn't come up. I wouldn't say that we would oppose that. I think the hunt strategy is largely social just for the members. The reason that we proposed the split is because we've constantly had low cougar harvest on the Paunsaugunt. We have mule deer concerns down there. With the harvest objective it's open to anybody that wants to hunt, which is probably why the houndsmen would like to see it go back to that. It also doesn't require a person to draw a permit. So if someone knew how to hunt that unit they could hunt it year after year. The reason we recommended the split is because that first part of the season would be limited entry and a person would have that only option, if they drew that tag they'd have to hunt the Paunsaugunt in the winter, most of the winter, until February. That's been in place for one year. Our hope was that we would see an increase of harvest we haven't in the first year. So I'll let the region speak to this, but my preference would be to let it play out a little bit longer and see if that strategy works. But again if the RAC wanted to recommend harvest objective that's something we could live with. Logically it certainly isn't concerning.

**Mike Wardle:** Just to echo what Darren said, the main reason why we decided to keep it with a split unit was one year isn't too great of a sample. I don't want to get six years down the road and we're still having low harvest with harvest objective and think what if we tried a split unit again, we only tried it for one year last time maybe we just didn't give it enough time. So my recommendation would be to keep it at that split unit, give it a chance, and see if we do see increased harvest or not.

**Brayden Richmond:** Go ahead Bart.

**Bart Battista:** I have had some constituents reach out to me with pressing concerns. As I'm a non consumptive rep I get concerns voiced to me. One of them was about if you increase the larger take for toms and that can create some social havoc among the younger ones and they get impatient as they try to figure out what their range is. How would you manage that because it seems like you'd have to go through more wildlife services.

**Darren DeBlois:** The plan is written in a way to try to address that concern; that is with that age objective. So you know unless it's being managed to try and lower the population then we're looking at having a low number of females taken and maintaining enough older age animals in the area to try to prevent some of that. My understanding in the literature is that there have been some studies out of Washington that do show a correlation between increased take of older age males and increased depredation in the following year. It's correlation, so I just caution people that correlation is not causation. I'm not aware, maybe Kevin if you are tell me, but I'm not aware of anything where they've been able to make that hard tie between social chaos and increased; it's a theory based on what we know about cougar biology that was put forth based on those results. It makes a certain amount of sense biologically that if you have younger males tend to set up larger territories that overlap whereas bigger males are more dominant and they tend to set up smaller territories and keep other males out. But making that tie to a hard  $a+b=c$  is as far as I know not been established.

**Bart Battista:** Okay, and the other question that they had is actually more of a hunters question. The increased takes concern was is this just to.. are we going to keep those additional permits within the state or are they going to go? Because he thinks that's something where it should be more of a go to Utah

hunters than go to big game operations.

**Darren DeBloois:** Um, for limited entry hunts there's a 10% split but for the harvest objective anybody can buy those. That's probably a discussion for future plan discussions. I know there is some interest in looking at that.

**Bart Battista:** Okay.

**Kevin Bunnell:** I don't remember with harvest objective, is the non resident price higher? (It's higher) So they pay a higher price for a harvest objective tag. Then on the limited entry it's 90% residents, 10% non-residents. So there is some balance there, but we're not setting any percentages.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any other questions from the RAC? Ok let's turn to questions from the public and then we'll go to comments from the public.

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

**Scott Stubbs:** Scott Stubbs, Stubbs Livestock. Do you have any data on these GPS collars on the depredation on those.

**Darren DeBloois:** Yeah, so this is the first summer, we have a couple of collared lions on the Cache that they've been taken some sheep. So we're working with those producers up there. They are interested in looking at how many we detect that they don't detect. So we've been working with Wildlife Services and producers to see if we can start looking at that. It's a little sample size and my understanding is the wool growers are looking into something more rigorous.

**Scott Stubbs:** So how many to date have been taken? The sheep went on the 10th of July. I mean I know these answers but..

**Darren DeBloois:** I don't know if I'm totally up to date. My understanding is the two collared ones had, I think one has taken eight so far, she's got a couple of kittens with her. The other one I want to say six or seven. It's on going obviously.

**Scott Stubbs:** IAnd yet there's four bunches of sheep within five miles, a guy in the past few days has lost 11, not one of them being a collared. Yeah, there pretty close, that's my point.

**Darren DeBloois:** They took one tom a few weeks ago. They took a female with a yearling just a few days ago, so over the weekend. They've taken some lions and they aren't numbered ones.

**Scott Stubbs:** So, do you have some numbers on how many.. what it looks like from our perspective is if they kill one that we find they probably killed two more. Do you have any numbers on your...

**Darren DeBloois:** That's what we are looking at, so I keep looking at Chad because they are working with those guys. I want to say.. well, maybe you can answer Chad. Do you know how many you guys have detected that herders have found compared to those collared? Do you have that number?

**Chad Utley:** Not off the top of my head, I know that the female with the yearling that was taken recently was up to....

**Darren DeBlois:** So you have to look at the ones with collars on it. My understanding is that the ones that the herders found that one of the collared cats took I want to say a couple and these others, the balance was found by the researcher she went and looked at the kill site.

**Scott Stubbs:** Thank you.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any other questions from the public?

**Jared Higgins:** I'm Jared Higgins, I'm representing myself. I have a question. You're management plan is based off of age, 50% of the plan, is the correct?

**Darren DeBlois:** The most important metric is that females in the harvest. Depending on when you fall within the unit, then you would look at age secondarily. That's the second criteria of the plan.

**Jared Higgins:** So, how are we obtaining those ages?

**Darren DeBlois:** We pull teeth, then the teeth are sliced by a lab and died and then we count the rings.

**Jared Higgins:** Okay, and of those teeth, how many of those are undeterminable for that data?

**Darren DeBlois:** I don't have a figure on that.

**Jared Higgins:** Someone threw a figure out to me that it was about 50% undetermined on that. (No, it's not that high.) So that was concerning to me and I was wondering if there were any steps to be taken to find some better way of aging these cats. I've had some personal experiences with some cats that I've checked in that they were old, old cats and they've come back as a two year old cat. Most of your data...

**Darren DeBlois:** Most of them will get an age. There's some maybe, I don't want to pull numbers out of my hat, but a small percentage they'll give you a window between say 3-5 for example. And there's a smaller number where they just can't tell. It's because they are predators. They don't have that lean time like angulates do and so sometimes those rings don't show up as good as they would with a deer or something.

**Jared Higgins:** So are there any other ways that we could pursue into aging these better?

**Darren DeBlois:** That's the best, I mean I'm open to ideas, but that's really the best way to get at it.

**Jared Higgins:** Okay, thank you.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any more questions? Ok we'll go to the comment cards.

**Comments from the Public:**

**Wade Garrett:** Wade Garrett representing Utah Farm Bureau. I saw a wolf collar similar to your cat Darren, only he did 80 miles down I-80 and then he did a stop in Denver, I don't know the whole story behind that. (laughs) So my comment is, I represent UFB and we support the plan. Darren and I have met with some of our other folks with the UFB and we are looking at ways to take care of depredating cats that are getting to our sheep herds. Mostly sheep, some cattle, but majorly sheep, and are looking at ways to control those. We've talked about some ways in the summer, maybe getting creative as we go forward but probably aren't in a place to discuss tonight. But take care of those cats. One of our concerns, and not to place blame and Chad is here, but we have had more cat killing, less being taken by Wildlife Services. We need to do something about the cats that have killed, so being creative working with the houndsmen that maybe can come in going into November to chase a cat we haven't caught yet. Doing early and late work, which I think some of that is already used at discretion and we can use but those would be my comments, to make sure we're taking care of cats that are killing livestock. Then the second is to work on that study, I think UFB would even be willing to help with the percentage of what we're not finding and make ways to show we're confirming kills and that we're working with all the agencies. So that would be my comment.

**Brayden Richmond:** After Scott we have Dustin Clark.

**Scott Stubbs:** Scott Stubbs, Stubbs Livestock. So this study that's going on, this came up at the Wool Growers Convention yesterday, and the Growers all voted trying to come up with money hoping that maybe the UFB will participate, hoping maybe the SFW and some other things will. Make sure and pay those producers because those producers said we want this study to be successful. Because they can kill those collard cats, they know where they are, even I could find them. Anyway I admire those producers trying to help figure these things out because we want there to be hunting. But we don't like them killing us. So we would like to know how to take care of the problem and we feel like these things will grow into something more. They're putting together money to try to find one for every one they don't find. And by the way when you have a cat kill you don't necessarily have time to get animal damage there and everything. We're not getting them reported, even when we've found them. They're too old, it's hard to tell what's happened. Anyway, I support the Division and I just want you to know that the Wool Growers are trying hard because they are losing animals but they want this study to be successful. Thanks.

**Brayden Richmond:** After Dustin, Hunter Mecham.

**Dustin Clark:** Dustin Clark, just representing myself. So I want to see if there is something that we can do to address the check in time online. Right now it's 48 hours and I want to know why it's that long. Is there reasons we don't know as far as that goes? Cause we had what was it, six units, that were overharvested this year?

**Darren DeBlois:** Yeah, there's always.. it's not always the same unit but the reason we give 48 hours is because people are sometimes hunting the weekend and they can't find one of us to come and check it with. So having said that we are working on ways to have more real time check ins and it would look.. one of the things that's going to play into this is location data. But moving forward we'd like to get to an electronic format where you'd essentially check in your cat at the kill site. It would be real time, we'd know a lion had been harvested. Then when you brought it in we'd pull teeth, and it's something we'll have to build so it's going to take a few years.

**Dustin Clark:** Similar to the coyote app? (Yes it would be similar) So that's why I was curious if there was something we could do there to increase this. Then my next question is on the Dutton over the three year span it has been in 38% female harvest, and yet the age requirement is only at 13. So last year we increased it by two tags to try and reach that harvest and we still never reached it, so why are we keeping those tags up higher?

**Mike Wardle:** That's the main reason we didn't recommend a decrease is because it's still below that 40% threshold on the female harvest.

**Dustin Clark:** On the female harvest it's 2% and this last year was 50/50,

**Mike Wardle:** Right, part of it too is we hear a lot from producers on that mountain about lions and how Wildlife Services gets quite a bit of incidents on that mountain too.

**Dustin Clark:** Okay, one more comment. If I'm right, the depredated lions don't count towards your percentages?

**Darren DeBloois:** That's right it's something a biologist would look at but they don't...

**Dustin Clark:** Okay, so I would like to see it changed that they do, I don't think they should count towards the quota on that unit, I think we should be able to harvest the same amount, but I think those, it should be somewhat changed that whatever cats killed are put into the percentages and taken off those units. That's all I have thank you.

**Brayden Richmond:** Jared Higgins and the Jeff Brewer.

**Jared Higgins:** Jared Higgins again. Just want to thank these guys for everything they do and their plan looks great. They are doing a great job, and you guys too. Something that I'm noticing from an outfitters perspective and from a sportsmen perspective is we don't have any trophy quality really with lions anymore. It's hard to balance that between keeping everybody happy that wants the numbers down. a theory of mine is if you have one limited entry unit where you can offer some opportunity to the sportsmen for a cat that's over two years old and you can bring clients in and actually take a picture with and feel proud that they killed it. There's nothing in the whole southern end of the state limited entry with a small amount of tags. They're not growing these cats big anymore. I know that's not really even on the agenda for this but moving forward I'd like to see just one unit that we could pick and maybe make into a quality cat hunting unit. You know you guys don't want to go hunt two point bucks and I don't like to kill a year and a half to two year old cats. That's all.

**Brayden Richmond:** Alright, after Jeff we have J.J. Brewer I believe.

**Jeff Brewer:** Jeff Brewer, I've been here many times. Been in hounds and chased lions for about 36 years. I just wanted to say I represent myself tonight. I'm a member of the Utah Houndsmen Association, but we sustain or support the DWRs recommendations. We appreciate Vance locally that he's open with us about numbers and harvest information. Jim Lamb, I don't know the other young man, but anyway they've been really good to work with us. We support the DWR, I don't stand up and say as much as I should. Thank you.

**J.J. Brewer:** J.J. Brewer, I represent myself but also the Utah Houndsmen Association being a member of that association we support these recommendations in southern Utah. Our hats are off thank you guys I know it's a lot of work. Thank you Darren for meeting with us and hearing our voice, we appreciate that as well as Jerry with the UHA. For myself thank you guys we support you, we're eager more than ever to help. My hats are off to the livestock guys, thank you. I would be willing to talk to the Utah Houndsmen Board and see if we can come up with some money to help you guys too. I love to get along and help each other because that's the only way we can accomplish a goal in the future, and that's really how it should be done. We are very eager to help livestock guys if we can. I promise you gentlemen right there, that my dogs can catch a lion, I guarantee it and time of the year, I'll brag on a lot of those guys. If there's help I wish we could come up with the correct system to get help where it needs. Again, thank you, we're eager to move forward with lions and we support the recommendations.

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

**Brayden Richmond:** Thank you, appreciate the comments from the public. We'll turn the time over to comments from the RAC. Before I turn it over I have a quick comment, the only comment I have on this plan, maybe a concern. Darren if you'd maybe even speak to this a little bit. The one concern I have is on the Stansbury unit where from my understanding we're getting some pretty severe depredation on those sheep from cougars. The parameters say we can only double the tags but that's a low amount of tags on there. We're going from 3-6. A lot of these units have 15-20 tags on them. So that's a real concern of mine. I'm wondering if there's anyway you can see to address that or is that something we just have to ask the Board to go outside of the parameters and look at it?

**Darren DeBlois:** There's a couple of things we can do as a Division. First of all we manage to the plan. So we increase sport harvest opportunity on that as much as we can under the plan. Having said that though we have the option to go outside sport harvest and use tools like wildlife services when we've got lions that are hitting those sheep. And we've done that as well. So we have options but the RAC would have to make a recommendation to increase those and the Board would have to consider it, but we're going to stick with the plan. Does that help?

**Brayden Richmond:** Yeah, that's great. And my comment to that is I would hate to see wildlife services come in and pay someone if we have people that would want to take those. The Board can go outside of that plan. So I appreciate that the Division can make that recommendation but the Board surely could so maybe that's something we'd like to consider asking the Board to do. Other comments from the RAC?

**Tammy Pearson:** (alarm goes off) Really? He saw me coming. (laughs) He had enough of me last night. I agree and I think that is a valid concern. It's my understanding that the central RAC recommended and increase so I'd be willing to make that recommendation too. Do you have numbers?

**Brayden Richmond:** So let's hold on just a minute and let the comments come and then we'll go on.

**Tammy Pearson:** I'm just saying I'm supportive of that.

**Brayden Richmond:** Go ahead Riley.

**Riley Roberts:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I hope I'm not out of line. I'm still a little bit inclined to...

I've got another text sitting here. Would it be out of line to, just for clarification, before I may or may not make amendments to a motion, to have Wade provide a point of view from friends of Paunsaugunt that may be involved with that. Would that be alright?

**Kevin Bunnell:** I would be nervous about that with Wade being on the Board now.

**Riley Roberts:** And that's why I'm asking.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Yeah, do you agree Wade? I don't think that's appropriate in a RAC meeting for Wade to be representing an independent group.

**Riley Roberts:** Thank you.

**Brayden Richmond:** If we don't have any other comments this is probably the smoothest cougar RAC I've ever been to. Go ahead Bart.

**Bart Battista:** So, I guess the total, this is just a comment for presentations in the future, cause you know we're doing a statewide increase. But we're representing just the southern region, so maybe, hey here is what it is for our state, this is what it is for our region. I know you can deduce that from the areas it would be.

**Kevin Bunnell:** That last 15 years up until this one would have seen that Bart. They made a change this year to try to help other issues.

**Darren DeBloois:** I'll make a note.

**Bart Battista:** That may be just be an issue for the non consumptive since I don't go hunting. When you say this area, I'm like where's that?

**Brayden Richmond:** Verland.

**Verland King:** I'd like to continue the comment on those lions that have been collared. We've been here year after year and us in the livestock industry have talked about depredation and so the fact that we've finally got some numbers. One lion so far has killed eight sheep, another has killed seven to eight and those are just the two that are collared. We've got all these others that are in the area. Every sheep herd in the state has the same problem. They don't have collared lion but they have the same problem. So I'm excited to see this study. It will bring data on the deer and maybe the bighorn sheep depredation. But what I'm more excited about is what the domestic sheep and domestic livestock are going to come up from this study. I'll be excited to see more of it because this is just a drop in the bucket of what's happening out there and it's not being, it hasn't been able to be documented until now. So I'm excited to see that happening and I can see why the Wool Growers are wanting to get on board. It's proving what we've been telling you for years. That's my comment. I'm glad to see that happening. And like these guys say, we know where the collared lions are and we're not going to bother them because we want to get this study out and show you what's really happening out in real life. Thanks.

**Kevin Bunnell:** Yeah, Verland we are excited as well. We've always known that it's an undisputed representation. We verified that it's the only way we knew to try to be fair. but now that we have the

ability to essentially track a lion in real time we can get to the answer to some of these questions that we've known that we were doing a minimum.. we knew it was higher than what we were accounting for but we didn't know how to get the right answer. Now we have some tools and we can start zeroing in on what the reality is. So it's good.

**Brayden Richmond:** Go ahead Tammy. Then we'll come to Bart.

**Tammy Pearson:** It's my magnetic personality. These guys are over here with their magic wands just trying to mess me up. I want to tell the Division that I'm thankful for.. that sounds funny.. I appreciate the.. I'm talkin to the Bishop here so I'm trying to be nice. I appreciate the correlation and the information according to agriculture. That part of it, that segment because we've missed that part of it for years. So I think that you guys are trying really hard to work on that end of it and we do appreciate it and we're thankful too.

**Bart Battista:** Yeah, kind of going on the livestock/depredation slide, I thought that was an interesting slide and I think I might take away something a little bit differently. I'm starting to see instead of flatlining I see an increase in depredation instances based on actual wildlife services take. So actually they are killing, if that's a direct correlation the cats are killing more is what I see here. Is that an accurate read on that?

**Darren DeBloois:** I think it's one of many data points we can look at. All the trends point to a different population.

**Bart Battista:** Yeah, so on that, again I'm the non consumptive rep, so when I look at this I see if you're concerned about managing livestock and concerned about depredation of livestock that should be important to you. So you need to address that.

**Brayden Richmond:** I have one quick comment Riley and then I'll give it to you. The comment is for everybody, but Tammy take note. My comment on the Stansbury with those sheep is it's the exact same situation on the Beaver west. So we're trying to get sheep on there and they doubled the tags but it's still a low number. We may want to look at that and the Stansbury.

**Riley Roberts:** I just wanted to also recognize our houndsmen and those from the Utah Trappers Association. Many of us have been to quite a few of these meetings in years past and there is always a great representation. We appreciate that, that's how this process works. Also a big thank you to the Division. You guys don't get enough credit for what you do do. This takes a lot of time. The numbers are solid. I'll be honest in saying I was sceptical many years ago of the science behind it because as a sportsman we see what we see and that's reality to us. But there is science, you can see it in the trends, you can see it in the harvests and the end result so we do recognize that and appreciate you and doing that. Also again I appreciate being able to represent and being able to speak as a voice to the sportsmen in that area and I'd like to continue to ask and thank the rest of the RAC to be able to do that as well. That's it.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any more comments? Go ahead Gene and then Bart again.

**Gene Boardman:** I'm really impressed with the presentation today and the work that's gone into it. I'm also impressed with the livestock people and the houndsmen and their comments today. I do think that a



lot of the age selection and sex selection up to the houndsmen. They run the dogs and they take a shot or walk away from it. I appreciate that and what they do. Whatever they tell you don't ever buy a used pick up from one of them. (laughs)

**Bart Battista:** Just a final concern that was raised to me. I understand the importance of minimizing adverse cat/livestock interactions and human interactions. But I was speaking with some professors from USU on this and one of the concerns they want to make is to make sure we also, when we're thinking about population management, also managing for the health of the cat population and maybe there are other metrics we could be using besides just take. So I'm not sure what those are, I haven't gotten down into the weeds in this, but just something to consider.

**Brayden Richmond:** Any additional comments?

**Craig Laub:** I've been real impressed with the tracking deal. I've just been thinking about this as the conversation has gone on. They are only killing sheep from June to October, I'd be interested in what those cats are eating the other seven months of the year.

**Darren DeBlois:** I can give you a short list. What's really cool is she's been able to detect things as small as grouse, she's found grouse, she's found a snowshoe hare, they've been eating a lot of fawn and elk calves out there. That's a short list, but beavers, porcupines, skunks; the skunks are particularly fun for the researchers to walk in on.

**Brayden Richmond:** Alright thank you everyone. We'll summarize the comments here pretty quick. The public comments; UFB supports the plan and wants to continue to help to make sure depredation is being addressed. The Wool Growers are interested in continuing support of this research and some positive feedback there to better understand the impact of lions and sheep and hoping to help fund the study. Can we continue to reduce the check in time to avoid going over the quotas, and the Division is working on some solutions for that. They want to include depredation harvest in calculating percentages for the plan so to add depredation harvest in addition to the take. No trophy lion units in the southern Utah and that's been brought up for the past several years. Utah Houndsmen Association supports the recommendations. RAC comments are Stansbury and Beaver West recommendation needs to be increased more than the plan allows and appreciation for the study to get information on the live depredation. So at this point we'd entertain a motion. Tammy, you ready?

**Tammy Pearson:** So if I was to make a motion to recommend an increase on the Stansbury, or do you need to do a separate thing on that?

**Brayden Richmond:** So, I would recommend that you would make a motion to support the recommendations as presented with the exception of.. and then ask for your exceptions.

**Tammy Pearson:** What he said. (laughs) I do appreciate all the different groups that were here that were supportive of the proposed plan. I would recommend we approve the plan with the exception of the Stansbury I'd like to see a larger increase on that, on Beaver West as well. Someday we'll get on the same page.

**Kevin Bunnell:** To increase those, do you have a number?

**Darren DeBloois:** I thought they were both six.

**Tammy Pearson:** Stansbury west is an increase from four to eight then Stansbury east was eight same as last year.

**Darren DeBloois:** Beaver West was from three to six right?

**Tammy Pearson:** Last years increase was, so I would increase that as well.

**Brayden Richmond:** So what if we did Beaver west ten and Stansbury 12?

**Tammy Pearson:** I'd be fine with that.

**Brayden Richmond:** So let me repeat your motion. The way I heard your motion was you want to make a motion to accept the plan as presented with the exception of Stansbury and Beaver west. We'd like for the Board to consider going outside of the plan with ten permits on Beaver west and 12 on Stansbury due to sheep depredation.

**Chad Utley:** I just have a question. When the Board makes a change like that and public hasn't had a chance to comment on that, do you normally give them a chance to comment?

**Kevin Bunnell:** That's a good question Chad. And that's part of the reason why the Board meetings are an open public meeting and they take comment there. They take recommendations from the RAC, they consider that, they also take public comment at that Board meeting and that's the public's opportunity to comment on recommendations that come out of the RAC. Did you get the motion Denise, are we clear?

**MOTION to accept the Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020 as presented, with the exception of increasing the number of permits on the Stansbury unit to 12 and the Beaver west unit to 10.**

**Tammy Pearson**  
**Verland King, second**  
**Passed in favor 9-1**

### **Other Business**

**-Brayden Richmond, Chairman**

**Brayden Richmond:** Before we finish it up with other business I did fail to recognize the Board members here. We appreciate them being here. Wade Heaton, Donnie Hunter, and Kevin Albrecht. We appreciate your time and effort in coming here and your service on the Board. Also, I just want to make a quick comment too that this is one of the better attended cougar RACs that I've been to and also seemed to be very productive. We appreciate your comments, appreciate your interest in coming. Most of you come every year and that's how this process works, so thank you. Any additional business that we have?

**Kevin Bunnell:** So the question about teeth and how accurate the aging is, I texted Randy Larsen who is the professor at BYU who does all of our aging and I'll just read you his response. He says, we can get an age for almost all of the lions, the problem is they don't have a defined nutritional stress Like Darren says and that's really gets you good rings each year, so the ages aren't nearly that accurate. But he says, that said he still feels like it has a value because that bias is consistent across time. So it still allows us to track trends. It may not be really accurate on this is a four year old lion and that's a five year old lion but the bias in the system is consistent, so if it's going up or down it should be accurate. Does that help?

**Brayden Richmond:** The only additional business I have is just a reminder that the next RAC meeting is September 10th in Hurricane and it's the fishing recommendations and guidebook. Then just a comment too since we have a couple of new RAC members I think something important to know, and we haven't had a problem with this in our region, but we do need RAC members at these meetings to have a quorum and to have a vote and a voice at the Board meeting. Sometimes that fishing one is the one we get short on people attending so if you'd put that in your calendars we'd appreciate it.

**Kevin Bunnell:** And our required number now at 12, we need to have seven to have a quorum. We need to have 50% plus one.

**Tammy Pearson:** So here's the full disclaimer. I will not be there for sure. I'm going to be in D.C. So everybody else better be there.

**Brayden Richmond:** We may have just lost our quorum. Okay, meeting adjourned.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

**Southeast Regional Advisory Council**

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

**August 7, 2019**

*Motion Summary*

**Approval of agenda and minutes**

**MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as written  
Motion passed unanimously**

**Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020**

**MOTION: To approve the bobcat plan as presented  
Motion Passed unanimously**

**Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020**

**MOTION: To leave the SW Manti as a Split and Leave the SE as it was last year.  
Motion Failed  
Opposed: 8/4**

**MOTION: To keep the Southwest Manti as it was last year  
Motion: Passed – Unanimous**

**MOTION: To go with the SFW recommendation for 26 permits on the Southeast Manti  
Opposed: 4/8  
Motion: Passed**

**MOTION: To accept the remainder of the division's proposal with the exception of leaving  
the permits on the Cache unit as they were last year  
Motion: Passed – Unanimous**

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

**August 6, 2019 6:30 p.m.**

***Members Present***

***Members Absent***

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Kent Johnson, Vice Chairman · Public at large  
Brad Richman · Non-consumptive  
Lynn Sitterud · Elected official  
Jeff Christensen · Agriculture  
Jace Guymon · Public at large  
Eric Luke · Sportsmen  
Scoot Flannery · Sportsmen  
Darren Olsen · USFS  
Kirk Player · Public at large  
Todd Thorne · Public at large  
Dana Truman · BLM  
Chris Wood, DWR Regional Supervisor

**Total public attendance**

10

**Others in attendance**

DWR personnel: 8

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

- Kent Johnson, Vice chairman

OK. It looks like we are officially ready to start the RAC meeting. I'd like to welcome everybody out. I'd like to remind everybody of the process. If you have comments, there are comment cards that you can fill out and bring up to us here. We'll have questions for the presentations. We'll have questions from the RAC and then comments from the RAC and questions and comments from the audience as well. We'll go ahead and move to our first item. We've got new members here on the RAC. We have three new members. We have Brad Richmond, Scoot Flannery and Steve Duke, I understand Steve is not here. What we'll do is have everyone go around and introduce yourself, what your position is and some of your interests. Keep it brief so we're not here all night.

**Brad Richmond:**

My name is Brad Richmond. I live in Ferron. I guess I'm non-consumptive for the RAC. Right now, I herd cows in the summer for a cattle association in Ferron and in the winter time I try to stay warm. That's about it.

**Jace Guymon:**

I'm Jace Guymon. I live in Cleveland. I work as a welder and I'm a hunting guide. I represent public at large.

**Dana Truman:**

I'm Dana Truman. I work for the BLM, that's who I'm representing.

**Darren Olsen:**

I'm Darren Olsen. I work with Forest Service so I'm the agency rep on that.

**Eric Luke:**

I'm Eric Luke. I live in Ferron also. I'm a sportsman representative.

**Lynn Sitterud:**

I'm Lynn Sitterud from Huntington. I represent the elected officials and Emery Country commissioner.

**Kent Johnson:**

I'm Kent Johnson. I'm from Green River. I'm public at large.

**Scot Flannery:**

I'm Scot Flannery from Blanding. I work as a civil engineer down there. I'm representing sportsmen.

**Todd Thorne:**

I'm Todd Thorne from Price, UT and I represent public at large.

**Jeff Christensen:**

I'm Jeff Christensen from Price. I'm the agricultural seat.

**Kirk Player:**

I'm Kirk Player. I'm from Cleveland as well and I represent the sportsmen.

**2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

**Kent Johnson:**

Alright. Welcome aboard, you guys. First order of business is the approval of the agenda. We do have one change on the agenda. We're going to move the informational from Guy Wallace right underneath the regional supervisor update if that's OK with everybody. Do we have any questions on the minutes from the last meeting? Did everybody get a chance to read that? No questions, no discussion. I'll entertain a motion.

**Eric Luke:**

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

**Dana Truman:**

I'll second.

**Kent Johnson:**

All in favor? Any opposed? Unanimous.

## **VOTING**

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

**Seconded by Dana Truman**

**Motion passed/failed – Passed (unanimous)**

**Opposed: n/a**

**Abstentions**

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

- Kent Johnson, RAC Vice chairman

OK. Board meeting update. I'll have Chris take care of that.

**Chris Wood:**

It was a really quick board meeting. Probably one of the quickest board meetings I've ever been a part of. It was an hour or two long. If you remember, May's RAC meeting was about the turkey transplant list and then about herps. So, that all passed as proposed. I think our RAC unanimously passed those two items and they passed the board too.

**Kent Johnson:**

Are there any questions on the wildlife board update? OK, we'll go ahead and go to the regional update.

### **4) Regional Update**

- Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Welcome to our new RAC members. We had several people put in for your seats on the RAC. It was a hard decision but we've got some good new ones. We realized during the process that we didn't have any San Juan County representation so, Kirk moved to Emery County and I believe Charley Tracy left us a year ago after serving on the RAC. That was part of the consideration. We have Scoot now and we also have a guy named Steve Duke who couldn't make it. Steve Duke will join us next time. We did this in July so, we were behind by several months because at one time we had the idea to reduce the RAC because we have a hard time getting a quorum but our director wanted to keep the RAC up to its maximum size. So, we decided to do that.

So, an update from us. If I don't have info today, I can pass that to the biologists in the back. We had a really busy summer. A really good summer though doing a lot of good things.

Our aquatics section spent several weeks at Duck Fork Reservoir. It was a cutthroat trout spawning effort that we do. The cutthroat spawn up the river, we have a trap, we separate the males from the females and on the side we squeeze out the eggs in the females and squeeze out

the sperm on the males and mix it on site and take it back to the hatchery where we grow tens of thousands of cutthroat trout for the upcoming year. They are later grown and put into reservoirs and streams throughout the region and the state where there's cutthroat trout. A good conservation effort there, a good sport fish effort. It's a project we do every year and it's a good project. We're also doing a lot of surveys. Electrofishing at Scofield, we're finding the management there is continuing to work. We found lots of heavy rainbows and some cutthroat trout as well.

Our habitat section is doing good things. They are doing habitat projects. It's kind of a year-round effort. It used to be in the fall but now we have various stages of projects going on year-round. If you live in Moab, you know the big news there has been mosquitos. We own with The Nature Conservancy the Mathison Wetland. It's a 900-acre wetland preserve right next to Moab. Because there was a lot of water this year, they had a lot of mosquitos. So, there was West Nile Virus detected in some of those mosquitos and so, we've been working with mosquito abatement and the city of Moab to put larvicide in the wetland and also allow some fumigation around the edges of our wetland. It has really been a big effort on their end and we're supportive because we know that West Nile Virus is a very serious thing and it's a community health worry. Our wildlife section and habitat section are working on a project next week. We'll capture a few cranes in the region and put GPS transmitters on them to see where they go and what their migration patterns are. It's a new and exciting program that we have in our region. We've done that with pelicans quite a bit the past few years and the results have been remarkable. Hopefully the cranes will show us something cool too.

Law enforcement— We had some changes here. We have a new lieutenant. I'm not sure if you know Roger Kerstetter, he's been our investigator so you may not know him because he kind of wears plain cloths and is kind of on the down low. Roger has been our investigator for 25 years in this region and has the respect and trust of all of our officers. So, he became our lieutenant last week. He'll do good things. We have a new officer, Devon Shirley. He will be going to Bullfrog. That will be his first assignment, he just finished POST and training. So, his first assignment as an officer will be at Bullfrog. You might recognize that last name, Shirley. J. Shirley was our officer here, he was an officer in San Juan County for a few years and then he moved to Price and became our Lieutenant for a few years. Devan Shirley is J. Shirley's nephew. Game warden runs in the Shirley family. They have been checking anglers and they are preparing for the upcoming hunting season.

Our outreach section is busy too. There are a lot of community activities and fairs, community days that happen throughout the region and we get invited to those. The picture right here is from Cleveland days. We were there. We are also working with dedicated hunters. Our archery hunt starts soon so, they are wanting to do their dedicated hunter projects now. We've been trying to get them busy and get their projects done. We have a few community outreach events coming up. One is bat night. That's this Thursday night. We're going to go catch some bats near Kens Lake in Grand County. It will be a great time to show the public some bats up close and talk about bat ecology and do some education stuff. If you're interested in going to that let me know. The event is actually full but we might be able to squeeze you in. We have a waterfowl hunting clinic coming up at Desert Lake on September 14<sup>th</sup>. Then we have a fly-fishing clinic coming up, we think it's going to be September 28<sup>th</sup>. We also have an event this Saturday. It's our women's



firearm clinic. It used to be guns and gals but now it's called women's firearm clinic. It's going to be here in Green River and it's for women. If men really want to come, they can but we are targeting towards women. It's for them to kind of get more familiar with different firearms. We'll have a bunch of hands-on opportunities to shoot pistols, shot guns, rifles and different firearms. If you're interested in that, there's a lot of opening left. Let's talk afterwards if you want to send your wife or your girlfriend or if you want to come yourself that would be great.

Our wildlife section— We've had some bear issues as you can see in that picture there. Bears have been, throughout the state for some reason, bears have been doing what bears do. So, we've translocated a few bears in the region recently. The wildlife section is working on bison classification. We're doing that right now. I wish I could have some results for you but they are wrapping it up as we speak. So, I don't know what the bison numbers on the Henry Mountains look like. We've done elk classifications throughout the region. Mountain goat surveys will happen tomorrow. I guess we're doing bison classifications and bison surveys. Those are two different things. The classification is counting bulls and calves and cows. The surveys are looking at the total number. With that, I'll answer any questions you might have. Thank you.

**Kent Johnson:**

OK, with that we'll have Guy Wallace come up and give us our SE Manti update.

**Chris Wood:**

Can I say something really quick? So, I committed to assign Guy this topic today. We had quite a bit of discussion in the spring about the Southeast Manti and there was a motion made to form a committee to look at it. It didn't really go anywhere with the board. There were a lot of motions that day so, they don't always get to address every single motion that comes up in every RAC. But I did commit to the RAC that we'd come here today and discuss what has been done on the Southeast Manti, both habitat projects wise for the deer population, deer research, cougar research and cougar numbers and all of those things. That's why Guy is presenting here today.

**5) SE Manti Deer Management Informational**

-Guy Wallace, Regional Wildlife Section Manager

Alright, thank you. I was actually warned about this first slide that I figured that at least from Eric that I'd hear something about this. But I decided that if we're going to dream, we need to dream big. And who doesn't like looking at pictures of big bucks? A couple of things about this is, I also was looking for a new background for my slide presentation. I've been using the same one and it was raining the day I put this together so, I felt like this is kind of the basis of what we need to think about for deer management. We need to think about precipitation and its effects on deer because some things we can control and that's one that we can't. but it does have significant effects on deer herds. Anyway, keep that in mind as we go through this. I wanted to talk about what we've done; we've actually done quite a bit, and some of the results that we've found so far and maybe some management implications of that.

First of all, I wanted to point out where we're at and what we've seen in terms of production and our management in terms of our buck harvest on these units. I split it out into the Northeast and Southeast which is part of the region and you can see that just recently, probably the last three

years, the blue line is the fawn classification. We've actually gone down a little bit which is kind of expected with most of our units in the region because of the drought and dry conditions. We have had a little lower fawn production. I wanted to compare that within the region to our other units that are basically general season unit, the 15-17 objective units and the Manti is still very high in terms of fawn production compared to our other units. The San Juan and the La Sals, which was hit quite a bit harder last year with the severe drought showed up in terms of fawn production on those two units. The green and the yellow, the yellow is the La Sals and we've seen it go down considerably over the last three years. It kind of indicates that we had different situations going on between these units in terms of production. So, one of the things we've done is we've had a huge deer research project, for the region for the most part we had representative units that we looked at to look at deer survival. Then, in 2016 and 2017, we did a project on the Southeast Manti where we collared 61 deer there. Specifically, just on that unit. The other units, we have continued and we've been doing those since I think 2014. But this was a one time deal we did on that. So, we're still monitoring the adults from that but we've not added fawn collars to that project. This kind of shows some of the information that we collect when we captured those deer. We looked at all those various parameters.

Body condition is one of the next I'll talk about. That one is pretty important. It showed some very interesting stuff. In yellow, is the South Manti what we found of the body fat condition. What it showed was that in December, in the winter, we had fairly decent body fat on the South Manti deer and really good fat reserves still in March. So, it indicated that the deer are in pretty good condition on the South Manti. Really when looking at it from a habitat standpoint, the deer looked good. If there were problems with your habitat it would probably show up in your body condition if they were poor nutrition it would show up in body weights and body condition scores. That's something to keep in mind as we go through this.

From the fawn survival, we found that we had 68% during that year alive. The only other unit higher than that was the Henry Mountains and it was the second highest observed to the Henry Mountains that year and we only had one fawn during that period of time that we lost to malnutrition or to coyotes. What I want to point out is this is a statewide survival and I wanted to look at the light green line. That is the Southeast Manti that year. I take that back. What I wanted to show with this slide was that statewide, fawn survival was at about 57% during that year that we did the Southeast Manti it was at 47% fawn survival. So, if you throw that year that we did the Southeast Manti in there, that's the light blue line at the top with the dark green line from the past year. So, fawn survival was fairly good on that unit for that year. This was the indication we got from causes of death. The South Manti is the third bar down and you can see that three of the seven fawns were taken by mountain lions. The think that's been interesting with this is that adult survival has been fairly low. 72% during that year and 71% the year after on the adults. This year so far, it's running pretty good. It's 91% at the moment. So, it's been pretty good but on the average through most of our studies adult survival runs about 85%. So, running about 70 is lower compared to what we normally run. This is the causes of death that were identified by our biologists that went out and picked up the collars. Most of them were picked up within a short period of time, a day or two after we received a mortality signal. You can see on the South Manti, both years, fairly high lion predation in those causes of death. So, looking at all of that, this is kind of the summary of the causes of death that were assigned to lions. Eight out of 12 during the year that we did the study, four out of ten the year after and even two of the three

adult mortalities this current year. Then from that same year, three of those seven fawns were taken by lions. So, what's the indication here? Instead of looking at a habitat issue, it's quite possible we're looking at a top down issue where predation may be having an effect on the adult survival on this unit. So, what's happening with cougar management? The red line is our cougar harvest over the last ten years on the Southeast Manti. We increased permits the last three years and so, we've seen an increase in harvest but we average about 11 lions harvested and this last year I think we were up to 18 harvest. So, the other two lines, the dotted lines are our objectives. The green line is the objective for females so, we basically want to be below that line for females. Then, the bottom line is the males, the percent of males older than five years. With our criteria and our management plans, we want to be above that line. So, as you can see from that is, and there is a lot of variability in it and that's probably mostly attributed to sample size but even at that it shows we're still within the parameters of our cougar management for those units. What it also kind of indicates is that with the increase in permits in the harvest we still have some room in there for more harvest. This was the radio collars during that year and it shows that most of them went up to the top of Skyline Drive as we expected. That was the movements during that first summer. We had one that went down by Salina but most of them went to the top of Skyline Drive.

One of the things we have done is transplants. I didn't get a good picture of the deer transplants so I threw that one in for Eric too. We did do transplants on the Southeast Manti two years. These are the locations of where they were released. We released almost 300 animals during that time. We put used radio collars on them. We had some issues with those radio collars so, we weren't able to really track them the way that we would have liked. After one year we had only 31 still working. We had 13 mortalities and 11 of them were missing in action. The collars either quit or they left the area and we couldn't locate those. The other areas where they've done transplants for the most part it's been about 50% survival. So, we assumed basically that that is what we ended up with. About 25 of those deer moved down into the towns in the valley.

There have been quite a few different habitat projects done on the Southeast Manti. This is showing some of the different types that were done. This is what they look like after. So, basically there has been 42 projects since 2006 which is over 26,000 acres. We have current projects that are about 16,000 acres and proposed for another 4,000. There are various types of treatments but you can see the colors really well. The red ones are the completed projects and the blue is the current and yellow is the proposed. So, there has been quite a bit of habitat work done as well. Not only by us but we've had some help. There're big benefits to deer from fire. It sets back vegetation to an earlier stage where they prefer that vegetation. That photo on the right is almost immediately after the fire. You can see what kind of results it has.

So, basically, the take home message is that currently, our deer population appears to be driven top down and primarily by cougar predation. I want to also make sure we understood that whether the habitat projects, the transplants, whatever, it's going to take a long time to see results from these projects. It's not going to be an instantaneous or over night type of result. Basically, what we'll be doing is wait for those years when the conditions are ideal to have an impact or benefit to the deer. So, what we've got to do is keep praying for more rain and one of the things we've seen is and what we don't have is when you have years that are consecutive good, wet years is where you see your best results. Because a lot of times it's the condition of the deer in

the previous fall. So, this year is setting up a good year for next year but we haven't done our classification counts. We will do those later to see what kind of fawn production we have this year. We really don't expect it to be much higher than normal. Any questions?

### **Questions from the RAC**

#### **Eric Luke:**

I have a question. First of all, thanks for the information. That's great to see that stuff. The adult survival is pretty concerning. Correct me if I'm wrong, it takes 84% to maintain for adult survival, is that correct?

#### **Guy Wallace:**

It's not a matter of that it takes that, that's about normal. So, it can be less than that and they can still maintain the population but what we see typically, and that's in a population that's growing, is about an 85%.

#### **Eric Luke:**

It seems like and I don't remember, it's been a few years, that someone presented some information and I don't remember if it was 84 or 82, it was above 80% that you had to have for adult survival to maintain a population. Anything over that, you were growing deer anything less than that, you were declining. Does that sound accurate?

#### **Guy Wallace:**

Yeah.

#### **Eric Luke:**

So, I guess getting to my question, it seems to me according to the cougar plan the South Manti should be in a harvest objective or predator management criteria because we're more than 90% below our overall objective and two of the last three years have been below the 84%. Why are we not in a predator management on the Southeast Manti?

#### **Guy Wallace:**

The other part of that criteria is that it's a declining trend.

#### **Eric Luke:**

So, the fawn survival is great to see but I have a hard time believing that if we're at 71-72% of the adult survival, how does that not show a declining trend with the statistics? That's the part that I'm puzzled with.

#### **Guy Wallace:**

Well, some of that goes back to and I kind of want to caution you in terms of looking at that because it's based on our model of populations. The model populations are, with the input we put in from our classification, things like that...so, that fawn production may be high enough that it's still showing an increase in population.

**Eric Luke:**

One last question... So, I believe it's the Southwest side showed a much higher fawn survival rate although pretty abnormal, is that...

**Guy Wallace:**

I think you're probably talking about the classification, the production. Survival is what we monitor with these radio collars.

**Eric Luke:**

Right. It was the fawn survival rate or fawn production estimated in the models at 80%. That seems extremely high for anywhere.

**Guy Wallace:**

I think you're talking about what their classification results were. They had a higher fawn to doe ratio than what we had. So, it wasn't in the survival. It wasn't in this because we don't have that I know of, any collar data from the Southwest side. So, it's just based on the classification that the biologists do. They did have a higher fawn/doe ration on that side which brought up the total fawn/doe ratio. The model uses five different models and you can look at some of those variables whether you use a fixed rate of production or you use the actual rate and I'm not sure which one was used but you can manipulate that somewhat to fit the situation.

**Eric Luke:**

What constitutes an increasing trend? If we're not in a declining trend, because it looks to me that the adult survival definitely shows a declining trend. So, what is it that's making that trend not declining?

**Guy Wallace:**

As I said, I think it's primarily because of the fawn production. But over time, that should show. If you continue that rate of low adult survival, over time that population will show a decline.

**Eric Luke:**

Thank you.

**6) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020**

Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

**Questions from the RAC**

**Eric Luke:**

Do you guys, when you check in the bobcat, do you monitor the time frame of when they are taken?

**Darren DeBloois:**

Yeah, we do. I think I might have a slide.

**Eric Luke:**

I'm curious to see when the majority of the harvest happens. I would think that it would be in the first two months of that season. Then fall off considerably.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah. So, week one everybody gets out there. Everybody hits it hard. Then it drops way off in week two-three. Things don't really start picking up until the snow is on the ground and we start getting those winter conditions. So, it peaks at about week five or six. So, by shortening the week, we miss that initial flux... we'll have to see, that may just occur a little later but it does reduce the overall season by a week. Usually by week eight they are tapering off pretty well. The other thing that drive this is pelt price. The interest and the number of permits we sell.

**Scot Flannery:**

So, of the three recommendations that you have here, which one do you expect to have the greatest effect?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Again, I think the cycling is just something that occurs. The idea here is that as that resource shrinks, we need to throttle back on opportunity. Does that make sense? So, it's not an attempt to try to turn a population around, it's just an attempt to make sure we're responsive to the decline.

**Scot Flannery:**

I've been talking to some of the trappers down in San Juan County and one of the big concerns they have is the later start date. I don't know how it is in other places but when they start to get lots of snow on the ground it shuts off half of the county to trapping. So, their concern is what that does is just concentrates the number of bobcats that are killed in a certain area and it gets people to go out and reach out to some of these further places where they might be able to do it earlier on in the season.

**Darren DeBlois:**

The plan specifically says that we cut it off at the beginning of the season. So, that was something that was discussed in that group and that was a compromise. So, that's what is driving the decision to cut it off on the front end. But snow definitely, in fact I think this year we saw overall take go down and part of that is probably fewer cats but also access with the snow levels that we had this year was tough for some folks. They just couldn't get out where they normally do. That does happen for sure.

**Kent Johnson:**

I have one question. That number that you gave, the 6400 is that the 80% number?

**Darren DeBlois:**

That's 80%, that's the number we'd cap at. So, when we're under maximum opportunity there's no cap. Everybody can get six permits but we don't cap the total. Last year it was 80%.

**Kent Johnson:**

OK. I just didn't know if that was last year's total or...

**Darren DeBloois:**

Yeah. That's the number we're recommending.

**Questions from the audience**

n/a

**Comments from the audience**

**Harvey Howard:**

On the bobcat situation, I would just like to point out observations over the last 50 years that I've seen. Whenever you get into a situation like 1994-1996, we had an extreme jump in lion population. If you look at your lion population, along the whole route of things since 1966, when we started protecting them, you'll see that your bobcat tags go down as your lion population goes up just a little after the lion population increases. I would just like to remind everybody that the largest predator to a bobcat is mountain lion. So, keep that in mind as you're talking about setting your mountain lion numbers but from what I've seen, I would actually recommend and think that the bobcat population is in worse shape than what he's saying and that it should be thought to possibly drop down to four tags. Maybe even go down to 60% from last years tags.

**RAC discussion**

n/a

**VOTING**

**Todd Thorne made a motion to approve the bobcat plan**

**Seconded by Jeff Christensen**

**Motion Passes/Failed – Passed unanimously**

**Opposed: n/a**

**Abstentions:**

**6) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020**

Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

**Chris Wood:**

While he's getting that ready, I'll remind everyone there's a RAC and board training this month, August 21<sup>st</sup>. So, hopefully you've received those emails. It's a really good training to have. New members should definitely attend but I think it's good for all members. We'll reimburse you the miles too and if you spend the night, the night before we'll reimburse you for that.

**Questions from the RAC**

**Eric Luke:**

I've got a couple of questions. With those cameras, what other animals have you seen? Have you noticed anything?

**Darren DeBlois:**

This is still pretty early. This is one of the first ones that we've had back and be able to download. Next year I think we'll have more of that. We did see on the Monroe study that coyotes will sometimes come in. Usually, if it's one or two the lion will chase them off but if it's a couple of adults and some young ones, they can steal that kill. Really interested on the Cache because there aren't a lot of bears there. We'll be able to compare the two. We are getting a lot of prey information. You know, what are they eating? The grad student is finding stuff as small as grouse. When she goes out on these clusters, she's finding where they have killed grouse. She's also finding livestock. We're working with some producers up there. When she finds a sheep that the producer wasn't aware... you know they come off of the mountain and they are gone. She's found some of those and they've been able to verify them. We're working with those guys to look at some of that. It's been something of interest to wool growers for quite some time. Again, early days but we expect some good results. The objective of the study is to try and tighten up our model, get some better estimates of female survival or at least confirm some of the stuff that Stoner and Dustin already have. We're also looking at kitten survival. If we detect a cluster, it's a den, we'll try to go in and collar those kittens as well and see what their survival is over a year.

**Eric Luke:**

Awesome information. Next question... concerning going to a three-year plan, in an emergency situation, how would those types of scenarios be handled? Would that go through a public process?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yes. So, for example, lets use the Manti, lets say that it looks like we raised tags in a pretty timely way and that was just managing to the plan but it looks like as we started ramping up permits, we were seeing in these collared mule deer, especially the adults, high adult mortality from lions. That's improved. The first year it was fairly serious. The second year it was a little bit better. This year so far, it's looking pretty good. And we've really increased permits on the Manti quite a bit from four years ago. A situation where we felt like we need to handle this now, it would come back through the public process. So, at this meeting I would come back, maybe we'd do some informational stuff on the study. We'll need to tackle some unit recommendations of just those units. We would do that at that time and then that would go back before the board. So, it would be a public process. I don't foresee, just the nature of these animals, I don't foresee something similar with when we had a drought situation and we need to remove some elk that we'd have to do an emergency kind of thing but if we needed to, we could. In terms of timing, but we always have time to come back through the RAC.

**Eric Luke:**

So, those tags would be given out in the draw the following year?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Right. It would be similar to how we do it now except instead of going through every single unit, we'd maintain the ones that didn't need attention but if there were some, we'd just present those and that would change for that next draw.



**Dana Truman:**

I have a question. Could you give me just a little bit of class 101 on the different types of hunts? I understand what harvest objective is and what split and limited entry are, but what's the strategy and why they are applied?

**Darren DeBlois:**

OK. It's a little looser in the current plan than it has been in the past. It's left up to the biologist's discretion. One example I can give on the Paunsagaunt, that was open as a quota unit so the objective... if you're putting it in a harvest objective, you're trying to at a minimum take that number of lions and that's typically a strategy you want to employ if you're trying to either maintain or put some downward pressure on a population. It can also just be a social way of maximizing opportunity for people to hunt. So, on the Paunsagaunt, that was a harvest objective and they struggled year after year to meet the quota. I think it was ten and they'd take one or two. So, we recommended last year that we change that to a split. So, the thinking there is you've got ten people that draw a permit and that's the only place they can hunt in the state for that first part of the season so it forces at least ten people to go hunt the Paunsagaunt. But you still want to get your quota so you'd open it up to a split afterwards. We've done it for one year. They harvested one lion so, it's just the nature of the Paunsagaunt. But that might be how you'd strategize. You wouldn't necessarily have to use one strategy over the other. Just as a general rule of thumb, for predator management, you'd be looking at harvest objective. You want to make sure you maximize the take and limited entry would be more of an exclusive set number of people that would be able to hunt that unit.

**Darren Olsen:**

Yeah, so can we look at the Southeast Manti? We were just talking about that.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Did you want to look at the numbers?

**Darren Olsen:**

It looks like it's being proposed 20 to 22. And then I think it's the slide before this I guess I'm just keying in 20 to 22 and so... the Fish Lake we are under the 40% of female lions going from 15 to 20 for adults so, on the Fish Lake we went from 16 to 12. I guess I'm just looking at that proportion and what Guy presented earlier... if we go back to the Southeast Manti, we went from 20 to 22 I guess, is that enough?

**Darren DeBlois:**

I'll let the region answer that. Their options were to maintain or increase. The only upper bound that we have on increases in the plan is when in a year it's under predator management, at maximum you can increase would be 100% in a year. Do you know where you were Guy, in terms of your quota on the Southeast Manti? It seems like we only got 18 last year out of 20. We've been increasing it by twos and it seems like they always kill two more than they did the year before but they don't quite hit the quota. So, we took 18, they are increasing it by two so that potential there would be four.

**Eric Luke:**

The year before the Southeast filled the quota

**Darren DeBloois:**

Yeah. We were lower. Right, I think that's correct. That's just me. If you want to add anything, feel free.

**Wade Paskett:**

Wade Paskett, I'm the biologist on the Southeast Manti. So, the reason for two, it's easier to pass two than four. It's easier to pass than six or eight. So, that's really the only reason. You know, we're based on the information that Guy presented, our adult females in the harvest are pretty low at 20%. Sustainable population can be up to 40%. We had 23 adult males on a three-year average, percent males five years or older in the harvest we're looking at having 15-20. So, it could be more but I don't know how much more. We're just increasing to see where we're going. There's really not any criteria to say how many permits to add.

**Guy Wallace:**

Some of it has to do with what we've been doing over the past few years. So, from 2016 we increased three permits, 2017- three permits, 2018- two permits, 2019- two permits. So, over that period we've increased quite a bit. Each year the harvest doesn't quite meet that quota but it comes up close to that so, this is just another increment in what we've already done in the past four years. If that helps.

**Darren Olsen:**

Yeah that helps. I guess I'm just thinking through this so, right now we wouldn't talk about this or do this for three years under a three-year plan, right?

**Guy Wallace:**

Correct.

**Darren Olsen:**

So, we'd kind of maintain this 22 for the next three years.

**Guy Wallace:**

Correct.

**Darren Olsen:**

Can we go back to the previous slide? This one is interesting. Southwest Manti, we're under the 40% and we're within the 15-20 on adults but we're recommending a reduction of three and we're also proposing a limited entry?

**Darren DeBloois:**

Yeah. This is a result of the district biologist sitting down with some local houndsmen and trying to work out a compromise with them. This was a recommendation based on those discussions. So, it's up to his discretion and this was what they wanted. What they agreed to do.

**Darren Olsen:**

But that's outside...

**Darren DeBlois:**

No. This is within the plan. They can change the strategy based on their discretion.

**Darren Olsen:**

So, limited entry... it's currently what?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Split.

**Eric Luke:**

So, you said that this is based on the biologist sitting down with the houndsmen but yet in the houndsmens proposal they don't even support that limited entry.

**Darren DeBlois:**

You're right.

**Eric Luke:**

That doesn't make sense.

**Darren DeBlois:**

It sounds like someone ought to make a motion.

**Jeff Christensen:**

I have a question. What's your depredation on the Southeast? For livestock?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Let me see if I can find that. I think it's broke down by county. I don't have by unit, that's another reason we're going to work with Wildlife Services and see if can get better data that way. But I think I have a slide here on the county.

**Dana Truman:**

Do we have any data that would show how the lions are moving between the Manti units? Southeast/Southwest?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Not yet. Lions tend to use fairly large areas and I think just based on lion biology it would be surprising if they didn't move. The females we have collared, most of them are on the Southeast side and they have maintained fairly tight territories on that side. They haven't moved a lot. It just depends on which lion you catch. I would be surprised if there wasn't some interchange and males move a lot more than females too.

**Kent Johnson:**

I do have one question for you Darren. Do you have the data on the total lions kill on your

predator management units? Specifically, the La Mountains. That tends to be... it's chronically a predator management and the deer population declines year or year regardless of any other...

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah. One thing we're talking about is a lot better deer data with these collars and trying to incorporate some of that cause specific mortality in. I've got the number I can tell you. Are you just interested in Wildlife Services take?

**Eric Luke:**

Total take. Also, of interest on that would be how much livestock depredation there is on the unit as well.

**Darren DeBlois:**

I'll find that county... if the region knows, please bail me out because I don't know for sure unless I look it up. So, La Sal has had total harvest over the last five years has been six, seven, four, seven and ten last year. Total. That includes Wildlife Services take. In that same time period, Wildlife Services has only removed one lion from the La Sals. Let me find that county by county. I think I've got that slide here to look at too. So, this is the last two years but this is number of losses by county for lion. The standouts last year were Morgan and I mentioned that with the Chalk Creek unit and Summit.

**Guy Wallace:**

I can give you a little more information on the La Sals. It's a difficult unit because part of it is in Colorado and so we have tried increasing permits on the La Sals and we still harvest the same number of lions. We don't increase our harvest by increasing permits on the La Sals. That's been the biggest problem there.

**Eric Luke:**

Yeah well that's what I see. The harvest doesn't change there.

**Guy Wallace:**

Right. It's a tougher unit to hunt really. The amount of area that is accessible, the winter range is less than the surrounding areas.

**Questions from the audience**

**Troy Justinsen/SFW:**

First off, welcome new RAC members. I appreciate you taking the time to participate in this. Darren do you have what the division recommended last year for the Southeast Manti as far as numbers?

**Darren DeBlois:**

I don't remember if that changed. I can tell you what we had.

**Guy Wallace:**

For cougar? 18

**Troy Justinsen:**

I thought you went with the recommendation to increase it by six and the wildlife board gave you two. Can you give me some background?

**Eric Luke:**

The recommendation was more than that. I want to say it was four or six but it actually only got two. I think we moved two to the West and then the board dropped what we passed here by two.

**Troy Justinsen:**

I'd be curious to know exactly what those numbers are in comparison with what the division is recommending this go around. The other question... can you go to the Kaparowitz sheep units?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah.

**Troy Justinsen:**

Those units that a... hunt strategy. My question is, obviously we've got bighorn sheep in other than these places and you mentioned that we have the West Beaver where we'll be reintroducing bighorns. Why don't we apply this same hunt strategy to these other sheep unit throughout the state?

**Darren DeBlois:**

These are listed in the plan as the only units where this will be applied. So, this strategy would require a plan rewrite for those other units.

**Troy Justinsen:**

Next question... as far as the predator management plan, you said they are reviewed every three years, when does that cycle come up again?

**Darren DeBlois:**

We've been doing it every year. We're proposing tonight that we would do it every third year. We'd look at everything that year whether it needs to be predator management or qualifies, we'd run everything for three years so they'd all be on the same time table. But we could still revisit that midperiod if we needed to. There's no requirement that it has to be in a given...

**Troy Justinsen:**

So, we're currently going through the statewide deer plan. You know the predator management plan for deer isn't tied to that statewide, it's separate?

**Darren DeBlois:**

There's some stuff in the deer plan. There's also some stuff in the lion plan. There's actually a rule that addresses predator management plans as well. So, it's kind of in there. I think probably what we'd want to do is have the discussion with the deer plan, look at the rule then incorporate

that discussion into the next lion review.

**Troy Justinsen:**

Thank you.

**Harvey Howard:**

What was the average age of lion harvest in Utah?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Statewide, it's about 3.4. That's everything. Obviously, there's a pretty wide range but that's the average.

**Harvey Howard:**

Do you agree with other states and biologists in other states that lions will harvest approximately 25-32 mule deer per year in a healthy environment?

**Darren DeBlois:**

There's a lot of estimates out there. It seems like the rule of thumb that's been accepted in the West is about one a week. But that's another number...

**Harvey Howard:**

That's a larger number than that.

**Darren DeBlois:**

It is, yeah.

**Harvey Howard:**

Is the division OK with the fact that by your number's lions are harvesting probably between 100,000-140,000 per year in Utah and hunters are held back to 30,000? To me this doesn't seem quite right.

**Darren DeBlois:**

Part of this study is going to get this too. But if we're going to have lions, they are going to eat mule deer.

**Harvey Howard:**

OK. According to your numbers about increasing or decreasing permits, the division is saying by your numbers that you're OK with the way it is? You don't need anymore deer and you're good with the lions?

**Darren DeBlois:**

No, that's not what we're saying. What we are saying is that we'll look at mule deer populations and if we can determine that lions were limiting, deer and lions evolve together and so at a population level they can absorb a certain amount of mortality. So, the real key is if a lion eats the deer, does that deer survive a year or does it die in the wintertime anyway? For some units, that's the case. For others, like the Manti, it looks like lions probably are either at least

maintaining that at a stable level or possibly some top down pressure. So, that's what we...

**Harvey Howard:**

Thank you.

**Brett Guymon:**

I'm Brett Guymon with the Utah Houndsman Association. Based on the proclamation in 2018-2019, Southeast Manti had 17 resident tags and one non-resident tag which goes to 18 tags. On the sheet listed here, it has last years actual tags as 20. My understanding is those other two tags are conservation tags. So, the 22 that are being proposed, does that include the conservation tags?

**Darren DeBlois:**

It's the expo tags.

**Brett Guymon:**

So, the 22 does include those?

**Darren DeBlois:**

Yeah. The recommendation tonight does include any expo tags that would be done at the expo.

**Shane Thompson/SFW:**

I know we manage for population on the entire Manti and we break down for the cougars on a quarterly section. Do we have any idea what our population on the South Manti is, really? To balance that out, it's got to be...

**Darren DeBlois:**

Population of deer?

**Shane Thompson:**

Yeah. Where are we at on our objective on the South Manti?

**Darren DeBlois:**

I'd have to defer to the experts. I don't know if they've calculated those separately. My understanding is that you model the whole Manti, right?

**Brad Crompton:**

It's the whole Manti.

**Shane Thompson:**

We don't break it down or have any idea between North and South but we manage to cougars on a quarterly basis?

**Darren DeBlois:**

We do, yeah.

## **Comments from the audience**

### **Brett Guymon/Utah Houndsmen Association:**

I think all of you got the letter so, I don't want to bore you by reading what it said. I'll give you the readers digest version. First of all, The Houndsmen Association doesn't support the two-tag increase on the Central Mountains, Southeast. Eric is right in the fact that the local houndsmen on the Southwest side wanted to... you know that was a compromise and the houndsmen association didn't side with that. Mainly, because we like to play nice with other wildlife advocacy groups. We feel like a good compromise was to leave the Southwest Manti as a limited entry, last year was the first year that the Southwest Manti went into limited entry and keep the recommended tag numbers the way the biologist wanted. That way you're going to kill more lions on a split units than you are with a limited entry. So, you're going to increase the harvest that way. On the Southeast Manti, there're a couple reasons we oppose the two-tag increase. Number one, last year as all of you will recall was probably one of the best years we've had in terms of snowfall. We were still getting snowfall in May and we still weren't able to fill that objective. So, as has been mentioned before, increasing an objective that isn't already being met doesn't make a lot of sense. So, we'd like to see it stay the same as last year and I would just say, bare in mind lions reproduce on average every two years. So, what you end up seeing and the biologist can correct me if I'm wrong, with a prey and predator relationship the prey relationship tends to lag behind whatever the prey is. If you reduce the predator population the prey is going to take a few years to rebound. Based on the presentations that have been made today, it looks like the tag increases that we've made over the last four years has had a positive effect on the prey. The Utah Houndsman Association also supports the three-year plan as opposed to the one-year. That's it.

### **Sundays Hunt/Humane Society of the U.S.:**

My name is Sundays Hunt. I'm the Utah State director of the Humane Society of the United States. On behalf of our supporters in Utah I respectfully request that this council reject the Division of Wildlife Resources proposed cougar hunting quotas which are unsustainable and not informed by the best available science including decades of Utah based cougar studies. The recommendations allow an unmitigated slaughter of one member of Utah's native wildlife. The proposed 2019-2020 cougar hunting quota of 678 cats which doesn't include the four units with unlimited quotas allows for the killing of up to 40% of Utah's adult and sub adult aged cats. The DWR's proposed quotas not only far exceed the limits in the DWR's own Utah cougar management plan but they also exceed four times greater than what is biologically sustainable. Western cougar biologists have found that cougars cannot endure population losses greater than 14%. Accepting the DWR's recommendations would represent a failure to use sound science to inform these decisions. As well as the failure to protect wildlife for all Utahns. Hunting cougars at this extreme rate will exasperate conflicts with livestock. The constant chaos from hunting and predator control disrupts stable family units. When the stable adults are replaced by an influx of young males, the teenagers, Utah's ranchers are more likely to lose their unprotected livestock. Moreover, research shows that cougar and human conflicts are higher in areas where cougars are hunted or killed by predator control agents. Killing cougars to grow mule deer or bighorn sheep herds won't work either. In studies where researchers deliberately removed predators from the landscape, they saw no benefit on mule deer herd numbers. That is because access to adequate nutrition that is moisture for plants from rain and snow and the ability for herds to migrate along



their historic corridors is a key factor in growing mule deer herds. Killing predators will not bring Utah's deer herds back, as decades of evidence has already proved. Including, Utah's expensive bounty on coyotes. Cougar reduce or eliminate chronic wasting disease in deer herds. Researchers found that adult mule deer preyed upon by cougars were more likely to have CWD than deer shot by hunters. Moreover, the study found that cougars consumed over 85% of carcasses thereby removing a significant amount of contamination from the environment. The current proposals are not based on science, are not in conformance with the DWR's own cougar management plan and they won't help the mule deer population or the ranchers. The state's proposal is not based on sound science and respectfully, it is therefore the duty of this board to reject this proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration this evening.

**Harvey Howard:**

I have a couple of comments and some history on lions in Utah. Back in 1966 we decided we were going to protect them. Families like mine, Thayn's, Marsing's, Jensen's, Stamatakis's all did everything they could in their power to eliminate every single last lion that was in the wild to protect their livestock and to also protect the game animals that they needed after World War II. I brought this old clipping of a newspaper because there's people here that either won't remember or don't want to remember it. The fact if your newspaper said something like this today, what would you think? "Proof positive, there are still lions in Carbon County." That was in 1972. That was right after the predator reestablishment program started in 1966. We have them killed just about down to nothing so, that's proof that they will come back. There's not a point that they fall off the face of the earth. We tried that for 100 years and we couldn't get rid of them. We harvested over 150,000 deer most of the time through the 1960's and into the '70's. The biology is there on how to bring mule deer back and what to do with them. This shows that lions were not a factor. This is public record. Lions were not a factor in the populations of mule deer during the 60's, 50's and up into the 70's and if you look at the population of lions as we move into the 70's and 80's you'll see the deer population nosedive. It's as simple as that. So, there again I ask the division if we are where we're supposed to be or where you're wanting is to be, then these numbers look good as far as lion numbers. If you want to increase deer hunting, deer permits then you need to use the science and do something about it because the science is there. There's biologists and studies all over the Western United States that have proven what's going on here. We see lower numbers in bobcats. That's one indicator of too many lions. It's happened several times and it's happened in several states. There're studies out there that's been going through it. But I hear over and over again, well the deer are struggling, the deer are this or that. All of my studies and everything that I've seen in my family, shows you can fix it. We either fix it or basically stop complaining about it. You guys in the RAC have that ability to make a recommendation. Thank you.

**Brett Behling/Utah Farm Bureau:**

First of all, I've got to welcome Brad Richmond. I can't believe they got you on this board. You're probably wondering what the heck you're getting yourself in to. I'm Brett Behling with Utah Farm Bureau. First of all, I want to thank the DWR for the quality of the presentations. I've met with Darren. I've met with Guy and I know the thousands of hours these guys put in to get us the quality information. I commend them especially how nice they look with their white shirts and ties. We think they look sharp. So, as Farm Bureau we are obviously concerned about impacts with cougars and wildlife. We've talked about this for years and we sure appreciate the

extra money that we've got for some of the losses to pay for impacts there. We also appreciate Wildlife Services and others that are helping us with the problem. We completely support the plan and especially, thank you for the help and the willingness to support us as we have conflicts with our lambs and other livestock. So, as we move forward, we support you and thank you for the recommendations. We obviously want to limit those impacts with livestock but issuing more tags isn't always the answer because of you're not harvesting all of the cougars with the tags we need a different approach. So, if we have a problem area, we really appreciate the effort to help us limit those losses with depredation tags and other things. Thank you to all the RAC members for the time they put in. We also recognize that you do this, five times throughout the state and appreciate wildlife services and DWR and everybody that makes this thing possible so that we can deal with these problems as they come up. Thank you so much.

**Shane Thompson/SFW:**

I appreciate all the work that's been done and the effort they've made to get these numbers and I do like the way they've presented it. There're a few spots that I'd like to comment on. I've been involved with these guys quite a bit doing some of these projects and some of the data that they have been getting. It's been fun to do that. I know through these studies that there is proof that our deer herd is slowly coming back but it's really slow and it's proven that the cougars have a huge impact on that recovery. So, with the recommendations of the increases on the Southeast Manti it says they can increase more and I know there was cats treed that weren't harvested on the Southeast or it would have filled. And it would have filled easily if they would have harvested them. There are numbers there and until we get our deer herd back, I really would like to keep the numbers as high as we can on the tags. It's important right now to get our deer population up to the threshold. It can maintain this and the opportunity for everybody as far as hunting and predators, the more deer we have the more predators we can have. Everybody's happy with more population on the deer and our Southeast Manti and our South Manti and North Fish Lake is worse than it's ever been. We've got to do everything we can and we've made leaps and bounds on trying to get this data and doing stuff to bring them back but we still have some work to do and it's going to take time. I recommend we try to keep that harvest as high as we can on these cats until we get our deer population back. The three-year plan, I'm OK with if you really monitor it close but I think it's important that we make these adjustments every year. I know it's a lot of work for you guys. I appreciate that but seeing these numbers, for me is important. Getting it out there and just having a set number of permits for three years... I say we stick with a every year plan. I really like to monitor this and keep at it every year until we get a more stable database and go from there.

**Cody Webster:**

Obviously, in this room you've got people that would love to see every lion gone, there're are people that would love to see no lions hunted at all. I'd just like to remind you that the first page that he showed you on this, the main objective is to maintain a healthy lion population while considering everything else. So, any giant spike one way or another, they can make a huge impact. Let's try to stay the course and maintain the population of what we can. I'd also like to thank you guys for what you've passed on the Bookcliffs last year. It made a world of difference to not have the trains of non-residents truck after truck after truck and there were better cats harvested because of it and better for the population. Thank you.

**Troy Justinson/SFW:**

We support the division recommendations with the following exceptions. On the Cache we ask, they are requesting a reduction of two, we ask that we stay at the same 25. That quota fills pretty fast. The last four years, the fawn survival rate has been right around 27%. So, we'd ask that this RAC approve maintaining last years numbers. The other thing, as far as on the Manti West goes, we'd like to keep the permits at 18 and keep it a split. We do not support limited entry and we like to keep those permits at 18. Guy pointed out in his presentation on the Southeast if there is ever a place that has written all over it that we need to lower the population of cats, it is the Southeast Manti. You have some of the healthiest adults in the state, the population is not climbing, we're not growing any deer, it all points to predators. So, we'd ask that we actually increase the permits to 26 on the Southeast Manti. I wasn't aware as far as the sheep units that you couldn't increase more than 100% so, we support those on the Beaver and also the Oquirrh's with the recommendations that you have. We wouldn't be opposed to a three-year plan as long as we start out over the counter. Thank you. Just joking.

**RAC discussion****Eric Luke:**

I've got one. Just a couple of things that were mentioned by some of the public here. You know, I think obviously the adult survival on the South Manti is for me a huge concern. The fact that we're at high this year at 90% is a good thing to see but I think we have to cautious because we still have almost a half a year left and that could change for 90% back to 70%. You know of the Southeast Manti, there're still plenty of older aged cats there. We're harvesting over the objective for the five-year-old cats. I think that there's probably enough things, different issues here with the recommendations, I think that as we do our proposals here, we probably need to consider maybe breaking those up a little bit. Maybe not have one big generic proposal or some things will get missed.

**Jace Guymon:**

I'll make a comment. So, going with everything from the audience I like what Cody said, you know maintain, have huge ups and downs with it. I really like the Houndsman Association recommendation with leaving the Southwest a split if we have a lion problem. If it's not filling, you leave it a split and that allows the cougars to be killed later. If it goes to straight limited entry, that seems contradictory to raise Southeast so much but make Southwest so you can't fill those quotas. So, I think that's a really good midground to shoot for a level field there. From my experience on the unit, extensively hiking and things, on the Northeast Manti I currently know where at least five mature Toms are. I know where a lot of lions are. As far as the South, I only know of one or two. So, there are old lions there but to go really drastic in any direction doesn't make sense. I like Troy's proposal on the Cache where that's been such a low unit as far as survival to maintain rather than reducing. Other than that, I like the recommendations.

**Kent Johnson:**

Any other comments? I'll entertain a motion. Before we start, Chris do we want to do this, if we have separate plans maybe go with some of these ideas that have been presented? Should we split the motions up?

**Chris Wood:**

That's a common way done in the past. If there're certain bits that you want to make a motion on, we can do that and have the remaining or you can just pass all of them.

**Kent Johnson:**

Let's do it that way. If we have specific recommendations you want to see implemented, let's entertain that as a separate motion then we'll take the balance after that.

**Jace Guymon:**

I'd like to make a motion based on just the Manti with the Southeast have not tag increase because the data shows the deer are starting to come back there's going to be that lag. We've raised them over 100% in the last four or five years and so, the deer will be starting to catch up. As their data shows with the one collared deer, the cougars are going to roam. Leaving the Southwest as a split rather than going to limited entry. So, to summarize it, I would go with The Houndsmen Association's proposal of leaving the tag increase out on the Southeast Manti but making Southwest as a split unit not taking it to limited entry.

**Kent Johnson:**

I'll try to summarize that and make sure I've got it right. What you want to do is leave the Southwest Manti as a split and the Southeast leave the permits as it was last year.

**Jace Guymon:**

Yeah. That way we don't have a drastic in one unit and another on the other unit. I think they'll balance out.

**Darren Olsen:**

With the permit numbers?

**Jace Guymon:**

Yeah, with the permit numbers on the Southeast.

**Kent Johnson:**

OK. We have a motion on the floor, do we have a second?

**Dana Truman:**

It was a little confusing so let me make sure. So, the motion is to go with 15 tags on Southwest and spilt and 20 tags on Southeast. I'll second.

**Kent Johnson:**

All in favor? All opposed? Motion fails.

**Eric Luke:**

Let me take a stab at this. For the Southwest Manti, I propose to keep it as a split unit and propose to keep the tags as they were last year at 18 rather than decreasing to 15. Basically, the whole reason behind that is that data is there to show that the deer are struggling. Are we gaining

ground? Maybe but just because we're starting to gain ground doesn't mean that we stop doing what's working. I'll make that recommendation and we can proceed with that for now.

**Kirk Player:**

I'll second that one.

**Kent Johnson:**

OK, let me get this right. Eric made a motion that we leave the Southwest Manti as it was last year, as a split with 18 tags. That was seconded by Kirk. Any discussion on the motion? All in favor? It's unanimous.

**Eric Luke:**

Let's go with the Southeast. I want to make a motion to go with the proposal that SFW gave of 26 tags. I know that's more than the division's recommendation. Again, go back to the deer herd. Our Southeast deer herd is the worst part of the unit by far. When we manage the deer herd as a whole, it makes the numbers look far better than they are on the Southeast unit. I know that's kind of a big jump but I fail to see how it's good practice to protect when all the data screams that it's predators that it's keeping our deer herd from coming back why we don't do something about that. So, that's my recommendation for the Southeast Manti.

**Kent Johnson:**

That's your motion?

**Eric Luke:**

Yeah.

**Kent Johnson:**

We have a motion. Did everyone understand the motion? Do we have a second?

**Scot Flannery:**

I'll second that.

**Kent Johnson:**

Eric made the motion to go with the SFW recommendation on the Southeast Manti of an increase to 26 tags. Seconded by Scot. Any discussion on the motion?

**Kirk Player:**

My only reluctance with that is that I think even to take more lions, I don't think it will matter much if it's 22 or 26 because they're not hitting that objective anyway and it might just make it harder to pass. So, I'd say something between 22 and 24. That's just what I'm thinking. Just to make it for the practicality of easy to get it past the board.

**Kent Johnson:**

Do you want to amend your motion?

**Eric Luke:**

No, I want to keep it as it is. I understand your concern. I think the data speaks for itself. If nothing else, we're providing opportunity. If they're not killing them then what are we hurting by having more tags? I know the houndsmen said that and the data showed that they didn't fill the quota last year but the year before, they did. I do know that last year there were several lions that were treed that were not harvested. The opportunity was there to fill it if they wanted to. If nothing else, we're providing opportunity and if we're not killing them it's not hurting to have more tags. So, I want to keep it at 26.

**Scot Flannery:**

Can someone educate me on how this works when it goes to the board? If we say 26 and they decide that 23 is a better number is there any reason why our recommendation of 26, are we basically saying it 26 or nothing? Or can they scale it back?

**Kent Johnson:**

The board makes the final determinations. The RAC process, what we're doing is giving recommendations. It's a recommendation but having been in the board meetings, they do give a lot of weight to the RAC recommendations. Especially when we have a quorum and a lot of people here that depend on it.

**Chris Wood:**

Scot and Brad, I should have introduced Kevin Albrecht here. He's our board member that represents Southeastern region. He doesn't necessarily go with what the RAC says but he listens and he's here to see your input and recommendations.

**Scot Flannery:**

I understand that it's just a recommendation but I guess my point was where he's saying if we say 26 are we scaring them away from it or are we at that point are we saying, we want 26 but they can still go down to 23?

**Eric Luke:**

That's a risk but...

**Scot Flannery:**

Is it a risk? I mean if we're saying 26, are we risking them saying, well I'm sorry you said 26 so we're not going to anything with it? Or you said 26 but we can still do 24.

**Eric Luke:**

Often times what will happen is when we start taking tag numbers, there will be a compromise with the board. They'll hear both sides of the story and it's very possible that they might come up with a recommendation that is somewhere in between that. They might say, that's too high and throw it out and actually go with a different proposal. But I think with our deer herd being the way that it is and we see the increase in deer numbers in other areas of the state. There is not question that in other areas in the state that deer are doing well. The data shows it. We have some of the healthiest deer in the state. It's not habitat that's holding our deer back.

**Brad Richman:**

My question is, is it the lions that are holding them back or are there other factors besides that that's decreasing the deer herds? Like other wildlife competing for those same vegetations or whatever. I'm not convinced that it's the lions solely. It possibly could contribute but I'm not convinced that it's entirely the lions that's reducing the deer herds. That's just my question mainly to everybody. Obviously, you have different opinions. I'm just curious.

**Kent Johnson:**

Let's keep our discussion to the motion on the floor.

**Scot Flannery:**

So, the other reason I'd support that is because if they want to go to a three-year management plan, if we just do small incremental increases we have no chance in the next three years to change that unless it's a drastic anomaly that would make them look at it next year as opposed to waiting three years.

**Jace Guymon:**

That would be one thing that to me would concern the opposite direction whereas in the last four or five years we've already increased and increased over 100%. Four years ago that we're now over 100% of? So, if we increase it to 26 that puts us at 250% increase from just a couple of years ago. We haven't given the deer time to rebound from that. I mean, just personally I see a lot of deer on the unit. There are way less than the habitat should sustain but last year, probably six bucks over 170. So, it's not horrible. There is definitely a lot of improvement that needs to come but I think 26 is drastic especially for a three-year plan.

**Kent Johnson:**

He's already indicated that he's not going to amend his motion so, we can probably end discussion right there because the discussion has strayed a long ways from the motion. So, we have a motion on the floor to go with SFW's recommendation of 26 tags on the Southeast Manti. All in favor? All opposed? Motion passed. OK do we want to entertain any other motions?

**Eric Luke:**

I'll make the motion to accept the remainder of the divisions proposal with the exception of the Cache unit and we leave that the same as it was last year. No decrease in tags.

**Kent Johnson:**

Do I have a second? Jace seconds. So, Eric made a motion to accept the remainder of the divisions proposal as presented with the exception of leaving the Cache unit the way it was last year. Any discussion? No discussion. All in favor?

**Scot Flannery:**

I just wonder if there's some discussion or interest in the three-year plan. If that's maybe one separate thing.

**Kent Johnson:**

We have a motion of the floor so it would be separate. That motion does include the three-year

plan. Do you want to amend your motion?

**Eric Luke:**

I definitely have some concern about the three-year plan. The fact that it is going through a public process, makes me feel a little bit better about that. I'm alright with keeping it.

**Kent Johnson:**

We have a motion and a second on the floor. Any other discussion? All in favor? Unanimous. Unless anyone has any objections, we're adjourned.

**VOTING**

**Jace Guymon made a motion to leave the SW Manti as a Split and Leave the SE as it was last year.**

**Seconded by Dana Trumen**

**Motion Passes/Failed - failed**

**Opposed: Darren Olsen, Scoot Flannery, Kirk Player, Brad Richmond, Eric Luke, Lynn Sitterud, Jeff Christensen, Todd Thorne**

**Eric Luke made a motion to keep the Southwest Manti as it was last year**

**Seconded by Kirk Player**

**Motion: Passed – Unanimous**

**Eric Luke made a motion to go with the SFW recommendation for 26 permits on the Southeast Manti**

**Second – Scoot Flannery**

**Opposed: 4 Dana, Jace, Kirk, Brad**

**Motion: Passed**

**Eric Luke made a motion to accept the remainder of the division's proposal with the exception of leaving the permits on the Cache unit as they were last year**

**Second: Jace Guymon**

**Motion: Passed – Unanimous**

**Adjournment**

9:00 pm

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on Aug 22, 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 Sept. 11, 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**

**August 8, 2019**

Welcome and Intro Appreciation

- **WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURES-**

- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

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

**Dan Abeyta**

**Natasha Hadden, second**

**Passed unanimously**

**MOTION to approve the minutes from the last meeting.**

**Rebekah Jones**

**Dan Abeyta, second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Brett Prevedel:** I'd like to take a moment to appreciate Randy Dearth for his time and effort as our Chair, and we really appreciate it.

- **WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE- Miles Hanberg**

So on the agenda with Brett being the new Chair, wasn't that at the RAC Board meeting? Randy jump in here if you see something different than what I'm talking about. There were two main agenda items that came through the RACs and to the Board last May. The first one was the Wild Turkey Transplant list, identified the sites where we would be augmenting and starting new populations in the state. At the Wildlife Board meeting that passed unanimously. The second was the Reptile and Amphibian Importation and Possession rule, that basically allowed for and defined how people can possess and capture reptiles and amphibians in the state. So that also passed unanimously at the Board meeting. At the Board meeting we had three Board members with terms that had expired. Kirk Woodward was our northeast region representative on the Wildlife Board that left and of course Randy Dearth has been selected for that position. Wade Heaton was selected for the southern region Board member, and Brett Sellman for the northeast region. The Board nominated and approved Byron Bateman. Worth mentioning at this point, there will be the RAC and Board training on August 21st in Farmington at the Eccles Wildlife Center for all Board and RAC members to attend for that training on August 21st. If you're able to make it that would be a good valuable training for the RAC members. There's option for some

reimbursement for your mileage and per diem as well. Anyhow, if you have any questions on that get with me or Rose and we can work with you on those kinds of reimbursement. There will be an agenda coming out before the meeting starts. I think that's about it from the Board update. Randy, do you have anything else you'd like to add to that?

- **REGIONAL UPDATE - Miles Hanberg**

Been a lot to update, it's been a busy summer a productive summer for us. In our wildlife section they are currently wrapping up a lot of our pronghorn classifications and our rabbit counts. We just finished submitting to our Salt Lake office our bighorn sheep and mountain goat unit plans. Those will be at the RAC meeting in September for review. There have been quite a few bear and cougar incidents this summer just recently. I don't know how many of you saw or heard about the bear in Vernal last week that was wandering around. That bear has left the area now. Last week we also had a cougar and another bear over in the Tabiona area. Despite the adequate precipitation and moisture this year and the good conditions bears still give us some trouble, but nothing too serious. We've been able to work through situations. Another thing that's been interesting is our sensitive species biologist has been doing some netting for bats this summer. He actually captured two spotted bats. They are a sensitive species and it's the first time someone's caught one of those spotted bats in the northeast region in 20 years of effort. So it's pretty neat from that standpoint to be able to document those officially in the region. Everything that's going on this next week starting on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, we'll be conducting some surveys in the Book Cliffs to get a better handle on the numbers of the stray horses out there. That's apart of the Book Cliff working group we have, I think Brett will update you a little bit on that in just a minute; or I can. So the Book Cliff working group has been started as a result of seeing very poor body condition on a lot of our does as they enter the winter. We've had low doe/fawn ratios in the Book Cliffs, low pregnancy rates, low cow/calf rates in the Book Cliffs this spurred this Book Cliff working group to begin to look at some of the factors that may be influencing those populations out there. One of the things we're looking at by having poor body condition coming into the winter indicates that maybe we're having some issues on the summer range. Range issues there, so one of the things we're starting to look at is how many demands we have on the available vegetation that's out there. We've got a good handle on the number of cattle, the number of elk, the number of deer out there. The big variable is how many stray horses are out there and so that's what we'll be taking forth this flight effort out there. To get a better handle on that. Then we'll start to see where in the issues may be with those populations. The group continues to meet about every two to three months. We'll be meeting again in September. Hopefully we can come up with some good solutions to some of those issues out there and work through them. Our habitat section has been busy building and replacing guzzlers this summer. The total number of guzzlers this year will be about 22. Those are scattered throughout the region so it's a big effort that's going forward. A number of vegetation projects that will be implemented this fall throughout the region. Our law enforcement section, our officers are all fully staffed and ready to go for the hunts, we're excited about that. The K-9

certification, so once he's completed that we'll have an actual K-9 in the northeast region to help us with some of our law enforcement efforts. That's a neat thing. It's been really busy for the law enforcement section in dealing with AIS issues this year. One of the reasons is that Lake Powell was so bad with quagga mussels and so many people are using that water body right now that they can't decontaminate all the boats as they leave, so they have to be decontaminated later at various other places, so that's really increased our work load up here as well this year. Our outreach section, there was the Fishing with the Fox fishing this year. There was actually 156 total tags returns this year from fish. From Moose Ponds, Lower Still Water, and Red Fleet. So that's pretty impressive. Get people out and catching fish. This June we completed the 31st year of the Josie Shoot. In the past Carol had ran that, and after she passed away the Division decided to try to pick up that event, keep it going, keep the tradition going. We had about 47 female shooters this year. So that's a good event to keep going. For those of you interested there will be a monarch butterfly tagging event this weekend, this Saturday, at the Josie's cabin at Dinosaur National Monument. For those of you who don't know, Monarch butterflies are actually in danger of being listed as threatened species. They've had a sharp decline in the species. So these tagging studies are intended to try to learn a little more about what that decline might be. So we have a number of outreach events coming up, there will be a tiger muskie seminar, there will be Kokanee Salmon viewing day, the youth pheasant hunt, the youth waterfowl clinic, Sandhill Crane day. Those events will be from September through October if you have any questions or need more information all that can be found on the Facebook feed or the website or you can talk to Tonya and she can give you the details on those. Our aquatics section, the Starvation pier is now completed, it's opened from May to October. It's the first ABA accessible fishing pier that we have in the northeast region. It's taken some time, getting that in, but the public are catching fish off it so that's good. We're currently restocking Steinaker and Pelican Lake, if you want to know the numbers you can look at our stocking reports, but bass and bluegill are going back into both of those, as well as trout and browns into Steinaker. We've had a good reproduction in Pelican this first year already from the fish we put in last fall. Hopefully those fisheries will be up and productive in the next year or two. Our cutthroat folks will be wrapping up treatments up on Reader Creek at the end of August for Colorado River Cutthroat restoration efforts. There's a lot going on, I think that gives you an update on the major projects that we have going on in the region this year.

Brett Prevedel: Thanks Miles. Before we get into the presentations I want to talk about the process, the Division personnel will make a presentation, and then the RAC will address questions to them, then the public will ask questions if they still have them, then the RAC will make comments and the public will make comments; but in order to make a comment you'll need to fill out a card and we'll call you up to the microphone. If you think you want to make a comment you'll probably need to fill out a card, they are out on the table. The topic and which item you want to comment on and we'll call you. You typically have three minutes for the

comment period but I don't know that it's that strict so we'll try to let you get your opinion across. Sound alright? Ok, Darren.

- **Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2019-2020-** Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See Slideshow

Brett Prevedel: Ok do we have any questions from the RAC?

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

Dan Abetya: Darren, has there been a decline in harvest for bobcats?

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, last year we did see a decline, and a lot of trappers said it was partly due to access issues with the snowpack that we had throughout the state, that they had a hard time getting out to their traditional sites. But the metrics also indicated a declining population so it's probably a combination of both.

Dan Abetya: The recommendations for one year? This is a one year recommendation?

Darren DeBloois: Bobcat we look at every year.

Brett Prevedel: Other questions from the RAC? Questions from the public? Comments from the RAC? I don't have any comment cards from the public so with that I'll entertain a motion.

**MOTION to accept the Divisions recommendations on bobcats and other furbearers as presented.**

**Natasha Hadden**

**Dick Bass, second**

**Passed unanimously**

- **Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2019-2020-** Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator

See Slideshow

Brett Prevedel: I'd like to recognize Commissioner Horrocks, welcome. I have one question and then I'll start with the questions from the RAC. The harvest objective tags, you can move between units and hunt the whole year with one tag, state wide?

Darren DeBloois: If you purchase a harvest objective tag you can hunt any open harvest objective units. So once the unit closes, it closes to everybody. But a person can hunt throughout the state on those units.

Brett Prevedel: Then in general, I know there is a lot of units, what is the success on harvest

objectives? Are most of them meeting their objective?

Darren DeBloois: It's a little higher than limited entry. Statewide I think it's about 67% is kind of the average that are hitting their objective and closing. But some of those units that are difficult to hunt are apart of that calculation. A lot of units fill their quotas but there are enough that don't overall that averages it out to about 67%.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Any other questions from the RAC?

Dan Abeyta: Can you go back to the slide that showed hunter harvest numbers vs other mortality. It was very early on in the presentation. It kind of surprised me a little bit. So hunter take being lower than total mortality and that's ten years worth of data there. So what do you attribute the bulk of the other total mortality?

Darren DeBloois: Probably most of that through time has been Wildlife Services removal. We've had some additional take when we've issued depredation tags to landowners recently. That's a rule that changed I think in 2015, I think it might have actually been a little bit later than that. Most of it's that. But then there are other things like roadkill. Basically any animal that we are made aware of that died other than one in a hunt. Mostly Wildlife Services.

Dan Abeyta: Ok thank you.

**61:01:** Earlier on your slide one of the bullets had criteria genetic variability, how are you confirming that?

Darren DeBloois: We have been taking genetic material from the study animals in the past we've collected hair as well. One of the indicators that you've got good genetics is that exchange so it's really been good to see those lions making those big movements. So from time to time when we check them in we'll collect DNA and have that tested.

**61:38:** And are all of your units open to pursuit seasons?

Darren DeBloois: Yes.

**61:44:** Do you see that as educating the cats?

Darren DeBloois: You could say that. Some people swear by it.

**61:57:** With this increased snowfall that we had this year and precipitation what's your best guess on mortality or is it going to be down because of the snowpack?

Darren DeBloois: Lions typically hindered, in fact deep snow is actually an advantage to these ambush predators because it slows down those prey animals. So collared lions we had throughout the winter ate a lot of adult elk. A lot more than I would have guessed on some of these units, and so if anything it probably helps to have deep snow for these critters rather than; the teeth are a good example, you just don't see those stress years. With a deer when they hit

winter they really get a really hard discernible ring in their enamel and if they are denting when we slice the tooth and age them, similar to a tree, and for predators you can still do it but you have to look a little harder because they just don't get stressed like ungulates do.

**63:24** Two questions, on you Avintaquin Wildcat unit, did it reach harvest objective last year?

Darren DeBloois: No it didn't.

**63:45**: Then another question, you talk about a three year plan, if that was put in place when would that begin..

Darren DeBloois: That's what we're proposing. So this year we'd set these numbers and the objective would be to keep them in place for three years and then look at them in three.

**64:03**: Maybe the split season, exactly what the criteria and how you understand that when it goes to harvest objective, how is that, how does the houndsmen or somebody that's pursuing these animals find out when that quota is met or not met?

Darren DeBloois: So, for both harvest objective units and split units when they are harvest objective a person has to check our hotline every day. They can check our website or call in and we'll let them know if the unit is open or not. One thing we were working towards and part of the reason we are recommending people provide us with locations is going electronic format in real time. So when a person kills a lion they would begin the check in process on the mountain and then upload that data. We do have sometimes when people are on the mountain and we go over by one or two animals sometimes, it doesn't ever seem to occur on one unit year after year. That is kind of a weakness of the system.

Brett Prevedel: Anymore questions from the RAC? We'll entertain questions from the public and remember on your comments I'll call you by name.

Troy Justinson: Troy Justinson, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. In the past this unit has been a harvest objective last year you switched it to a split and previously we were always hitting objective. Do you have any explanation to why that is?

Darren DeBloois: Clint probably knows better than I do, but you certainly don't have the numbers of people hunting early in the season when conditions are probably the best. That doesn't open to harvest objective until the end of February. So whatever you know Clint. But that would be my guess is that people just aren't out there during prime hunting time.

Troy Justinson: We had a lot of talk about the Book Cliffs committee that's going to do a lot of different things. There's another study that's going on up there with fawn survival. Can you give this room any update? There's a lot of interesting stuff going on there.

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, I think I've got a slide. Actually Clint might be more up to date than I am because I'm not totally in that world. Do you have some of the cause specific mortality? I'm going to make Clint get up.

Clint Sampson: I do have an update from the grad student, sorry I had all the cougar stuff pulled up, but currently we've caught 48 deer fawns this last spring/summer. I think nine of them have died.

Darren DeBloois: Clint this is just adults, sorry if that helps good, if it doesn't.

Clint Sampson: Just give me one second here. I think we've lost nine fawns. Excuse me, I'm sorry, ok so it was seven fawns have died due to lion predation and then five fawns have died due to bear predation and we've lost 22 elk calves. We've lost one calf to a bear and then two calves to lions and then we also lost one fawn to a bobcat and one died of starvation and then there were a couple in there that we couldn't quite tell. On the flip side of that the five female lions that we have in the Book Cliffs during that whole fawning/calving season on average one cat would kill two elk calves a week is what we were finding with just those five study animals.

Darren DeBloois: That's been fairly consistent across the other units too. Once those born fawns and calves hit the grounds, lions really hit in on them. This is just, this probably doesn't help Troy, but this is last year's cause specific stuff out on the Book Cliffs. The Book Cliffs is at the bottom there. Lion predation is the bottom of that graph and this is just the number of deaths by cause so you can see there's a fairly big chunk on the Book Cliffs attributable to lions. But there's a lot going on out there with bears and other things.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, is there any other questions from the public? Please step up.

Josh Horrocks: My name is Josh Horrocks and I'm on the cougar advisory board. I have a question about the rule to the GPS for the cougars where you kill them. As of now we have to tell you the drainage that we killed them in, when we set up the ten year plan two of the things that came up with wanting to GPS them was are the Pope and Young Club and the Boone and Crockett Club allowing you to put your animals in those record books when you use the GPS on your hunt? And then the second reason was a lot of hunters don't have a GPS, is the DWR going to supply GPSs? So my question is has the Pope and Young Club and the Boone and Crockett Club changed their rules on the...

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, I shouldn't have put GPS on the slide. It's actually not... What the rule actually states is to provide the location. So you wouldn't need necessarily, you could show us on a map. We want to know within reason where that animal came from. Most guys that run dogs have got gps collars on them, so we figured that wouldn't be too much to ask. But you wouldn't necessarily have a GPS unit to gather that point. You could do that right now manually on a map and the objective down the road would be to have an app on your phone that would collect that so it wouldn't be.. The phone would collect the point but you wouldn't be using it to navigate.

Brett Prevedel: Ok if that's all the questions we'll move to the public comments and we'll have some Board comments then we can possibly see to a vote. Heidi would you like to start?

**Comments from the Public:**

Heidi Hickthorn: My name is Heidi Hickthorn and I'm here for the Mule Deer Foundation. I think they thought you were changing the Book Cliffs and they wanted me here to let you know that they are in support of harvest objective on lions because historically split units with limited entry aren't as successful in their percentage of lion kills, and in the Book Cliffs with the low pregnancy rate and the doe to fawn ratio being so low in the Book Cliffs they would really like a harvest objective out there. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Could you clarify that Darren? The Book Cliffs/Rattlesnake is currently harvest objective. The east is what? Split.

... It had been harvest objective, it got changed through the public process last year. So it became a split unit.

Brett Prevedel: So MDF is recommending that we go back to that harvest objective strategy. Ok Troy would you like to go?

Troy Justinson: Troy Justinson SFW. I'd like to acknowledge how these change so rapidly. Even in the hunters world with trail cameras and these advances that make us more efficient as hunters, it's now neat to see that on the wildlife side of things as far as conservation we see those same changes. Being able to participate out there on the Book Cliffs and fawn and calf survival rates and that was real interesting much like the video Darren showed with that cougar going all through the lines. It was interesting to see the bears and the lions that they have collared go right to where the fawning grounds are. It was also interesting to see that the majority of the fawns were taken by bears and lions when the perception in the past has always been the coyote. So we're learning a lot of things that's going to change the way that we manage wildlife and what was once maybe a theory or a thought now we have facts to base it. Based upon that we support the Divisions recommendations with a few changes. One of which would be the Cache, they've been at 25 and the Divisions recommendation is to go down to 23. The last four years our fawn survival rate has been around 27%. We would ask this RAC vote like the northern RAC did last night to leave that at last year's numbers at 25. The other one we'd like to address would be the Manti west; the Divisions proposal would be to lower that from 18 to 15 and go limited entry. We'd like to stay at last years numbers of 18 permits and leave it a split. Dealing with the Manti east is another interesting one, the Manti east is similar to the Book Cliffs, there ain't no deer. Of those deer it has the lowest adult survival rate, but yet they are in the best shape which tells us it's not a habitat problem, it tells us it's a predator problem. So the Divisions recommendation is 22 permits, we'd like to bump that to 26 permits. Then the other one we'd like to bring up as well is the Beaver west. Our hopes are to have desert bighorns reintroduced to that range. Darren had suggested that the plan only allows for a 100% increase which would go from three to six. We'd like to bump that to nine and ask the Board for that for the simple fact that in order to reestablish these sheep it's important that we really bring down the predators. So we ask that the RAC supports us there. We appreciate the new RAC members here for being willing to serve and being willing to donate your time here. So thank you. Other than that we support the Divisions recommendations.

Dan Abeyta: Troy, on that unit it's recommended three to six, what are you recommending?



Troy Justinson: Nine. Also I failed to mention too as far as what the MDF recommended of bringing the Book Cliffs east back into a harvest objective, we support that as well.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, Josh.

Josh Horrocks: Chairman Prevedel, members of the RAC I'm here to talk to as a sportsman, an outfitter and a member of the Cougar Advisory Group that the DNR put together. We meet monthly for a long period of time to set up the ten year cougar plan, you know, and there's for good reason why we wanted the Book Cliffs unit to be a harvest objective unit for mountain lions. Mostly due to the sink source relationship that the Book Cliffs unit portrays in it's area. Last year the Board did a public input to put it to a split unit, and by doing that it decreased the take of mountain lions by ten mountain lions. While with harvest objective biologist met their quota of 29 mountain lions. They took it to a split last year and they only got 19 on a good snow year. And if you know about cougars hunting when the snow good, mountain lion hunting is real good, and it couldn't get much better than last year. Our deer population in the Book Cliffs is close to 10,000 deer below objective. Our elk population in the Book Cliffs is close to 1,000 elk below objective. I'm hoping that you guys will consider making a movement to put the Book Cliffs unit back to harvest objective so we can help our biologist fulfill the quota that they would like to have and do what's best for our wildlife.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. JC would you like to speak next?

JC Brewer: I kind of feel like I'm beginning to sound like a broken record. For four years in a row now, before this microphone, trying to get the Division to control the number of predators we have in the Book Cliffs. Until we get this deer herd back up somewhere near our objective. The gentlemen that just spoke, I believe that he's about right, close to 10,000 deer under objective in the Book Cliffs. I want to draw your attention to that chart right there. Look at the Book Cliffs unit and see what is the primary killer of our deer? Mountain lions. Yet we can not get the number of mountain lion permits or take out there increased any in my pleading with you for four years. What's it going to take to get this group, these folks, you people here to recommend to go back to a harvest objective and increase the number of cougar permits until we get some kind of result on that deer herd out there. You're just using the deer herd as a prey base for your cougars and you won't address the cougar population. Come on, what's it going to take?

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Rod Smith.

Rodney Smith: I'm Rodney Smith, I'm representing the Utah Houndsmen Association. As of right now I probably have a target on my back. Anyway I enjoy hunting, hunting mountain lions and I enjoy the chasing so. (talk into the mic) I don't know how much closer I can get without being uncomfortable. So we are asking for.. We also have worked diligently with the state and Darren, we have a lot of good Board members that came on our Board. We appreciate Darrens efforts and the state and appreciate all the RAC members that are here tonight. With that being said we do support, and I'm looking forward to the GPS, I think it makes houndsmen more honest, as far as being on the mountain. A lot of houndsmen do, I mean if Hal Mecham can run a GPS then anybody can run a GPS. We're asking for, we do not support the two tag increase for

the southeast Manti. Also we would like the southwest Manti to stay a split rather than limited entry. I handed out, I'm not going to go through and read everything but, I handed out information to everybody explaining why and how we feel about it. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Comments from the RAC.

**Comments from the RAC:**

Brad Horrocks: Mr Chairman, our RAC voted last year, didn't it, about splitting the Book Cliffs on a harvest objective didn't we? Does anybody remember? What I recall is we did not support it going forward. You know on that it's just clarification if anybody could remember that because I was thinking that we voted it down last year but it went to Salt Lake and got passed if I'm not mistaken.

Clint Sampson: So when you say voted it down..

Brad Horrocks: Harvest objective.

Clint Sampson: I remember you approved harvest objective and it went to the Board.

: Yes that's correct, I believe we recommended harvest objective and at Salt Lake where the decision is made, we're making recommendations to the Wildlife Board as a RAC. We supported it at the RAC level and the Wildlife Board voted to make it split season. That's how it happened last year.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you for clarifying that.

**82:27**: I just have a question. Clint? The Book Cliffs east, was it harvest objective before previously? Or have they changed that?

Clint Sampson: Yes, so we were harvest objective for three years and I'm sure Darren can pull up that stuff too, but if you look back before that we were a split unit and we were finally starting to impact a little on the cougar population when we were harvest objective. Then we went split it would have been nice to either shorten that front end of the limited entry season or increase permits to still keep that harvest closer to 29.

**83:21**: So when it was harvest objective they were meeting the... (every year) ok, that's what I wanted to know.

Brett Prevedel: So wait a second, hold on. So why is it recommended as a split this year, biologically?

Darren DeBloois: The Board changed our recommendation and made it a split so we were living with that recommendation.

Brett Prevedel: Biologically, harvest objective makes a lot of sense.

Darren DeBloois: When it was split before it was between 2006-2013 and only one of those years did we meet quota.

Brett Prevedel: And if I remember, you warned us last year if we went to split right?

Joe Arnold: Clint wasn't it two years ago that there was a recommendation to go to 38 that was brought down? The houndsmen weren't seeing animals and I think we listened to that a little bit, but I think the recommendation by the biologist was to go up and I think we stayed status or may even have come down. Now the increase sounds like.. Could we see the slide on the harvest of adults and the females and the parameters that you go by? Just the general one that basically says your harvest and the general adults and why we're staying in the 29. Because I do remember a few years ago that there was a ten lion increase, but I don't believe it passed, is that correct?

Darren DeBloois: I wouldn't have necessarily of what we recommended and what it was changed to.

Joe Arnold: I remember us having 38 and there was some chatter back and forth between the various groups and what was the best thing for the lions and the houndsmen and the deer population, and trying to meet in the middle somewhere.

Brett Prevedel: I believe, Joe, there was concern about from the local houndsmen about the harvest objective because of the crowding with all the roads in the Book Cliffs and that was a comment that came out. They preferred the split I believe. What about the amount of adults?

Darren DeBloois: So in this case, since it's under predator management plan the objective is to manage for above 40% of females in the harvest. Age doesn't enter into it, it doesn't matter what the age is. So the objective would be to get above that. The reason we didn't recommend a change this year to permits is because we didn't want to fail the quota last year and maintain that hunt strategy based on what the Board did last year. And again, that percent of females is over three years so it's combined all the males and females that's been harvested over the past three years.

Brett Prevedel: The harvest was 19 last year? Do we have any other comments from the Board?

Dan Abeyta: Yeah, I've got a comment. So we went to a split in 2018, is that correct? (yes) and didn't earlier we talked about with cougar management we look at three year. So bouncing around, is it fair, does it make sense to go back to harvest objective because it was just a year ago that we went to split? I mean is it really following the plan?

Darren DeBloois: I think it's with, yes, I think it's within the RACs prerogative to make recommendations to the Board. This hasn't come up in any other RAC so far and you're the last RAC to meet. But you're also the RAC that represents that unit. So it's your prerogative. We didn't change it because when the Board makes a change they don't like it when we come back the next year and try to switch what they voted for the year before. Again the RAC can certainly make any recommendation they want.

Dax Mangus: Can I speak to this just a little bit? I'm Dax Mangus I'm the Wildlife Program Manager. For years now we've seen that deer population struggle in the Book Cliffs as has the elk population hasn't grown like other populations in the state. And predation is a factor, it is not the only factor. We've had a lot of deer in really poor condition. We've had low reproductive rates in elk. Some of this is range related, we have a committee that's working on some of these issues, we've got some issues in the Book Cliffs. Predation is one of those issues, and to be honest we've tried to be pretty aggressive to reduce predator to help address some of these situations and we've pretty much got the door slammed in our faces every time we've asked to try to get aggressive. When we finally have started to get some harvests and dip into females to show that maybe we are starting to make progress to reduce the cougar populations, the recommendations have been reduced or our strategies have been changed. So at this point we're doing the study, we're trying to collect some data. There have been a lot of different theories thrown out about what's the best way to manage cougars and what may or may not lead to decreased predation rates. So I think that this year biologically we have a lot of predation and we can harvest cougars out there and I think it would be a good thing, but since we've been told no through the public process so many times in the past few years we decided to just keep the recommendation that it had been and continue to collect the data through the cougar study that we're doing in the Book Cliffs and work through some of the habitat issues with this Book Cliffs committee to see if maybe we can come back again later with more information and make a better recommendation. That's just the context from my perspective. I guess I wanted to share that with you. I don't think we'd have an issue with the strategy being changed back to harvest objective. We're not concerned that we're going to completely wipe out the cougar population in the Book Cliffs, it's not a concern we have. But when we get told no over and over again through the public process we kind of were just regrouping and trying to collect more information.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. I guess my take on that is you have a tough job, you have to answer to both Boards and public, but we're trying to make decisions hopefully on the biological situation so we can recommend, if we wish, I guess it's within the parameters, we could recommend whatever the RAC wished. Are there any more comments before we look into splitting this issue up? Any other comments from the RAC?

Natasha Hadden: I just had a question about the Beaver west. Is it within our parameters to ask for a variance from the cougar plan to increase that to nine?

Darren DeBloois: The Board has the prerogative to go outside of the plan if they so wish. The Division will manage to the plan in all instances.

Dan Abeyta: That's the mineral mountains we're talking about? (yes)

Brett Prevedel: So I think in the past, if it's ok with the RAC, on these specific units it's been more effective to discuss them and then pass the bulk of the plan. So if there are any recommendations on any of these units that have been discussed as far as deviating from the recommendation, I'm open to any motions. And we can do several motions, and address the Manti units and the Mineral Mountains separately, then we ought to discuss the Book Cliffs, to decide whether we have a recommendation or not.

**MOTION to accept the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlifes proposals on the Cache to 25 permits, Manti West to 18 permits, Manti East to 26 permits, and Beaver West to nine permits; and recommend a harvest objective in the Book Cliffs East remaining at 29 permits.**

**Brad Horrocks**

Dan Abeyta: Can I ask a question before we..

Brett Prevedel: Absolutely.

Dan Abeyta: On the SFW recommended changes, how did those respective regions vote on those? So Manti east and west, is that southeast region?

(yeah they approved to 26 last night)

Dan Abeyta: And did you say up north on the Cache, did their region...

Darren DeBloois: Yeah, I can go through that. So the northern region voted and the chair had to break a tie, but they voted to keep the Cache at 25, not lower the permits. They voted to keep the southwest Manti at a split unit, so not to change it to limited entry, but they retained the reduction in permits. That was it for the northern region. Central region voted to keep the split strategy on the southeast Manti with 15 permits, so keep the reduction but not change the strategy. They voted to keep the Cache at 25 and that vote actually failed in the central region. The Manti didn't come up in the southern region at all. Southeastern region voted to keep the, basically what Troy just presented, to keep southwest Manti at the 18 tags and a split, so not to change anything. And to raise the southeast Manti to 26 permits instead of the 22 that we recommended and that passed, and to keep Cache at 25.

Brett Prevedel: Was the hunt strategy on the Manti discussed? Similar to Rods..

Darren DeBloois: Yes so in a nutshell, all the RACs but the southern region who didn't discuss the Manti at all, voted to keep that as a split unit. And whether to keep the tags or lower them was kind of a mixed bag between the two. Then the Cache, the ones that voted on it, two out of three voted to keep it at 25, and one voted and it failed so it'll go with our recommendation.

Brett Prevedel: So we have a motion on the table we can modify that, or we can second that if there is support for it, or if there were some minor recommendations we could agree on. Commissioner Horrocks could modify his motion if there was anything specific. No suggestions. Ok, do we have a second on the table?

**MOTION to accept the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlifes proposals on the Cache to 25 permits, Manti West to 18 permits, Manti East to 26 permits, and Beaver West to nine permits; and recommend a harvest objective in the Book Cliffs East remaining at 29**

permits.

**Brad Horrocks**

**Julius Murray, second**

**Passed seven in favor, two opposed**

Brad Horrocks: Does that motion address the rest?

Brett Prevedel: Oh, we need to address the rest of the plan, excuse me. So with the exception of the ones we listed which was the two Manti units, the Mineral Mountains, and the Book Cliffs, I would entertain a motion to approve the remainder of the packet as presented or however you want.

**MOTION to approve the balance of the Divisions presentation as presented.**

**Natasha Hadden**

**Dan Abeyta, second**

**Passed six in favor, three abstained**

**Meeting Adjourned.**



GARY R. HERBERT  
*Governor*

SPENCER J. COX  
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

BRIAN C. STEED  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

MICHAL D. FOWLKS  
*Division Director*

August 12, 2019

Mike Fowlks, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources  
Byron Bateman, Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board  
Kevin Albrecht, Vice Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board  
Utah Wildlife Board Members

RE: 2019 Expo Permit Internal Audit - Rule R657-55

Dear Director Fowlks and Wildlife Board Members,

In accordance with Rule R657-55, an audit of the Expo Permit program has been conducted. This audit is attached for your review and the results will be presented at the Utah Wildlife Board Meeting on August 22, 2019.

If you have any questions please contact me at 801-538-7437.

Sincerely,

Kenny Johnson  
Administrative Services Chief  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



## **Internal Audit of the 2019 Expo Permit Program**

Dated August 12, 2019

### **Background**

The Western Hunting and Conservation Expo was held in Salt Lake City from February 14 – 17, 2019. In accordance with Administrative Rule R657-55, an annual audit of the Expo permit program has been conducted. This audit was not performed using generally accepted auditing standards, but is an internal audit designed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Administrative Services Section to ensure compliance with applicable rules and contractual obligations.

This audit report covers the 2019 Expo performance specifically, and uses historical data from the outset of the Expo permit program for some comparative items, as well as to ensure compliance with applicable rules and contractual terms.

### **Overview**

As has been the case each year, the focus of this audit is to assist the Division and the Wildlife Board to ensure contract compliance. Our report focuses on verifying that data is protected and secure, and that the drawing procedure used is random for the permits being issued. Additionally, we reviewed data regarding the number of applicants, success rates, and programming code related to drawing procedures and issuance of permits. We reviewed revenue amounts retained by the contractor for use on Division-approved projects. We also reviewed the remainder of the revenue, which is to be used to benefit Utah conservation initiatives. In addition to verifying revenue totals, we look to verify that the funds designated for Division-approved projects, as well as the funds designated for other conservation initiatives, are kept separate from other funds in Federally insured bank accounts. Finally, we seek to verify that funds are appropriately spent on Division-approved projects, or are used to benefit Utah conservation initiatives, as required.

### **Review of handling personal and sensitive data**

The Division considers the handling of personal data and information a top priority. Because the contractor conducting the draw is allowed limited access to DWR data for populating the hunt applications, we require adherence to protocols that will safeguard this data.

The contractor has two process components regarding sensitive and confidential data from the applicants. For these purposes, sensitive and confidential data is defined as social security number, driver's license information, height, weight, gender, and hair/eye color.

The first process component is the handling of sensitive information given by applicants at the Expo to apply in the drawing manually. This is done on a paper form completed by the



applicant. Once completed and submitted, these forms are cross-shredded on site. No paper applications are retained by the contractor.

The second process component is the handling of electronic data that is used in the electronic application process. Certain data elements are used during the application process for customer lookups into the Division database. This data transmission is through a secure socket layer using 128 bit encryption. Once the customer information is retrieved, no sensitive information is stored in the contractor database.

The Division monitored the processes of data collection and input, securing of personal and confidential data received, and performance of the actual draw process. The contractor completed a third party system scan prior to the application period going live, and has provided a current Payment Card Industry (PCI) self-assessment questionnaire and attestation.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2019 for securing personal data.

### **Review of the drawing process**

Division of Wildlife/Department of Technology Services personnel go through an extensive review of the draw processes used by GraySky Technologies, the subcontractor selected by SFW to conduct the Expo permit drawing. The Division is represented by technical experts from the Utah Department of Technology Services, who reviewed the following:

- 1) The process of the draw is reviewed for its soundness.
- 2) The database structure is reviewed to make sure that a customer can't flood a certain hunt by making multiple entries for that hunt.
- 3) A review of the code is conducted to make sure that there is no chance that a seeded record could exist in the database prior to the assignment of random numbers. This is done to ensure that the result table is empty and no records can be inserted independently of the drawing code. This ensures that a record with an abnormally low random number isn't placed in the table thereby guaranteeing a permit to that record.
- 4) The code is reviewed to ensure that all records are treated equally in the process that assigns random numbers to the entries. Care is given to make sure that when the random numbers are being assigned, no records are identified to get a number other than a random number which is generated by the system.
- 5) The code is then reviewed for inserts that may occur after the drawing to make sure that a secured opportunity record is not placed in the result table after the assignment of random numbers takes place.

This was an exhaustive and thorough review; no compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2019.

## **Conducting the Draw**

The actual drawing was conducted at the Division Office in Salt Lake City on February 19, 2019. Attendees included Division and Department staff, representatives from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Mule Deer Foundation, and the general public. The public is welcome to attend the drawing and at least 3 individuals from the public were in attendance. The draw was then conducted by GraySky Technologies where the following occurred:

- 1) An impromptu passphrase was given to the GraySky representative and was witnessed as typed into the code prior to beginning the draw process. Later this same passphrase was verified by all in attendance to display on the result page to ensure the code reviewed by the Division was the actual code used during the draw.
- 2) The draw was then run assigning random numbers to applicants hunt choice entries and then sorted in descending order.
- 3) The results of the draw were printed and immediately given to a Division representative to ensure that there were no edits to the results table.
- 4) This list was then given to the Division Law Enforcement and Licensing sections to validate eligibility before any results were posted.
- 5) New for 2019 applicants selected through the draw to receive multiple permits are contacted by the Division and asked to select a single permit. The unclaimed permits are issued to alternates.

The passphrase was witnessed being added to the code, and the same passphrase was verified at the conclusion of the draw. Results were instantly printed and the process to validate began immediately.

Two applicants were informed of multiples and made decisions to keep a single permit. The other permits were offered and issued to applicants on the alternate list. No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2019.

## **Note about Random Drawings**

In any truly random drawing there always seems to be a few “lucky” individuals. Statistically when randomness is discussed it is always possible to view the final result and pick out certain trends. The key to these trends is that results cannot be predicted prior to the event or drawing. This is the very essence of randomness. Random is not an assurance that an event will be spread evenly across a population, or distributed equally among participants.

There were no abnormalities observed in the 2019 drawing.

### Draw Related Information

The Division reviewed data from the Expo regarding attendance, application numbers, and success rates. Applicant validation numbers showed that at least 10,000 individuals attended the Expo in 2019 as required by rule. The reported number of attendees at the 2019 Expo was 54,685, with a verified 17,320 unique applicants.

There were no attendance issues in 2019.

### Applicant data for years 2007-2019 is as follows:

Year	Applicants	Applications	Resident	Nonresident	Gross Revenue@ \$5 per app
2007	10,527	205,462	163,054	42,408	\$ 1,027,310
2008	8,745	138,988	116,465	22,523	\$ 694,940
2009	9,927	169,988	139,748	29,375	\$ 845,970
2010	9,700	165,866	139,920	25,946	\$ 847,285
2011	12,154	196,360	170,539	25,821	\$ 981,800
2012	13,388	207,870	179,077	28,793	\$ 1,039,350
2013	14,043	197,312	173,192	24,120	\$ 986,560
2014	14,148	206,506	178,250	28,256	\$ 1,032,530
2015	14,910	228,530	192,420	36,110	\$ 1,142,650
2016	15,507	233,210	195,973	37,237	\$ 1,166,050
2017	16,127	247,148	204,016	43,132	\$ 1,235,740
2018	17,399	280,472	230,155	50,317	\$ 1,402,360
<b>2019</b>	<b>17,320</b>	<b>292,785</b>	<b>232,143</b>	<b>60,642</b>	<b>\$ 1,463,925</b>

### Resident versus Nonresident Success

Data was reviewed comparing the number of resident applications to nonresident applications. In 2019: 79% of the applications were Utah residents who drew 145 permits or 72.5% of the total. 21% of applications were nonresidents who drew 55 permits or 27.5% of the total.

There were no anomalies in this data in 2019.

### Draw Probability Statistics

The Expo offers a limited number of permits annually and attracts exponentially more applicants who compete for them through a secure and random draw process. It should be noted that this dynamic implies a statistically low probability of obtaining a permit. While the draw odds are not a controllable variable or concern of the Division, we want to acknowledge the expediency with which this information is made available to the public. The Expo contractor publishes these statistics annually on their website prior to the next year application period.

### **License Sales**

The Division requires that anyone applying for a permit at the Expo have a valid hunting or combination license at the time of application. To ensure compliance, the computer programming will not allow applicants to apply without a valid license in the system. For the Expo in 2019, there were 1,390 combination and hunting licenses sold on site. The resulting license revenue generated for the Division was \$64,603.00. The entirety of these funds are owed to the Division with the same reporting stipulations as other third party license vendors; the invoice was paid promptly and in full.

There were no compliance issues with license sales, reporting, or payment in 2019.

### **Application Revenue**

For the 2019 expo permit draw, the Expo accepted applications from October 2018 through the end of the Expo, which was held from February 14 – 17, 2019. The draw processed 292,785 applications, generating \$1,463,925.00 in gross application revenue.

### **Use of Application Revenue for Division-Approved Wildlife Projects**

The retained portion of application revenue allowable for use on Division-approved projects is \$1.50 per application, or \$439,177.50 in 2019. This revenue was split 50/50 between SFW and MDF, with each organization receiving \$219,588.75. This initial deposit was verified in a federally insured bank account for both MDF and SFW. These funds will need to be spent on Division-approved projects, or transferred to the Division by August 1, 2021.

The Division tracks all funds spent on Division- approved projects of transferred to the Division. This allows the Division to report hard figures each year. To meet the contractual obligation in 2019 all project revenue collected in 2017 must be spent or committed before September 1, 2019. The 2017 funds have been spent entirely as shown in the table below, with more detail in attachment 1.

**Table 1 - Revenue and Expenditures Division-Approved Projects**

Org	Carry Over Project Revenue	New Project Revenue 2019	Interest	Total Project Revenue Available	Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	Remaining Funds Verified Bank Balance
MDF	\$150,007.75	\$219,588.75	No Interest	\$369,596.50	\$340,000.00	\$29,596.50
SFW	\$180.14	\$219,588.75	\$297.33	\$220,066.22	\$118,829.91	\$101,236.31
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$150,187.89</i>	<i>\$439,177.50</i>	<i>\$297.33</i>	<i>\$589,662.72</i>	<i>\$458,829.91</i>	<i>\$130,832.81</i>

SFW

Carry Over Revenue for Division-Approved Projects	\$180.14
New Project Revenue for Division-Approved Projects 2019	\$219,588.75
Interest	\$297.33
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$118,506.05)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$101,236.31

MDF

Carry Over Revenue for Division-Approved Projects	\$150,007.75
New Project Revenue for Division-Approved Projects 2019	\$219,588.75
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$340,000.00)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$29,596.50

**Use of Application Revenue for Contractor-Approved Conservation Initiatives**

The retained portion of application revenue allowable for support of contractor-approved policies, programs, projects, and personnel that support conservation initiatives in Utah is \$3.50 per application, or \$1,024,747.50. Of these funds, \$322,679.86 were spent by SFW on expenses directly related to advertising expo permits, accepting expo permit applications, credit card fees, and conducting the actual expo permit draw, all in concert with the Western Hunting and Conservation Expo. The remaining \$702,067.64 of these funds were split 50/50 between MDF and SFW, with each organization receiving \$351,033.82. Bank records and project expenditures were reviewed. To date, SFW has spent all of their 2017 and 2018 project revenue on Utah conservation initiatives, and they have \$210,714.74 remaining of 2019 revenue. MDF has spent all 2017 project revenue on Utah conservation initiatives, and has \$21,003.83 remaining of 2018 revenue and all \$351,033.82 of their 2019 revenue. A list of these conservation initiatives for both groups can be found in Attachment 2. The deposit and required balance were verified in a federally-insured bank account held separate from other funds for both SFW and MDF. See attachment 2 for additional expenditure detail.

**Table 2 - Revenue and Expenditures Contractor-Approved Projects**

Org	Carry Over Project Revenue	New Project Revenue 2019	Interest	Total Project Revenue Available	Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	Remaining Funds Verified Bank Balance
MDF	\$304,607.16	\$351,033.82	No Interest	\$655,640.98	\$283,603.33	\$372,037.65
SFW	\$108,631.70	\$351,033.82	\$851.14	\$460,516.66	\$249,801.92	\$210,714.74
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$413,238.86</i>	<i>\$702,067.64</i>	<i>\$851.14</i>	<i>\$1,116,157.64</i>	<i>\$533,405.25</i>	<i>\$582,752.39</i>

SFW

Carry Over Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives	\$108,631.70
New Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives 2019	\$351,033.82
Interest	\$851.14
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$249,801.92)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$210,714.74

MDF

Carry Over Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives	\$304,607.16
New Revenue for Contractor-Approved Initiatives 2019	\$351,033.82
Project Expenditures During Current Audit Year	<u>(\$283,603.33)</u>
Remaining Funds Verified Bank Statement Balance	\$372,037.65

## Conclusions

The measures in place to ensure that data is secure and that any unauthorized external access is prevented served to safeguard information once again in 2019. We reiterate that with data being under constant threat, the creating of processes and systems that are up to the challenge of securing information is critical. Third party system penetration scans and current PCI assessment questionnaires greatly relieve the fear of data becoming compromised. We believe that the measures set in place by SFW, MDF, and GraySky ensured data was properly secured. Our review of the programming code satisfied the Division that the drawing was conducted in a random, transparent, and consistent manner. PCI self-assessments were completed and signed prior to the application system going live.

Additional oversight and program requirements in recent years have bolstered the Expo's impact on the ground statewide. Project revenues for both Division-approved projects and contractor approved projects were verified by bank statements, and expenses were supported with the appropriate documentation. MDF submitted their audit information 4 days late, and were reminded of the new August 1 deadline.

Revenue from expo permit application fees has funded numerous efforts that benefit wildlife habitat, wildlife species, and hunters in Utah. This funding is an important component of the conservation work that has improved our state's wildlife populations and made Utah an outstanding place to hunt.

We would like to thank Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and the Mule Deer Foundation for their time, prompt responses, and their willingness to provide the information requested for the preparation of the audit. Their information was clearly presented and very much appreciated. If there are questions regarding this report, please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Kenneth Johnson  
Administrative Services Chief  
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

cc: Michal Fowlks, Director  
Byron Bateman, Board Chair  
Kevin Albrecht, Board Vice Chair  
Utah Wildlife Board Members  
Troy Justensen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife  
Miles Moretti, Mule Deer Foundation

### Attachments:

1. How Revenue has been spent Division-Approved Projects
2. How Revenue has been spent Contractor-Approved Projects
3. Draw Process Roll Sheet
4. Current Expo Rule R647-55

# Attachment 1



## How revenue from each year has been spent

### Division Approved Projects Mule Deer Foundation

2017 Revenue \$ 185,361.00

#### Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2017	\$	594.75
4200 Outdoor Adventure Days	2017	\$	7,500.00
3823 MDF Stewardship Position FY17	2018	\$	30,000.00
3918 Little Valley North Sheeprocks PJ Removal	2018	\$	19,000.00
3943 Long Hollow Sheep/Parowan Gap (Upper Long Hollow Vegetation Treatment (Phase 3	2018	\$	15,000.00
3969 Cockey Hollow Vegetation Management Project	2018	\$	10,000.00
3979 Temple Fork Juniper Restoration 3	2018	\$	30,047.50
3995 Mytoge-Tidwell Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement Phase 1	2018	\$	20,000.00
4036 South Horn Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project	2018	\$	15,000.00
4078 Trail Mountain Wildlife Habitat Enhancement and Aspen Regeneration Project	2018	\$	20,000.00
4085 Little Creek Ridge Guzzlers	2018	\$	10,000.00
4089 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase IV	2018	\$	5,000.00
4103 La Sal/Elk Ridge Prescribed Burn Projects	2018	\$	3,218.75
			<u>\$ 185,361.00</u>

#### All 2017 Funds Expended

2018 Revenue \$ 210,354.00

#### Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4103 La Sal/Elk Ridge Prescribed Burn Projects	2018	\$	6,111.25
4128 Cedar City to Parowan I-15 Deer Fence and Double Cattle Guards Ph 2	2018	\$	10,000.00
4129 Traverse Mountain Winter Range Improvement	2018	\$	13,885.00
4202 Blue Peak Chain Harrow-PJ Chain Re-treat and Guzzler Install	2019	\$	5,350.00
4705 Utah Migration Initiative	2019	\$	25,000.00
4837 North End La Sal (Brush Hole Phase 4)	2020	\$	10,000.00
4856 South Slope Vegetation Restoration Phase 2	2020	\$	10,000.00
4771 Emigrant Pass Phase 2	2020	\$	15,000.00
4025 Home Ranch Bullhog	2020	\$	16,381.07
4799 Rabbit Gulch Winter Range Improvement Phase II	2020	\$	20,790.00
4812 Central Region Shrub Restoration Projects FY2020	2020	\$	40,664.00
5034 FY20 DeerFawn/Adult Survival and Condition	2020	\$	37,172.68
			<u>\$ 210,354.00</u>

#### All 2018 Funds Expended

2019 Revenue \$ 219,588.75

#### Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

4734 Miller Creek Watershed Restoration 2.0	2020	\$	30,000.00
4837 North End La Sal (Brush Hole Phase 4)	2020	\$	10,000.00
4836 South Bookcliffs Phase 7 (Nash)	2020	\$	20,000.00
4860 Shingle Mill Phase 1	2020	\$	10,000.00
4840 Cold Springs WMA Conifer Removal Aspen Regeneration Phase VI	2020	\$	5,000.00
4882 La Sal/Abajo Prescribed Fire FY20	2020	\$	10,000.00
5012 Mahogany Point Sage Grouse Habitat Improvement	2020	\$	5,000.00
4777 Monroe Mountain Aspen Ecosystems Restoration Project Phase 4	2020	\$	15,000.00
4993 Powell District Mud Springs phase II	2020	\$	10,000.00
4818 Indian Peaks WMA Mule Deer Habitat Improvement Project	2020	\$	15,000.00
4625 Red Canyon Habitat Restoration Project Phase I	2020	\$	10,000.00
4881 Cedar Mtn (Mormon Peak Phase I) Habitat Protection	2020	\$	15,000.00
4815 Cedar Mountain (Durfee)	2020	\$	15,000.00
4958 Sevy Bench Habitat Improvement Project	2020	\$	19,992.25
			<u>\$ 189,992.25</u>

Remaining Balance \$ 29,596.50
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How revenue from each year has been spent  
 Division Approved Projects Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

2017 Revenue	\$ 185,361.00
2017 Interest Revenue	\$ 14.33
Total	\$ 185,375.33

Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

3913 Box Elder SGMA Aerial Infrared Lek Searches	2017	\$ 3,008.19
3929 Westside Northeastern Region WMA's Water Development Project	2018	\$ 20,000.00
3980 Book Cliffs Lower Elevation Guzzlers phase II	2018	\$ 25,000.00
4089 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase IV	2018	\$ 29,500.00
4104 Helicopter Lift of Remote Watering Facilities	2018	\$ 2,500.00
4180 FY18 DeerFawn/Adult Survival	2018	\$ 10,000.00
4182 FY18 Determinants of Population Growth in Utah Moose	2018	\$ 3,447.00
4188 FY18 Wildlife Migration Initiative	2018	\$ 50,000.00
4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2018	\$ 20,786.24
4344 SFW Pheasant Projects	2018	\$ 21,133.79
4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$ 0.11
		\$ 185,375.33

All 2017 Funds Expended

2018 Revenue	\$ 210,354.00
2018 interest Revenue	\$ 180.03
Total	\$ 210,534.03

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$ 5,414.80
4565 Ogden Bay WMA Upland habitat shrub complex II	2019	\$ 17,000.00
4566 Harold Crane WMA South pond project	2019	\$ 112,500.00
4611 Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase V	2019	\$ 25,439.09
4623 Ogden Bay WMA water control structures installation	2019	\$ 50,000.00
4816 UWC FS North Zone Juniper Lop and Scatter FY20	2020	\$ 180.14
		\$ 210,534.03

All 2018 Funds Expended

2019 Revenue	\$ 219,588.75
2019 interest Revenue	\$ 207.61
Total	\$ 219,796.36

Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

4854 Ogden Bay WMA East Dike Restoration	2020	\$ 34,000.00
4877 Upland Habitat Enhancement and Vegetation Management Salt Creek WMA FY20	2020	\$ 5,000.00
4894 Phragmites and Invasive Weed Control FY20	2020	\$ 5,000.00
5101 FY20 CA Quail Trap and Transplant	2020	\$ 6,500.00
4881 Cedar Mtn (Mormon Peak Phase I) Habitat Protection	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4815 Cedar Mountain (Durfee)	2020	\$ 10,000.00
5064 Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area	2020	\$ 9,250.00
4553 Salt Creek Channel Cleaning Island Restoration	2020	\$ 23,625.00
4840 Cold Springs WMA Conifer Removal Aspen Regeneration Phase VI	2020	\$ 10,000.00
4816 UWC FS North Zone Juniper Lop and Scatter FY20	2020	\$ 5,185.05
		\$ 118,560.05

Remaining Balance	\$ 101,236.31
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# Attachment 2

## How revenue from each year has been spent

### Contractor Approved Projects Mule Deer Foundation

2017 Revenue \$ 293,642.60

#### Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

3868 Pine Canyon to Koosharem Creek Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project - Phase 2	2018	\$	5,000.00
3917 Stansbury Mountain Catastrophic Fire Juniper Removal and Seeding	2018	\$	5,000.00
3918 Little Valley North Sheeprocks PJ Removal	2018	\$	6,000.00
3934 IndianPeak/Spanish George (Hamlin Valley Habitat Restoration Project - Sagebrush (Y	2018	\$	5,000.00
3950 Swasey Wildlife Habitat Improvement and Hazardous Fuels Reduction Phase 8	2018	\$	5,000.00
3961 South Bookcliffs Phase 5 (Bryson)	2018	\$	3,000.00
3965 Antelope-Pine Valley Hand Thinning	2018	\$	5,000.00
3966 Antimony (Forest Creek)	2018	\$	5,000.00
3980 Book Cliffs Lower Elevation Guzzlers phase II	2018	\$	13,108.00
4084 White Horse Pasture Habitat Improvement Project Phase I	2018	\$	10,000.00
4087 Stateline (Hamlin Valley) Sagebrush Habitat Restoration Project (Year 3)	2018	\$	5,000.00
4096 Hardware Ranch Juniper Lop and Scatter II	2018	\$	12,000.00
4149 Watts Mountain Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project	2018	\$	13,100.00
4180 FY18 Deer Fawn/Adult Survival	2018	\$	6,950.00
4187 FY18 Parker MT Pronghorn Capture and Monitoring	2018	\$	1,000.00
4188 FY18 Wildlife Migration Initiative	2018	\$	25,000.00
3947 Tavaputs Plateau Sagegrouse Habitat Restoration	2018	\$	2,500.00
4195 Middle Fork WMA acquisition	2018	\$	75,000.00
4215 MDF Stewardship Position FY18	2018	\$	30,000.00
Central Region Guzzler Work Portables	2018	\$	1,878.34
Mod to Urban deer trailer	2018	\$	3,439.39
Natural Resources Results Consulting	2018	\$	5,000.00
Urban deer trailer - Signs and mats	2018	\$	1,366.36
Congressional Sportsmans Foundation	2018	\$	5,000.00
MULEY Trailer	2018	\$	4,150.00
Project Mule Deer Educational Video	2018	\$	40,000.00
Guzzler WRI Project	2018	\$	150.51
			<u>\$ 293,642.60</u>

#### All 2017 Funds Expended

2018 Revenue \$ 344,467.50

#### Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4709 Utah Youth Hunter Education Challenge - FY18	2018	\$	2,500.00
3823 MDF Stewardship Position FY17	2018	\$	30,000.00
Panels and trimming for Guzzlers	2018	\$	2,085.85
Guzzler WRI Project	2018	\$	5,274.49
Sponsorship of Big Game Awards	2019	\$	6,500.00
Sponsorship of Congressional Sportmans Fund	2019	\$	5,000.00
Water Restoration Video	2019	\$	5,000.00
Materials for Guzzlers in Manti	2019	\$	30,879.96
Seedlings for WMA's	2019	\$	11,912.50
Printing for Youth Programs, Mule Deer magazine, Mule Deer Retrospective	2019	\$	28,310.87
Registration for Big Game Summit, Utah All Lands All Hands Summit, WAFWA	2019	\$	12,500.00
4719 Utah Youth Hunter Education Challenge - FY19	2019	\$	3,500.00
5021 MDF Stewardship Position FY19	2019	\$	30,000.00
4846 Raft River Aspen Restoration Project Phase I	2020	\$	15,000.00
4814 Three Canyons Deer Winter Range Habitat Treatment -phase 2	2020	\$	10,000.00
4816 UWC FS North Zone Juniper Lop and Scatter FY20	2020	\$	25,000.00
4819 Burnt-Beaver Phase II	2020	\$	100,000.00
			<u>\$ 323,463.67</u>

Remaining Balance 2018 \$ 21,003.83

2019 Revenue \$ 351,033.82

Remaining Balance 2019 \$ 351,033.82

**Total Remaining Balance \$ 372,037.65**

How revenue from each year has been spent  
**Contractor Approved Projects Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife**

2017 Revenue \$ 293,642.60  
 2017 Interest Revenue \$ 384.39  
 Total \$ 294,026.99

Project Expenses with 2017 Funds

Pheasants for UDWR Youth Day -Millard County	2017	\$	9,750.00
Reconstruct five guzzlers and two ponds	2018	\$	15,266.73
San Juan County Pond Lining Project	2018	\$	460.00
Tarantula Mesa Water Project	2018	\$	24,036.12
Urdan Deer Transplant Trailer	2018	\$	14,706.48
Predator control	2018	\$	15,000.00
Paunsaugunt Deer Habitat P&J Removal	2018	\$	15,000.00
Perch Reduction Project/Fishland Tournament	2018	\$	3,500.00
Utah Chukar Federation donation	2018	\$	1,200.00
Utah Airboat Associations	2018	\$	1,200.00
Consulting Bears Ears Access and Monument Reduction Effort	2018	\$	45,800.00
BLM Water East Paunsaugunt	2018	\$	830.45
Utah Regional Calling Championship	2017	\$	5,000.00
Youth Waterfowl Fair Barmington Bay WMA	2018	\$	5,843.27
San Juan County Pond Cleaning	2018	\$	2,880.00
Biologist travel to Big Horn Sheep Convention	2018	\$	623.00
Ogden Bay WMA Habitat Improvement	2018	\$	12,129.00
Pheasant chick projects - chicks,construction, feed, heaters	2018	\$	88,359.35
Waterfowl Calling Contest Expenses	2018	\$	8,258.04
Paunsaugunt Water Project Winter Mule Deer	2018	\$	23,926.52
4416 California Quail Transplant FY18	2018	\$	258.03
			\$ 294,026.99

**All 2017 Funds Expended**

2018 Revenue \$ 344,467.50  
 2018 Interest Revenue \$ 368.07  
 Total \$ 344,835.57

Project Expenses with 2018 Funds

4416 California Quail Transplant FY18	2018	\$	9,741.97
4479 Salt Creek WMA Water Share Purchase	2018	\$	12,500.00
4725 California Quail Transplant FY19	2018	\$	10,000.00
4156 Winter Deer Feed FY17	2018	\$	751.81
4707 OBWMA Kubota RTV	2018	\$	3,375.00
4560 Ogden Bay WMA upland/wetland enhancement project	2019	\$	6,000.00
4564 Waterfowl Management Areas rotenone project	2019	\$	2,585.09
4705 Utah Migration Initiative	2019	\$	25,000.00
4713 Pahvant WMA water purchase	2019	\$	10,000.00
4722 Salt Creek Waterfowl Management Area UTV	2019	\$	3,750.00
4723 Farmington Bay Waterfowl Area UTV	2019	\$	3,750.00
4724 MarshMasters for phragmites control on Great Salt Lake waterfowl mgmt areas	2019	\$	131,250.00
4553 Salt Creek Channel Cleaning island restoration	2019	\$	17,500.00
Wheeler Machinery Bulldozer Rental for Cache Projects	2019	\$	108,631.70
			\$ 344,835.57

**All 2018 Funds Expended**

2019 Revenue \$ 351,033.82  
 2019 Interest Revenue \$ 851.14  
 Total \$ 351,884.96

Project Expenses with 2019 Funds

S. Sorensen Cache Predator Control for Fawn Study	2019	\$	5,700.00
Pheasant chick projects - chicks,construction, feed, heaters	2019	\$	20,595.22
Wheeler Machinery Trackloader rental	2019	\$	64,500.00
4958 Sevy Bench Habitat Improvement Project	2020	\$	17,500.00
4852 Ogden Bay WMA upland/wetland enhancement project FY20	2020	\$	6,875.00
4853 Harold Crane WMA South pond project PHASE 2	2020	\$	20,000.00
4980 Howard Slough WMA secondary road gravel project	2020	\$	6,000.00
			\$ 141,170.22

Remaining Balance \$ 210,714.74

# Attachment 3



On Tuesday, February 19, 2019 the electronic random drawing for the 200 Expo permits will take place at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources located at 1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah. These permits were awarded to the Western Hunting & Conservation Expo by the Utah Wildlife Board.

The following are witnesses of the drawing and were present during the entire process. Once the successful applicants have been drawn, all names will be given to Division of Wildlife Resources Law Enforcement. The names will be checked for any compact violations and will be deemed eligible by the Division of Wildlife and the successful applicants will be notified by mail.

Start Time: 10:10 am

End Time: 10:15 am

PASSCODE It's about Family

Print Name	Signature	Date
<u>Lindy Varney</u>	<u>Lindy Varney</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>Debbie Marchese</u>	<u>Debbie Marchese</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>Karen Caldwell</u>	<u>Karen Caldwell</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>Chris Carling</u>	<u>Chris Carling</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>May Westwood</u>	<u>May Westwood</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>May Crow</u>	<u>May Crow</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>Miles Morett</u>	<u>Miles Morett</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>Jeannine Withers</u>	<u>Jeannine Withers</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>
<u>Brian Swaner</u>	<u>Brian Swaner</u>	<u>2/19/19</u>

Print Name

Signature

Date

Greg Evans



2/19/2019

Jessalyn Bowman



2/19/19

Kari Cochran



2/19/19

Kenny Johnson



2/19/19

Stephen Newfen



2-19-19

ROBERT GRAY



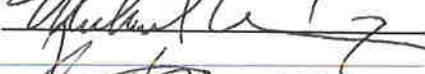
2-19-19

Rick Olson



2-19-19

Mike Canning



2/19/19

Kevin Nelson



2-19-19

Bill Pyfer



2-19-19

Cory Anderson



2-19-19



# Attachment 4

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

**R657-55. Wildlife Expo Permits.**

**R657-55-1. Purpose and Authority.**

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, this rule provides the standards and requirements for issuing wildlife expo permits.

(2) Wildlife expo permits are authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division to a qualified conservation organization for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting and supporting a regional or national wildlife exposition in Utah.

(3) The selected conservation organization will conduct a random drawing at an exposition held in Utah to distribute the opportunity to receive wildlife expo permits.

(4) This rule is intended as authorization to issue one series of wildlife expo permits per year to a qualified conservation organization.

**R657-55-2. Definitions.**

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Conservation organization" means a 26 U.S.C. 501(c)(3) tax exempt, nonprofit chartered institution, corporation, foundation, or association founded for the purpose of promoting wildlife conservation.

(b) "Special nonresident expo permit" means one wildlife expo permit for each once-in-a-lifetime species that is only available to a nonresident hunter legally eligible to hunt in Utah.

(c) "Wildlife exposition" means a multi-day event held within the state of Utah that is sponsored by one or more wildlife conservation organizations, acting through a single conservation organization, as their national or regional convention or event that is open to the general public and designed to draw nationwide attendance of more than 10,000 individuals. The wildlife exposition may include wildlife conservation fund raising activities, outdoor exhibits, retail marketing of outdoor products and services, public awareness programs, and other similar activities.

(d) "Wildlife exposition audit" means an annual review by the division of the conservation organization's processes used to handle applications for expo permits and conduct the drawing, the protocols associated with collecting and using client data, the revenue generated from expo permit application handling fees, and the expenditure of designated expo permit application handling fee revenue on division-approved projects.

(e) "Wildlife expo permit" means a permit which:

(i) is authorized by the Wildlife Board to be issued to successful applicants through a drawing or random selection process conducted at a Utah wildlife exposition; and

(ii) allows the permittee to hunt the designated species on the designated unit during the respective season for each species as authorized by the Wildlife Board.

(f) "Wildlife expo permit series" means a single package of permits to be determined by the Wildlife Board for:

(i) deer;

(ii) elk;

(iii) pronghorn;

(iv) moose;

(v) bison;

- (vi) mountain goat;
- (vii) desert bighorn sheep;
- (viii) rocky mountain bighorn sheep;
- (ix) wild turkey;
- (x) cougar; or
- (xi) black bear.

(g) "Secured opportunity" means the opportunity to receive a specified wildlife expo permit that is secured by an eligible applicant through the exposition drawing process.

(h) "Successful applicant" means an individual selected to receive a wildlife expo permit through the drawing process.

### **R657-55-3. Wildlife Expo Permit Allocation.**

(1) The Wildlife Board may allocate wildlife expo permits after May 1 of the year preceding the wildlife exposition.

(2) Wildlife expo permits shall be issued as a single series to one conservation organization.

(3) The number of wildlife expo permits authorized by the Wildlife Board shall be based on:

- (a) the species population trend, size, distribution, and long-term health;
- (b) the hunting and viewing opportunity for the general public, both short and long term;

and

(c) a percentage of the permits available to nonresidents in the annual big game drawings matched by a proportionate number of resident permits.

(4) Wildlife expo permits, including special nonresident expo permits, shall not exceed 200 total permits.

(5) Wildlife expo permits designated for the exposition each year shall be deducted from the number of public drawing permits.

### **R657-55-4. Obtaining Authority to Distribute Wildlife Expo Permit Series.**

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), the wildlife expo permit series is issued for a period of five years.

(b) The original five-year term may be renewed for an additional period not to exceed five years, provided:

(i) the conservation organization, Division of Purchasing and General Services procurement officer, Wildlife Board, and division mutually agree in writing to the renewal term; and

(ii) the procurement officer determines in writing pursuant to Section 63G-6a-1204(7) that the renewal term is in the division's best interest and places the writing in the conservation organization's procurement file.

(2)(a) The wildlife expo permit series is available to eligible conservation organizations for distribution through a drawing or other random selection process held at a wildlife exposition in Utah open to the public.

(b) The division may unilaterally discontinue or suspend issuing the wildlife expo permit series at:

(i) the conclusion of the original five-year contract term or renewal term described in Subsection (1) and prior to issuance of a contract under this rule; or

(ii) any time during the term of a contract when in the interest of wildlife conservation, management, or compliance with law.

(3) Prior to expiration of a current wildlife exposition term or renewal term, the division may issue through the Division of Purchasing and General Services a request for proposal consistent with the Procurement Code in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code to solicit bids from conservation organizations desiring to distribute the wildlife expo permit series at a wildlife exposition.

(4) The request for proposal will solicit information relevant to successfully conducting a wildlife exposition, competently distributing the expo permit series, protecting confidential personal information acquired in distributing permits, and generating revenue for wildlife conservation in Utah, including:

(a) the name, address and telephone number of the conservation organization;

(b) a description of the conservation organization's mission statement;

(c) documentation establishing the conservation organization meets the definitional criteria in R657-55-2(2)(a) and is eligible to submit a proposal;

(d) the name of the president or other individual responsible for the administrative operations of the conservation organization;

(e) a detailed business plan describing how the:

(i) proposed wildlife exposition will take place;

(ii) proposed wildlife exposition will satisfy the definitional criteria in R657-55-2(2)(c);

(iii) wildlife expo permit drawing procedures will be carried out; and

(iv) confidential personal information acquired in the drawing process will be safeguarded;

(f) the conservation organization and any partnering entities' ability, including past performance in marketing conservation permits under R657-41, to effectively plan and complete the wildlife exposition;

(g) the conservation organization's commitment to use expo permit handling fee revenue to benefit protected wildlife in Utah; and

(h) historical contributions of the conservation organization and any partnering entities to the conservation of wildlife in Utah.

(5) Proposals submitted in response to a request for proposal under Subsection (4) will be processed, evaluated, and acted upon consistent with the procurement requirements set forth in Title 63G, Chapter 6a of the Utah Code.

(6) The conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series must:

(a) require each wildlife expo permit applicant to possess a current Utah hunting or combination license before applying for a wildlife expo permit;

(b) select successful applicants for wildlife expo permits by drawing or other random selection process in accordance with law, provisions of this rule, and orders of the Wildlife Board;

(c) allow applicants to apply for wildlife expo permits without purchasing admission to the wildlife exposition;

(d) notify the division of the successful applicant of each wildlife expo permit within 10 days of the applicant's selection;

(e) maintain records demonstrating that the drawing was conducted fairly; and

(f) submit to an annual wildlife exposition audit by a division appointed auditor.

(7) The division shall issue the appropriate wildlife expo permit to the designated successful applicant after:

(a) completion of the random selection process;

- (b) verification of the recipient being eligible for the permit; and
- (c) payment of the appropriate permit fee is received by the division.
- (8) The division and the conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series will enter into a contract with terms that include the relevant provisions in this rule, the request for proposal, and the conservation organization's proposal.
- (9) If the conservation organization awarded the wildlife expo permit series withdraws before the end of the 5-year period or any extension period under R657-55-4(1)(b), any remaining co-participant with the conservation organization may assume the contract and distribute the expo permit series consistent with the contract and this rule for the remaining years in the applicable period, provided:
  - (a) The original contracted conservation organization submits a certified letter to the head of the procurement unit, as defined in Section 63G-6a-103, and the division identifying that it will no longer be participating in the exposition;
  - (b) The co-participant conservation organization submits a request with the head of the procurement unit and the division for authorization to assume the remaining term of the contract ; and
  - (c) the head of the procurement unit, in consultation with the division and Wildlife Board, approves the application.
- (10) The division may suspend or terminate the conservation organization's authority to distribute wildlife expo permits at any time during the original five -year award term or any renewal period for:
  - (a) violating any of the requirements set forth in this rule or the contract; or
  - (b) failing to bring or organize a wildlife exposition in Utah, as described in the business plan under R657-55-4(4)(e), in any given year.

**R657-55-5. Wildlife Expo Permit Application Procedures.**

- (1) Any person legally eligible to hunt in Utah may apply for a wildlife expo permit, except that only a nonresident of Utah may apply for a special nonresident expo permit.
- (2) The handling fee assessed by the conservation organization to process applications shall be \$5 per application submitted.
- (3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), applicants must validate their application in person at the wildlife exposition to be eligible to participate in the wildlife expo permit drawing.
  - (i) No person may submit an application in behalf of another.
  - (ii) A person may validate their wildlife expo permit application at the exposition without having to enter the exposition and pay the admission charge.
- (b) An applicant that is a member of the United States Armed Forces and unable to attend the wildlife exposition as a result of being deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or a national emergency is not required to validate their application in person; provided exposition administrators are furnished a copy of the written deployment or mobilization orders and the orders identify:
  - (i) the branch of the United States Armed forces from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized;
  - (ii) the location where the applicant is deployed or mobilized;
  - (iii) the date the applicant is required to report to duty; and
  - (iv) the nature and length of the applicant's deployment or mobilization.
- (c) The conservation organization shall maintain a record, including copies of military

orders, of all applicants that are not required to validate their applications in person pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), and submit to a division audit of these records as part of its annual audit under R657-55-4(8)(f), when requested by the division.

(4) Applicants may apply for each individual hunt for which they are eligible.

(5) Applicants may apply only once for each hunt, regardless of the number of permits for that hunt.

(6) Applicants must submit an application for each desired hunt.

(7) Applicants must possess a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a wildlife expo permit.

(8) The conservation organization shall advertise, accept, and process applications for wildlife expo permits and conduct the drawing in compliance with this rule and all other applicable laws.

#### **R657-55-6. Drawing Procedures.**

(1) A random drawing or selection process must be conducted for each wildlife expo permit.

(2) Preference and bonus points are neither awarded nor applied in the drawings.

(3) Waiting periods do not apply, except any person who obtains a wildlife expo permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species is subject to the once-in-a-lifetime restrictions applicable to obtaining a subsequent permit for the same species through a division application and drawing process, as provided in R657-62 and the guide books of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

(4) No predetermined quotas or restrictions shall be imposed in the application or selection process for wildlife expo permits between resident and nonresident applicants, except that special nonresident expo permits may only be awarded to a nonresident of Utah.

(5) Drawings will be conducted within five days of the close of the exposition.

(6) Applicants do not have to be present at the drawing to be awarded a wildlife expo permit.

(7) The conservation organization shall identify all eligible alternates for each wildlife expo permit and provide the division with a finalized list. This list will be maintained by the conservation organization until all permits are issued.

(8) The division shall contact successful applicants, and the conservation organization shall post the name of all successful applicants on a designated website.

#### **R657-55-7. Issuance of Permits.**

(1) The division shall provide a wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant, as designated by the conservation organization.

(2) The division must provide a wildlife expo permit to each successful applicant, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

(3) The division shall provide each successful applicant a letter indicating the permit secured in the drawing, the appropriate fee owed the division, and the date the fee is due.

(4)(a) Successful applicants must submit the permit fee payment in full to the division before receiving the permit.

(b) Subject to the limitation in Subsection (8), the division will issue the designated wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant.

(5) Residents will pay resident permit fees and nonresidents will pay nonresident permit fees.

(6) Beginning in 2019, applicants are eligible to obtain only one expo permit each year, regardless of species.

(7) If an applicant is selected for more than one expo permit, the division will contact the applicant to determine which permit the applicant selects.

(a) The applicant must select the permit of choice within 2 days of receiving notification.

(b) If the division is unable to contact the applicant within 2 days, the division will issue to the applicant the permit with the most difficult drawing odds based on drawing results from the division's big game drawing for the preceding year.

(c) Permits not issued to the applicant will go to the next person on the alternate drawing list for that permit, provided the person is legally eligible to receive the permit and does not have a secured opportunity for any other expo permit.

(8) Any successful applicant who fails to satisfy the following requirements will be ineligible to receive the wildlife expo permit and the next drawing alternate for that permit will be selected:

(a) The applicant fails to remit the appropriate permit fee in full to the division by the date provided in Subsection (3);

(b) The applicant does not possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license at the time the expo permit application was submitted; or

(c) The applicant is legally ineligible to possess the permit.

#### **R657-55-8. Surrender or Transfer of Wildlife Expo Permits.**

(1)(a) A person selected to receive a wildlife expo permit that is also successful in obtaining a Utah once-in-a-lifetime or limited entry permit for the same species in the same year or successful in obtaining a general permit for a male animal of the same species in the same year, may not possess both permits and must select the permit of choice.

(b) In the event a secured opportunity is surrendered before the permit is issued, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive the permit, provided the person is legally eligible to receive the permit and does not:

(i) have a secured opportunity for any other expo permit; or

(ii) possess any other expo permit valid in the same year.

(c) In the event the wildlife expo permit is surrendered, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, provided the person satisfies the eligibility requirements in Subsection (b).

(d) The permit fee on a surrendered expo permit may be refunded, as provided in Sections 23-19-38, 23-19-38.2, and R657-42-5.

(2) A person selected by a conservation organization to receive a wildlife expo permit, may not sell or transfer the permit, or any rights thereunder to another person in accordance with Section 23-19-1.

(3) If a person is successful in obtaining a wildlife expo permit but is legally ineligible to hunt in Utah, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, provided the person satisfies the eligibility requirements in Subsection (1)(b).

#### **R657-55-9. Using a Wildlife Expo Permit.**

(1) A wildlife expo permit allows the recipient to:

(a) take only the species and sex printed on the permit;

(b) take the species only in the area and during the season specified on the permit; and

(c) take the species only with the weapon type specified on the permit.

(2) The recipient of a wildlife expo permit is subject to all the provisions of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code, and the rules and guidebooks of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing wildlife.

**R657-55-10. Wildlife Expo Permit -- Application Handling Fee Revenue.**

(1)(a) All wildlife expo permit application handling fee revenue generated by the conservation organization under R657-55-5(2) will be deposited in a separate, federally insured account to prevent commingling with any other funds.

(b) Interest earned on the portion of application handling fee revenue retained by the conservation organization for administrative expenses under Subsection (2) may be retained and used by the conservation organization.

(c) Interest earned on the portion of application handling fee revenue committed to fund wildlife conservation projects under Subsection (3) shall be used by the conservation organization to fund approved wildlife conservation projects.

(2) The conservation organization may retain up to \$3.50 of each \$5.00 application handling fee for administrative expenses, unless the conservation organization pledges a greater percentage of the application handling fee to wildlife conservation in:

(a) its response to the request for proposal; or

(b) the expo contract with the division.

(3) The remaining balance of each \$5.00 application handling fee and accrued interest, less standard banking fees assessed on the account where the funding is deposited, will be used by the conservation organization to fund projects advancing wildlife interests in the state, subject to the following:

(a) project funding will not be committed to or expended on any project without first obtaining the division director's written approval;

(b) cash donations to the Wildlife Habitat Account created under Section 23-19-43 or Division Species Enhancement Funds are authorized projects that do not require the division director's approval; and

(c) application handling fee revenue dedicated to funding projects must be completely expended on approved projects or transferred to the division by August 1st, two years following the year in which the application handling fee revenue is collected.

(4) Application handling fee revenue committed to division-approved projects will be transferred by the conservation organization to the division within 60 days of being invoiced by the division.

(a) If the division-approved project to which funds are committed is completed under projected budget or canceled, funds committed to the project that are not used will be kept by the division and credited back to the conservation organization and made available for the group to use on other approved projects during the current or subsequent year.

(5) All records and receipts for projects under Subsection (3) must be retained by the conservation organization for a period not less than five years, and shall be produced to the division for inspection upon request.

(6) The conservation organization shall submit a report to the division and Wildlife Board each year by August 1st that accounts for and documents the following:

(a) gross revenue generated from collecting \$5 wildlife expo permit application handling fees;



(b) total amount of application handling fee revenue retained for administrative expenses;  
and

(c) total amount of application handling fee revenue set aside and dedicated to funding projects, including bank statements showing account balances.

(7) A partner organization that individually receives application handling fee revenue from the expo permit drawing pursuant to a co-participant contract with the conservation organization, is subject to the provisions in Subsections (1) through (6).

**KEY: wildlife, wildlife permits**

**Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: August 9, 2018**

**Notice of Continuation: May 5, 2015**

**Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19**



**GARY R. HERBERT**  
*Governor*

**SPENCER J. COX**  
*Lieutenant Governor*

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**BRIAN C. STEED**  
*Executive Director*

### Division of Wildlife Resources

**MICHAL D. FOWLKS**  
*Division Director*

## MEMORANDUM

Date: July 11, 2019

To: Wildlife Board

From: Justin M. Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

**Subject: Expo Permit Allocation**

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is recommending 200 hunting permits for the Hunt Expo (see attached tables for details). Some proposed changes this year include:

- Add 3 any weapon (mid-season) bull elk permits on the Wasatch, and reduce 3 archery bull elk permits on the Wasatch;
- Add 1 archery mt goat permit on the Central Mtns, Nebo, and reduce 1 any weapon mt goat permit on the Ogden, Willard Peak.

All other expo permits will remain the same as last year.

## 2020 Expo Permits by Species and Residency

		TOTAL PERMITS		
		Res	NonRes	Total
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>145</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>200</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bison	Book Cliffs	Hunter's Choice (late)	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Hunter's Choice (Nonresident Only - late)	0	1	1
Bison	Book Cliffs	Cow Only (late)	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Cow Only (late)	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Black Bear	Wasatch Mtns, West-Central	Summer, Any Legal Weapon, No Dogs	1	1	2
Black Bear	La Sal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
Black Bear	Nine Mile	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mtns, Manti-North	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	San Juan	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, North	Any Weapon	6	3	9
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Archery	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Muzzleloader	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oak Creek LE	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Premium Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Management Buck, Any Weapon	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Any Weapon	2	1	3
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Management Buck, Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	4	1	5
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>32</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>45</b>

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Any Weapon	1	0	1

Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Muzzleloader	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (early)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Archery	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (late)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan Bull Elk	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan Bull Elk	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (mid)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Muzzleloader	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Multi-Season	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>69</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>91</b>

Species	Area	Condition	Permits		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	2	1	3
Antlerless Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	1	0	1
Antlerless Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Open Season and Unit Within Boundary	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns		1	0	1
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns	Nonresident Only	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Cougar	Plateau, Boulder	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Plateau, Fishlake	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1

Cougar	Central Mtns, Nebo	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Panguitch Lake	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Fillmore, Pahvant	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Zion	Nonresident Only (early)	0	1	1
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Kaiparowits, West		1	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Pronghorn	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Any Weapon	3	0	3
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Archery	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Archery	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau, Parker Mtn	Any Weapon	3	2	5
Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon	2	2	4
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtn	(early)	1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Nine Mile, Gray Canyon	Nonresident Only (early)	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Mountain Goat	Central Mtns, Nebo	Hunter's Choice, Archery	1	0	1
Mountain Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas West	Hunter's Choice	1	1	2
Mountain Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak	Hunter's Choice (Nonresident Only - early)	0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Turkey	Northern Region		0	1	1
Turkey	Northeast Region		1	0	1
Turkey	Central Region		0	1	1
Turkey	Southern Region		1	0	1
Turkey	Southeast Region		0	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>