

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 4, 2020, Electronic Meeting

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/X6mw9-bYwV0>

AGENDA

Thursday, June 4, 2020 – 9:00 am

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Book Cliffs Working Group Update
– Miles Hanberg, NE Region Supervisor | INFORMATION |
| 6. Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations
– Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments
– Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. AIS Rule Amendments
– Bruce Johnson, AIS Lieutenant | ACTION |
| 9. Walk-in Access Rule Amendments
– Bryan Christensen, Volunteer Services Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Wildlife Board Stipulations
– Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General | ACTION |
| 11. Prohibited Species Variance Request
– Drew Dittmer, Native Species Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Other Business
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Motions

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

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

Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting

April 30, 2020

Salt Lake City, Utah

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/r7PWxlWU82M>

Thursday, April 30, 2020, 9:00 am

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Mike Fowlks, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2020
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2020
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. 2020 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
– Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Management Bison Hunts – Nine Mile, Range Creek Unit
– Brad Crompton, Assistant Wildlife Manager SE | ACTION |
| 10. Managing Predatory Wildlife Species Policy Revisions
– Darren DeBloois, Game Mammals Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Cougar and Bear Rule Amendments
– Darren DeBloois, Game Mammals Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Other Business
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Details of the specific recommendations can be found at www.wildlife.utah.gov
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.

Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting
April 30, 2020
Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes.

3) Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2020 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease the buck deer permits on the Cache Unit by an additional 800 permits for a total decrease of 1,600 from 2019 permit numbers.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed 5 in favor and 1 opposed. Karl Hirst was opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the Desert Bighorn Sheep permits on the West Kaiparowits unit to 12 permits – the same as 2019.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we increase the Henry Mtn Archery only Bison permits by 1 permit to equal 2 total Resident permits.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease the permits on the San Juan, Abajo buck deer hunt by an additional 150 permits bringing the total decrease to

650 and to ask the division to look at moving the unit to an 18-20 buck-doe unit.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we keep the bull elk permits on the Central Mtns, Nebo unit at the 2019 permit number (47) and ask the elk committee to address the elk age objectives on this unit and any others that are not meeting their numbers.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease buck deer tags on the La Sal, La Sal Mtns. by an additional 100 permits bringing the totals from 1300 to 1200.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the recommendations for Bucks, Bulls, OIAL permit numbers for 2020 as presented.

4) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2020 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the antlerless tags on the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South and Roadless units to a total of 150 tags.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Antlerless recommendations as presented.

5) R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Rule Amendments as presented.

6) 2020 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Bret Selman and passed with 5 in favor and 1 recusal. Wade Heaton recused himself.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented with the presented corrections.

7) Management Bison Hunts – Nine Mile, Range Creek Unit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Management Bison Hunts on the Nine Mile, Range Creek unit as presented.

8) Managing Predatory Wildlife Species Policy Revisions (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Managing Predatory Wildlife Species Policy Revisions as presented.

9) Cougar and Bear Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Cougar and Bear Rule Amendments as presented.

Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting
April 30, 2020
Salt Lake City, Utah
Online Attendance

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman – Chair	Karl Hirst
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chair	Donnie Hunter
Mike Fowlks – Exec Secretary	Randy Dearth
	Wade Heaton
	Bret Selman

RAC Chairs

Central – Brock McMillan
Southern – Brayden Richmond
Southeastern – Trisha Hedin
Northeastern – Brett Prevedel
Northern – Justin Oliver

Presenter(s)

Darren DeBloois	Teresa Griffin
Covy Jones	Dax Mangus
Brad Crompton	Riley Peck
Chad Wilson	Guy Wallace
	Jim Christensen
Marty Bushman	Kent Hersey
Greg Hansen	Lindy Varney
Staci Coons	

Public invited to join online: <https://youtu.be/r7PWxIWU82M>

Utah Wildlife Board Electronic Meeting

April 30, 2020

Salt Lake City, Utah

<https://youtu.be/r7PWxIWU82M>

- 00:00:02** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order. The Chairman thanked all who had participated to create the electronic format of the RAC and Wildlife Board meetings. Chairman Bateman called the roll of board members, and noted that DWR personnel were also present at the meeting.
- 00:02:28** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Randy Hirst, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.
- 00:03:30** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 7 and April 10, 2020 Wildlife Board Meetings.
- 00:04:17** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
There were no items to discuss from the Action Log.
- 00:04:17** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Mike Fowlks updated the Board on new State legislation, the Division's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, wildlife, habitat and aquatics projects, Lake Powell opening status, general season permit sales and the Northeast Region Book Cliffs working group plan. The Director responded to a question about surrendered bear permits.
- 00:13:08** **5) Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2020 (Action)**
Chairman Bateman noted that all presentations were posted online prior to the meeting and that there would be no presentations given during the meeting. Covy Jones did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.
- 00:13:44** **Public Comments**
Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.
- 00:15:03** **Board/RAC Questions**
The Board asked for clarification on late season muzzle loader tag recommendations.
The Board discussed the social perception of permit recommendations in different regional deer populations, and how those perceptions might differ from collected

biological data and/or habitat factors.

00:49:11 RAC Recommendation

All the RACs passed the permit recommendations with varying stipulations and opposition.

00:59:21 Board Questions & Discussion

The board discussed Southern region unit deer population numbers, and suggested the creation of a wildlife project to further care for deer in specified Southern Region units. The board discussed DNR scientific modeling, late season muzzle loader hunt permit numbers and the addition of a Henry Mountains bison permit.

Cache Unit Permits

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease the buck deer permits on the Cache Unit by an additional 800 permits for a total decrease of 1,600 from 2019 permit numbers.

West Kaiparowits Desert Big Horn Sheep

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed 5 in favor and 1 opposed. Karl Hirst was opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the Desert Bighorn Sheep permits on the West Kaiparowits unit to 12 permits – the same as 2019.

Henry Mtns Bison Permit

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we increase the Henry Mtn Archery only Bison permits by 1 permit to equal 2 total Resident permits.

San Juan, Abajo Permits

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease the permits on the San Juan, Abajo buck deer hunt by an additional 150 permits bringing the total decrease to 650, and to ask the division to look at moving the unit to an 18-20 buck-doe unit.

Central Mtns Permits

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we keep the bull elk permits on the Central Mtns, Nebo unit at the 2019 permit number (47), and ask the elk committee to address the elk age objectives on this unit and any others that are not meeting their numbers.

La Sal Unit Permits

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we decrease buck deer tags on the La Sal unit, La Sal Mtns., by an additional 100 permits bringing the totals from 1300 to 1200.

The following motion was made by Wade Heaton, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the recommendations for Bucks, Bulls, OIAL permit numbers for 2020 as presented.

01:42:09 6) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2020 (Action)

Covy Jones did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.

During the Board Meeting, Covy Jones clarified some reasons why the DWR makes antlerless permit recommendations.

01:43:28 Summary of RAC Motions

The Board Chairman summarized the RAC meetings motions.

01:45:13 Board Questions & Discussion

The Board discussed roadless area permit numbers.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the antlerless tags on the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South and Roadless units to a total of 150 tags.

01:48:06 Public Comments

Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

01:50:10 Board Questions & Discussion

The following motion was passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the antlerless tags on the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South and Roadless units to a total of 150 tags.

01:55:30 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked for clarification on permit reduction recommendations on specific units.

01:55:46 RAC Recommendation

The Central, Northern, Northeastern and Southern RACs passed the permit recommendations unanimously. The Southeastern Region passed the permit

recommendations with a vote of 11:1.

01:58:03 Board Questions & Discussion

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Antlerless recommendations as presented.

02:00:55 7) R657-37 CWMU Rule Amendments (Action)

Chad Wilson did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.

02:01:13 Public Comments

Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

02:02:01 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or from the RAC Chairs.

02:02:10 RAC Recommendation

The Central, Northern, Northeastern and Southern RACs passed the rule amendments unanimously. The Southeastern RAC passed the rule amendments with an 11:1 vote, with one abstention.

02:03:24 Board Questions & Discussion

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Rule Amendments as presented.

02:05:48 8) 2020 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)

Chad Wilson did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.

02:06:02 Public Comments

Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

02:06:33 Board/RAC Questions

DWR Wildlife Biologist Chad Wilson clarified corrections that were made since giving his online presentation.

02:08:10 RAC Recommendation

All RACs passed the permit recommendations unanimously.

02:09:39 Board Questions & Discussion

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Bret Selman and passed with 5 in favor and 1 recusal. Wade Heaton recused himself.

MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented with the presented corrections.

02:11:30 9) Management Bison Hunts – Nine Mile, Range Creek Unit (Action)

Brad Crompton did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.

02:11:41 Public Comments

Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

02:12:13 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or from the RAC Chairs.

02:12:35 RAC Recommendation

Central and Southern RACs unanimously approved the hunt. The Northern RAC approved the hunt with a vote of 10:2. The Southeastern RAC approved the hunt with a stipulation. The Northeastern RAC approved the hunt with a vote of 9:1.

02:39:28 Board Questions & Discussion

The board discussed the land owners' access concerns regarding the bison hunt.

The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Management Bison Hunts on the Nine Mile, Range Creek unit as presented.

02:18:04 10) Managing Predatory Wildlife Species Policy Revisions (Action)

Darren DeBloois did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.

02:18:26 Public Comments

Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

02:19:06 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or from the RAC Chairs.

02:19:20 RAC Recommendation

The Northeastern, Northern and Southern RACs passed the policy revisions unanimously. The Central RAC passed the policy revisions with a vote of 7:3. The Southeastern RAC passed the policy revisions with a vote of 11:1.

02:20:32 Board Questions & Discussion

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Managing Predatory Wildlife Species Policy Revisions as presented.

02:21:42 11) Cougar and Bear Rule Amendments (Action)

Darren DeBloois did a pre-recorded online presentation posted on the Division website: <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>.

02:21:51 Public Comments

Mike Fowlks summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

02:22:21 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or from the RAC Chairs.

02:22:45 RAC Recommendation

The Central, Northern, Southeastern and Southern RACs passed the rule amendments unanimously. The Northeastern RAC passed the rule amendments 10 in favor, with 1 abstention.

02:23:52 Board Questions & Discussion

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Wade Heaton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Cougar and Bear Rule Amendments as presented.

02:25:25 12) Other Business (Contingent)

The Board discussed over-the-counter predator permits, unit population objectives, assessment of permitted public land grazing impact on landscape forage and Lake Powell opening status, and asked about certain Southern Region units deer management objectives. The Board tabled discussion of rescheduling the postponed March 19th board work session meeting, pending the relaxing of current social distancing directives, and noted that the electronic format of the April RAC meetings was well-received by regional councils.

02:52:30 Meeting adjourned.

May RAC Meetings
Video Conference
Summary of Approved Motions

- 1) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations
- CRO **MOTION: Accept the turkey recommendations as presented.**
Passed: 7-1
- MOTION: Keep the youth pheasant and quail hunt opening date as the day closest to October 13.**
Passed: Unanimous
- MOTION: Not allow airbows or air guns to take upland game in Utah due to lack of PR payments.**
Passed: Unanimous
- MOTION: Accept the remainder of the Division's recommendations as presented.**
Passed: Unanimous
- NRO **MOTION: Approve Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations as presented.**
Passed: 11-1
- SRO **MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**
MOTION TO AMEND: to add the WMA closures are non-revenue generating and are for the benefit of the general public.
MOTION TO AMEND: Fails 3-4
Original Motion Passed: Unanimous
- SER NER **MOTION: To accept the upland game and turkey guidebook rule recommendations as presented.**
Passed: Unanimous
- 2) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments
- All RACs **MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.**
Passed: Unanimous

- 3) AIS Rule Amendments

All RACs

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

Passed: Unanimous

- 4) Walk-in Access Rule Amendments

CRO SRO SER NER

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

Passed: Unanimous

NRO

MOTION: To approve Walk-in Access Rule Amendments as presented with the caveat to provide user land use information to replace sign in box.

Passed: Unanimous

Central Region RAC Meeting

Video Conference

May 12, 2020

The meeting streamed live at <https://youtu.be/jnLFzZnMEis>

Tuesday, May 12, 2020, 6:00 pm

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Brock McMillan, RAC chair | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Brock McMillan, RAC chair | ACTION |
| 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update
– Brock McMillan, RAC chair | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4. Regional Update
– Jason Vernon, Regional Supervisor | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Upland Game/Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Migratory Upland Game Recommendations/Swan Rule Amendments
- Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. AIS Rule Amendments
- Bruce Johnson, AIS Lieutenant | ACTION |
| 8. Walk-in Access Rule Amendments
– Bryan Christensen, Volunteer Services Coordinator | ACTION |

Details of the specific recommendations can be found at www.wildlife.utah.gov
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.

Central Region RAC Meeting
May 12, 2020
Springville, Utah
Summary of Motions

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve to approve the agenda as presented.

2) Approval of Minutes

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Eric Reid and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 7th Central Region RAC meeting as transcribed.

3) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart, seconded by Michael Christensen and failed 3 in favor and 5 against (A J Mower, Ben Lowder, Eric Reid, Ken Strong, Luke Decker)

MOTION: To support a one-year extension of the current guidebook and ask the Wildlife Board to reconvene a committee and develop a new turkey management plan.

The following motion was made by Ken Strong and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: To accept NWTF recommendation to lengthen the youth hunt season to Monday - Sunday which adds four days.

The following motion was made by Ken Strong and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: To recommend the first two weeks of the turkey hunt for youth only.

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed (Josh Lenart)

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To keep the youth pheasant and quail hunt opening date as they day closest to October 13th.

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

MOTION: To not allow airbows or air guns to take upland game in Utah due to lack of PR payments.

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed unanimously.

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

- 4) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations & Swan rule amendments

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

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

- 5) AIS Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded Eric Reid and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept the Division's rule amendments as presented.

- 6) Walk-in Access rule amendments

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

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

Central Region RAC Meeting
May 12, 2020
Online Attendance

RAC Members

Brock McMillan – RAC Chair

Luke Decker

Eric Reid

Ken Strong

Ben Lowder

AJ Mower

Scott Jensen

Michael Christensen

Josh Lenart

Absent

Danny Potts

Steve Lund

Jake Steele

Excused

Christine Schmitz

Wildlife Board

Karl Hirst

DWR Personnel

Jason Vernon

Riley Peck

Bryan Christensen

Heather Talley

Jason Robinson

Matt Briggs

Staci Coons

Rusty Robinson

Scott Root

Blair Stringham

Marty Bushman

Dale Liechty

Bruce Johnson

Public invited to join online: <https://youtu.be/szS2clrQga0>

Central Region RAC Meeting
 May 12, 2020
 Springville, Utah
<https://youtu.be/szS2clrQga0>

00:00:08	RAC Chair Brock McMillan called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members and indicated which UDWR personnel were present on the broadcast. He explained the process that there will be no live presentations or public comments taken during the meeting.
00:05:22	<p>1) Approval of Agenda (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.</p>
00:03:30	<p>2) Approval of Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Steve Lund, seconded by Luke Decker and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the April 7th minutes as transcribed.</p>
00:06:26	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</p> <p>RAC Chair Brock McMillan updated the RAC.</p>
00:10:57	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Jason Vernon updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
00:18:54	<p>5) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (Action)</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html.</p>
00:17:27	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation</p>
00:19:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked about archery one-week season date change, increase of limited entry turkey permits, spring and fall hunter success, nuisance issues, air guns proposal due to lack of PR payments and WMA closures for special events.</p>
00:42:36	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed greater youth turkey hunt involvement, fall turkey permits, spring and fall turkey permit data, hunter success, jakes & hens fall harvest.</p>
01:03:01	Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations

	<p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Josh Lenart, seconded by Mike Christensen and failed 3 in favor and 5 opposed (AJ Mower, Ben Lowder, Eric Reid, Ken Strong, Luke Decker).</p> <p>MOTION: To support a one-year extension of the current guidebook and ask the Wildlife Board to recommend the DWR to reconvene a committee and develop a new turkey management plan.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong and failed for lack of a second.</p> <p>MOTION: To recommend changing the youth hunt to a Monday to Sunday hunt increasing four additional days.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong and failed for lack of a second.</p> <p>MOTION: To recommend the first two weeks of the turkey hunt is for youth only.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ben Lowder and seconded by Scott Jensen and passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the turkey recommendations as presented.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To keep the youth pheasant and quail hunt opening date as the day closest to October 13th.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To not allow airbows or air guns to take upland game in Utah due to lack of PR payments.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the remainder of the Division’s recommendations as presented.</p>
<p>01:45:00</p>	<p>6) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations & Swan rule amendments (Action)</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html.</p>
<p>01:45:30</p>	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
<p>01:45:39</p>	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC asked</p>

01:46:13	RAC Discussion RAC members
01:46:19	Migratory Upland Game Recommendations & Swan rule amendments MOTIONS The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Mike Christensen and passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.
01:48:05	7) AIS Rule Amendments (Action) A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html .
01:48:20	Public Comments Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.
01:49:20	RAC Questions The RAC asked about plugs being removed after being in salt water.
01:49:44	RAC Discussion RAC members discussed the drain plug concern.
01:50:43	AIS Rule Amendments MOTIONS The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Eric Reid and passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.
01:52:01	8) Walk-in Access rule amendments (Action) A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html .
01:52:10	Public Comments Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.
01:52:43	RAC Questions The RAC asked about WIA incentives structure.
01:56:28	RAC Discussion The RAC discussed looking at other states’ structure for WIA.

01:56:43	Walk-in Access rule amendments MOTIONS The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by AJ Mower and passed unanimously. MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.
01:59:24	Meeting adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 13, 2020

The meeting will stream live at https://youtu.be/RnsYvef5_Vk

1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes **ACTION**
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update **INFORMATIONAL**
- RAC Chair
4. Regional Update **INFORMATIONAL**
- DWR Regional Supervisor
5. Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations **ACTION**
- Heather Talley, Upland Game Coordinator
6. Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan rule amendments **ACTION**
- Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
7. AIS Rule Amendments **ACTION**
- Bruce Johnson, AIS Lieutenant
8. Walk-in Access rule amendments **ACTION**
- Bryan Christensen, Volunteer Services Coordinator

Regional Presentations Only

- NR Willard Spur WMA Habitat Management Plan **INFORMATIONAL**
- Ashley Kijowski, Wildlife Biologist

CR RAC – May 12th, 6:00 PM
<https://youtu.be/jnLFzZnMEis>

SER RAC – May 20th, 6:30 PM
<https://youtu.be/vdtPlq1XxPM>

NR RAC – May 13th, 6:00 PM
https://youtu.be/RnsYvef5_Vk

NER RAC – May 21st, 6:30 PM
<https://youtu.be/hRpKBHxt9fk>

SR RAC – May 19th, 7:00 PM
<https://youtu.be/Og-VljiD140>

Board Meeting – June 4th, 9:00 AM
<https://youtu.be/X6mw9-bYwV0>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Mike Laughter, seconded by Matt Klar and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of April 8, 2020.

3) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Paul Chase and passed For:11 Against: 1. Matt Klar.

MOTION: I move that we approve Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations as presented.

4) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan rule amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kevin McLeod, seconded by Matt Klar and passed unanimously .

MOTION: I move that we approve Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments as presented.

5) AIS Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve AIS Rule Amendments as presented.

6) Walk-in Access Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously. *Casey Snider was not present to vote on this item.*

MOTION: I move that we approve Walk-in Access Rule Amendments as presented with the caveat to provide user land use information to replace sign in box.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Kevin McLeod, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously. *Darren Parry was not present for the vote.*

DRAFT

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 13, 2020

Attendance

Justin Oliver – Chair
Mike Laughter – Vice-Chair
Ben Nadolski – Exec Secretary

RAC Members

Ryan Brown	Matt Klar
Paul Chase	Kevin McLeod
Junior Goring	Darren Parry
Christopher Hoagstrom	Kristin Purdy
Randy Hutchison	Casey Snider
Emily Jensco	

Board Member

RAC Excused

David Earl
Aaron Johnson

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson	Paul Gedge
Hayley Smith	Mike Christensen
Heather Talley	Pam Kramer
Blair Stingham	Staci Coons
Bruce Johnson	Jim Christensen
Bryan Christensen	David Beveridge
Ashley Kijowski	
David Smedley	
Sydney Lamb	

Regional Advisory County Meeting

May 13, 2020

Attendance

https://youtu.be/RnsYvef5_Vk

00:00:01 Chairman Justin Oliver called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures.

00:00:22 **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**

The following motion was made by Mike Laughter, seconded by Matt Klar and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda.

0:02:27 **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 8, 2020 Northern RAC Meeting.

00:04:38 **3) Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Justin Oliver**

Bucks, Bulls and OIAL recommendation to decrease buck doe permits on Cache unit by additional 800 permits which passed unanimously. Motion to reduce desert big horn sheep permits on west Kaiparowitz unit to 12 permits which passed 5-1. Motion to increase Henry Mountains archery only bison permits by 1 permit which passed unanimously. Motion to decrease permits on the San Juan Abajo buck deer by an additional 150 permits and ask the Division to look at moving the unit to an 18-20 buck to doe unit which passed unanimously. Motion to keep bull elk permits on Central Mountain Nebo unit at the 2019 permit number of 47 and ask that the elk committee address the elk age objectives which passed unanimously. Motion to decrease buck deer tags on the La Sal mountains by an additional 100 permits which passed unanimously. Motion to accept remainder of recommendations of the bucks, bulls and OIAL permit numbers for 2020 as presented which passed unanimously. Antlerless permit recommendations motion passed unanimously. Reduce antlerless

tags on Bookcliffs and Bittercreek south unit to a total of 150 tags. Motion to approve remainder of antlerless permit recommendations as presented which passed unanimously. Motion to approve CWMU rule amendments as presented which passed unanimously. Motion to approve 2020 CWMU antlerless permit recommendations with presented corrections which passed 5-1. Motion to approve management bison hunts on 9-mile range creek unit which passed unanimously. Motion to accept predatory wildlife species policy revisions as presented which passed unanimously. Motion to accept the cougar and bear rule amendments as presented which passed unanimously.

00:10:28 4) Regional Update- Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor (Informational)

Waterfowl management- Silt removal and restoration projects. Not banding urban geese or pelicans.

Habitat- WMA maintenance. Guzzler installation project.

Fisheries- Stocked tiger muskie in Pineview and Newton Reservoir. Wipers stocked in Willard Bay. Spawning at Bear Lake.

Outreach- Dedicated hunter projects. Social media traffic.

Wildlife- New hire Box Elder biologist. Big horn sheep on Antelope Island. Winter range habitat assessments.

Law enforcement- Aquatic invasive species efforts. New conservation officer.

00:25:27 5) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

00:25:54 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

Public comments accepted at this time. 71% support, 28% opposed and 0% neutral.

00:26:39 Questions from RAC Members

Research of translocation, monitoring and trapping of sage grouse. Ptarmigan hunt. WMA closures. Review of public comments and suggestions. Cost for rooster and chukar in Utah. Extending youth turkey hunt. Limited entry hunt opener. Turkey Federation question about air guns. Restrictions on air guns. Rim fire as youth only method of hunting. Falconry concern with air guns.

00:45:54 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Opposition to falconry air gun hunting. Pushing chukar season back. Turkey hunter surveys. Monitoring bird translocations. Sharptail and sage grouse population management. WMA closures for youth hunt. Air rifle issues and concerns.

0:54:29 The following motion was made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Paul Chase and passed. For: 11 Against: 1. Matt Klar

MOTION: I move that we approve Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations as presented.

00:57:04 **6) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan rule amendments (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

00:57:28 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor**

Public comments accepted at this time. 86% support, 14% neutral, 0% opposed.

00:57:56 **Questions from RAC Members**

No questions.

0:56:26 **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Kevin McLeod, seconded by Matt Klar and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments as presented.

01:02:22 **7) AIS Rule Amendments (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

01:02:34 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor**

Public comments accepted at this time. 57% support, 43% neutral, 0% opposed.

01:03:02 **Questions from RAC Members**

No new suspected waters in Utah. Boat cleaning reasons and requirements.

01:05:49 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve AIS Rule and Amendments as presented.

01:08:59 8) Walk-in Access rule amendments (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

01:09:23 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

Public comments accepted at this time. 71% support, 14% neutral, 14% opposed.

01:09:58 Questions from RAC Members

Future of program, expansion and funding. Focus on property to open land locked areas. Methods of tracking of properties and public use. Chaining of walk-in access area. Usage data from sign in boxes. Walk-in access for hunting, fishing and trapping.

01:30:49 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Casey Snider left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

The following motion was made by Matt Klar , seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously. *Casey Snider was not present for the vote.*

MOTION: I move that we approve Walk-in Access Rule Amendments as presented with the caveat to provide user land use information to replace sign in box.

01:46:40 9) Willard Spur WMA Habitat Management Plan (Informational)

Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

01:48:54 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

Public comments accepted at this time. 43% support, 43% neutral, 14% opposed.

01:47:16 Questions/Comments from RAC Members

Bow fishing allowed on WMA and no changes to access.

01:50:12 Other Business

Recommend having presentations available prior to RAC meetings in the future.

01:57:56 Meeting adjourned. Motion to Adjourn: Made by Kevin McLeod, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously. *Darren Parry was not present for the vote.*

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
May 19, 2020
7:00 p.m.**

Attendance

RAC MEMBERS

Brayden Richmond – Chairman	Austin Atkinson
Bart Battista	Gene Boardman
Dan Fletcher	Nick Jorgensen
Craig Laub	Tammy Pearson
Chad Utley	

Division Personnel

Kevin Bunnell	Phil Tuttle
Teresa Griffin	Heather Talley
Blair Stringham	Bryan Christensen
Denise Gilgen	Jason Nicholes
Kyle Christensen	Levi Watkins
Lynn Zubeck	Michael Christensen
Michael Wardle	Paul Washburn
Vance Mumford	Bruce Johnson

Wildlife Board Members

Wade Heaton

00:00:17 Chairman Brayden Richmond called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the Board and RAC members introduce themselves.

Brayden Richmond: Before we get started I need to read through a statement regarding the electronic meeting. So bear with me a minute. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated safety guidelines put in place by the CDC, the State of Utah and Local Health Departments, the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources will conduct the May 2020 Regional Advisory Council and Board Meetings using fully electronic format as approved by Utah Governor Gary Herbert, through executive order 2020-5. This format will be used in place of the in person public meetings that usually occur around the state. There will not be an anchor

location established for any RAC or Board meetings for purposes of public attendance. Technical support staff will be on site at the DNR complex to oversee the technology for each electronic meeting. UDWR representatives' presentations were posted online on UDWRs website on May 5, 2020. RAC Members, Board Members and members of the public should review these presentations prior to the respective meetings as the presentations will not be shown during the meeting. In this electronic format members of the public will not only be able to make comments on the UDWR presentation in writing during the public comment period that opened up on May 5, 2020. The public comment period for each meeting opened on May 5 and will close 72 hours prior to the start of the respective RAC Meeting. Comments for the Board Meeting will be accepted from May 5 until 11:59 MST on May 29. The online location for submitting written comments will be included on the RAC and Board agendas, posted on the open and public meeting website, and shared on the UDWR's website, social media platforms and statewide media outlets. After the RAC comment period closes, the DWR will distribute the comments received along with a summary of the comments for each RAC to the RAC members at least 2 days before the RAC meeting. After the Board period closes the DWR will distribute the comments received along with a summary of the comments at least 5 days before the Board meeting. Public comments will not be read at the RAC and Board meetings. RAC members should review the written comments and the Divisions summary of those comments prior to their respective meetings. A separate electronic meeting for each RAC and for the Board will take place at a scheduled date and time. RAC and Board members and participating UDWR staff will receive a link with instructions on how to connect to the meeting several days prior to the meeting date. The public will not be connected to the video meeting as participants. The electronic RAC and Board meetings will be conducted electronically using Hangouts by Google Meet. The application can be downloaded to your device from your app store. Be sure your phone, tablet, or computer device has the capability to use Google Meet using the Google browser is highly recommended. Each meeting will be broadcasted to the public using Youtube Livestream. The link for the Youtube Livestream will be included on the RAC and Board agendas, posted on the open public meetings website, and shared on UDWRs website. The Youtube feed will be established solely for the public to watch and or listen to the meetings from their location. Public comment will not be taken during the electronic meetings but will be handled as described above. Before making or voting on motions, RAC members will have the ability to communicate with UDWR staff during the respective meetings. They can seek clarification and ask questions on the previously posed presentations. UDWR staff will have the ability to make clarifying statements or respond to questions as the need arises. Motions and voting on recommendations will take place during the respective electronic meetings. This will be done by the Chair of each meeting using a roll call vote. In this electronic format RAC meeting minutes will be patterned after Board minutes which primarily consist of capturing a record of motions, seconds of motions, voting outcomes of each motion and a time stamp of each motion. The timestamp is the minute and the second where the motion begins for each agenda item in the meeting recording.

00:06:34 1) Approval of Agenda (Action)

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Chad Utley. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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

2) Approval of Minutes (Action)

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Chad Utley. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: I moved that we approved the minutes as presented.

00:07:50 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair, Brayden Richmond

Brayden Richmond: Alright, let's move onto Item #3, the Wildlife Board Meeting update. I'm just going to run through the motions. Hopefully you guys had a chance to watch that meeting, I think it was a good meeting with some good discussion. Let me run through the pertinent motions. There was a motion that they decreased the permits on the Cache unit for an additional 800 permits for a total decrease of 1,600 from 2019, that passed unanimously. There was a motion to reduce the desert bighorn sheep permits on the West Kaiparowits unit to 12 permits the same as in 2019, that passed 5 in favor 1 opposed. There was a motion to increase the Henry Mountain archery only bison permit by one permit to equal 2 total resident permits, that passed unanimously. There was a motion to decrease the permits on the San Juan Abajo buck deer hunt by an additional 150 permits bringing the total decrease to 650 and to ask the Division to look at bringing the unit to 18-20 buck/doe unit, that passed unanimously. There was a motion to keep the bull permits on the Central Mountains Nebo unit at 2019 permit numbers, that would be 47, and ask the elk committee to address the age on this unit and any others that are not meeting their numbers, that passed unanimously. There was a motion to decrease buck tags on the La Sal Mountains by an additional 100 permits, bringing the total from 1,300 to 1,200, that passed unanimously. Another motion that we accept the remainder of the motion for bucks, bulls, and once in a lifetime permits, and that passed unanimously. On the antlerless section there was a motion to reduce the antlerless tags on the Book Cliffs and roadless unit to a total of 150 tags, that passed unanimously. The rest of the antlerless recommendations passed as presented. Then the rest of the presentations passed as presented. And now regional update, I'll turn it over to Kevin.

00:10:21 4) Kevin Bunnell, Regional Update (Informational)

Kevin Bunnell: Thank you Brayden. Before I begin the Regional Update, I'd like to welcome the other Division employees that joined the meeting tonight for the RAC members benefit. All the presenters from the videos they watched online will be available tonight for questions. Please don't hesitate to ask. In addition we have our Wildlife section staff from the southern region on and they will be able to answer questions as well. As far as an update goes, our office is beginning

to transition back to what will become a new normal, I'm not sure we know what that means yet, but there are more people in the office now than there have been with the transition from orange to yellow by the Governor. Our wildlife section is beginning to think about the deer unit plans and how to go about gathering public input for those and that process will begin here in the next few weeks to a month. Our aquatics section is continuing their gill netting surveys, they pulled nets on Kolob last week. You may remember we had to completely remove all the fish from Kolob because of illegal introductions a few years ago. That lake is recovering well, we don't have the size back in those fish yet, but the fish there are healthy and will grow rather quickly this summer. The aquatics crew will be gill netting at Fish Lake and Navaho this week. Our habitat section, those of you that are familiar with the Elbow Ranch over in Piute county, we're wrapping up the construction there and we're looking for an agricultural producer to partner with us on a lease on that property. We've installed an irrigation system on that property that will irrigate 110 acres with the opportunity to expand that in the future, so we're hoping to find a partner there so we can raise a crop that someone can harvest and also will benefit wildlife. Our outreach section, dedicated hunter projects are ramping up quickly and that will continue over the next several months. As most of you are aware the big game draw results are out. Most people have received their emails, if not, they will be coming shortly. Just as a reminder, the antlerless application opens next Friday on May 28. From our law enforcement section, they continue to be really busy, between patrolling turkey hunters but also patrolling the Wasatch County parks, helping out state parks department. That's been keeping them really busy, they're are a lot of visitors coming up from Las Vegas and California to the state parks in Washington county, and that comes with some counts. That's all I have for a regional update, unless there are questions from the RAC, I'd be happy to answer those.

Gene Boardman: This is Gene. There was supposed to be an inventory or something on the deer in the southern region this year. What became of that?

Kevin Bunnell: Gene, I'm not sure what you're referring to there, unless it's the deer unit plan, and that's what I mentioned first. We'll be redoing our deer unit plans in the southern region which will include updated population objectives, and that may be what you're referring to. That's not a survey, that will be based on data that we already have and we'll be taking some public input. Is that maybe what you were thinking about, Gene?

Gene Boardman: Yeah, that's what I was wanting to know.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, those are due to the Salt Lake office I think September 1st. So July and August we'll be working on those in earnest. Are there any other questions?

Brayden Richmond: Alright, thanks Kevin. We'll move on to the first agenda item. The first action item tonight is the Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook

Recommendations. So I'll turn it back to Kevin for the summary of comments from the public.

00:14:49 5) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at

<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

00:15:04 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Our public comments are going to be really easy tonight. We had a total of 2 for each presentation on this particular one we had 1 in favor and 1 opposed. So a coin toss. One comment came in from the Turkey Federation, and one from Pheasants Forever, and I hope you had a chance to look through those, and feel free to ask any questions about those comments.

00:15:36 Questions from RAC Members

Brayden Richmond: Okay, thanks Kevin. We'll open it up to the RAC for questions. Let's do it how we did it last meeting and we'll do a roll call for questions. That way we make sure to capture any questions you have. Sorry Austin you're at the top of the list again tonight, we'll try to mix it up a little bit, but we'll start with you. Any questions?

Austin Atkinson: I do have a question as it relates to some of the recommendations we received as RAC members about a potential modification of the youth general season turkey hunt. I'm just curious, for the Division, just the history on this youth hunt. I understand, if I'm not mistaken, 15% of limited entry turkey permits are reserved for youth applicants, but the general season hunt do we have any idea how many youth are participating in that and what is the satisfaction on that hunt?

Heather Talley: Thanks for that question. It can take a few minutes to pull up the youth numbers from last year, since the general season hunt is still ongoing this year we don't have the numbers yet for 2020, but if you guys want to wait for a few minutes we'll go ahead and look up those numbers from last year.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, maybe we'll get a couple, or if anyone else has other questions while you're looking that up, then we can come back. Austin, do you have any additional questions?

Austin Atkinson: No I do not believe so.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, Bart, do you have any questions?

Bart Battista: Is this an appropriate time to talk about the Wildlife Management areas? Or is that a part of migratory?

Brayden Richmond: I think..

Heather Talley: That's a part of my presentation, sorry Brayden.

Bart Battista: That's what I thought, so I want to be clear, the recommendation is basically UWDR wants to be able to at any time close Wildlife Management areas and not with prior authorization. Is that correct?

Heather Talley: Right. And the reason for that is because we've hosted several of those youth pheasant hunts that I'm sure you've heard about throughout the state, and a lot of those that have been hosted in the past where we have not close WMAs we've had issues with the general public coming onto those hunts. Some of the biggest issues with that is those are co-sponsored events with the SFW and they are actually purchasing those birds for us to supply to these organized events. So if we've got some issues with the general public going on to those properties and things like that we really want to reserve it for the people who are the participants of those events. Ogden Bay is a newer organized pheasant hunt that just came up and because that wasn't filtered into this 3 year recommendation 3 years ago, we weren't able to disclose it in the guidebook. So there would be enough notice for a closure to be posted in the guidebook, but since it's a 3 year recommendation we'd just like to be able to do that for the Division hosted or co-hosted events for the public.

Brayden Richmond: Bart, your mike isn't on.

Bart Battista: So the purpose of the WMAs and correct me if I'm wrong, one is to protect wildlife, other is #2 benefit the public. So will you always, I mean only open these WMA when you have a release for a specific hunt. Otherwise if you open it up when you don't have some sort of release where you augment the population that's what's going to be taken, you'll basically be taking the population that, I assume, you're trying to protect? So it gives you a lot of latitude without any guard rails. That's my concern.

Heather Talley: So, I'm not quite sure what you mean as far as closing it only for... Maybe rephrase that question for me because I'm not quite sure what you're getting at here. We just want to be able to close it for sponsored events that are meant for the public. So if there is a particular event on the WMAs that is open to the public that any public person can register for, we would like to have that latitude within the 3 year guidebook cycle so we can close those WMAs to prohibit the general public from coming on there once we have everything in place for those events. But your question was more for augmenting populations? And you're on mute too, sorry.

Bart Battista: Sorry, I'm used to a lot of these meetings but we're always off mute, so I apologize. So you mentioned what you're going to do in Ogden.

They're actually going to the sponsored.. the sponsors of the event are actually going to buy birds and you release them and those are going to be hunted. Is that correct? I assume, will that be the standard practice when you do these, or are you not going to put any standard operating procedures for when you close WMAs to open them for you know a hunt? I'm just concerned, it's seems to me that it's fine as long as the purpose of the hunt is to meet one of those two metrics, you're protecting the population or you're benefiting the general public through hunter training, hunter education, teaching youth or a group to learn to hunt safely or properly, but if it's just a shoot 'em up, it seems like you're not really benefiting the public as a whole and you're possible hurting the population.

Heather Talley: Okay, with some of those organized pheasant hunts that we've held in the past, because I've actually hosted quite a few while I was in the southern region, we did have issues with, you'd think that the general public, grown adults, wouldn't try to sneak on there to take that opportunity from these kids that have pre registered and things but that is actually an issue and we want to make sure we're being safe. That way we're limiting the number of people on this WMA at one time if we're conducting a hunt like that. And it doesn't have anything to do with any populations since it's just rooster pheasants that are released for these hunts. If there were to be any event that would be closed, it would be for the benefit of the general public. That is what we're asking for is to be closed for events that would benefit the public. So this particular action item isn't concerning the population of any wildlife in the WMAs.

Bart Battista: No, I understand that. I just want to make sure that it's not detrimental to the population. Ok, but you answered my questions, thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Bart. Gene, do you have any questions?

Gene Boardman: I do. On the sage hen hunting, the presentation said there are 4 areas that are open to sage hen hunting. If we pass the recommendation as they are, does that mean in the next three years those will be the only areas that are open to sage hen hunting?

Heather Talley: Great question, thanks Gene. What we have now in place that the Board has previously approved as far as sage grouse hunts is that the breeding population needs to be 500 individuals. So we have a whole permit calculator and if you want me to go into that I can, just to see how we come up with those numbers, but we need the breeding population to be at 500 for both the high and the low population trends. With sage grouse since they tend to have a 10 year cycle of trending up and down. So if something changes drastically in the population and they drop well below the 500 we would close an area. If something happens and a population grows exponentially and we see over a course of several years that it stays above that 500 then we would have the latitude to open another hunt, which we would bring that to the Board.

Gene Boardman: Is that 500 state wide, or 500 for that area?

Heather Talley: It's for the breeding population in that area.

Gene Boardman: Okay, what is the Sage Grouse situation this year? With all the effort that goes into it are we getting more chickens out there?

Heather Talley: Good question. So, we are not quite finished with all our data compilation that will happen in the first part of June. So we'll have definitive answers on how that population is doing the first part of June. We have some places that have increased and some that have decreased so we just have to wait until we get all those numbers back so we can compile all the data.

Gene Boardman: Is that when you'll decide how much transplanting you'll need to do and where?

Heather Talley: We can definitely look into that and explore options on whether or not we need to do transplants or take any other management considerations.

Gene Boardman: Okay, thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Gene. Chad do you have any questions?

Chad Utley: I don't have any questions.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, Nick?

Nick Jorgensen: No questions.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: My only question, I can't even remember who asked about the turkeys, are any of the bird permits on these draw tags, are they also eligible for the mentoring program?

Heather Talley: The bird permits for turkeys, are turkeys eligible, is that what you're asking? I wish I could remember off the top of my head whether turkeys are part of the mentoring or the trial hunting, I thought there were one or the other, but I don't dare give a definitive answer, let me check on that and I'll give you a definitive answer. While we wait on that do you guys want me to get back to that general season youth information really quickly?

Brayden Richmond: Let's just go to Dan and see if he has any questions and then we'll follow through with the earlier ones. That way we'll have gone through everybody. Dan, do you have any questions?

Dan Fletcher: No, I don't have any questions.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, yeah, so now let's follow up on that question and Tammy's question, then we can see if Austin or Tammy have any follow up questions.

Heather Talley: Great. So, I have the spring youth general season wild turkey harvest stats in front of me right now. It looks like the hunters in field were 1,202 and the total harvest was 391 and their percent success was 32.5 so that's for the youth general season hunters.

Austin Atkinson: Heather, this is Austin, I just had a follow up question there, if that's ok Mr. Chair. Is there a satisfaction rating on that survey?

Heather Talley: That's an awesome question. I can see if we've got that somewhere in the harvest statistics because I was just looking in the upland game annual report, so it might take a minute longer to find that, and if I'm not able to find that in this time I would be able to email that to Brayden to send to the RAC if that works.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Heather. Were you able to find Tammy's question? Have you had enough time?

Heather Talley: I'm just looking it up right now. It looks like if you get one of those mentee licenses then you can apply for a turkey limited entry permit or do a general season.

Brayden Richmond: I have a question along with SFWs proposal on this extended youth hunt. I'm just curious to hear your input if you have any concerns with that recommendation or if you have any requests? Any comments you have?

Heather Talley: Sure, thank you. Our stance on this is biologically it really wouldn't make any difference because people would still be hunting the second Saturday in April through the end of May. We could see how there could be issues with other hunters being displaced a little bit. That first weekend in May is usually the best as far as harvest is concerned for the general season, so I could see how if we bump it back a week and turkeys continue to get more and more quiet, more difficult to call in, that the general seasons hunters could have some issues with that. Like somebody pointed out earlier we do allocate 25% of the limited entry tags to youth, if they don't harvest they can hunt that youth hunt, the 3 days all to themselves, and if they still don't harvest they still hunt through the end of May. And if they do just buy a tag for the youth hunt or general season they would have that whole month of May as well. So, as far as changing the structure that would be up to the RAC and Board if they decide they want to do that, but we are not recommending any changes at this time.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Heather. I know we went through everyone, but let me give another second here to see if anyone has any additional questions. It's difficult in this format here to make sure everyone has got to speak their peace. If there are any additional questions, please just speak up.

Gene Boardman: I just want to follow up on the prairie chickens. There has to be 500 pairs per area, some areas probably aren't large enough to have 500 pairs, for instance the sage hens seem to be doing pretty well in Johns Valley, but I don't think that area is going to have 500 pairs in there anytime soon. Same with Buckskin Bear Valley in Iron County.

Heather Talley: So, just trying to keep in mind that these are species that we are trying to avoid being listed and because they are so sensitive that way with some of those issues is why we have such strict restrictions on whether or not they can be hunted. It is unfortunate, but we're hoping through habitat projects and through other methods that we're trying to bolster the population that we can hopefully increase that one day, and translocations may play into that as well, but unfortunately the way that that the law is right now we have to have that 500 breeding pair in order to institute a hunt.

Gene Boardman: I understand that there are a lot of different things as far as sage hens go.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you Gene. Bart, did you have additional questions?

Bart Battista: I did. It was about the air rifles for the turkey hunts. I was just reviewing the Utah Wild Turkey Federation's comments and their concern about that leading to an increase and injuring turkeys, leaving injured turkeys in the field and what your comments were on that. If you had any plans to address that and try to minimize that possibly negative effect of this recommendation?

Heather Talley: Good question. So maybe I should have put this into the presentation so it might have been a little more clear, but it's only listed in the RAC packet. I can see the hesitation from some of the public that didn't see the RAC packet, how they may feel like this may not be lethal enough. We do have a few stipulations, do you want me to go over those real quickly or are you all familiar?

Brayden Richmond: Heather, if you could go over those real quickly I think that would be good, especially where this is a public comment.

Heather Talley: Great, so we have just a few of these stipulations, it must be a pre charged automatic air rifle; meaning it's a rifle that fires a single projectile with an air released from a chamber that is built into the rifle and pressurized in 2,000-2,000 psi from an external high pressure device or source such as a hand pump, compressor or scuba tank. It also would need to be a

precharged pneumatic air rifle with a firing a single broadhead tip bolt or arrow, pellet, or slug, during the fall turkey season, that is a 22 caliber or larger, weighs 18 grains or more and is fired at a velocity to produce at least 30 foot lbs of energy at the muzzle. So with the research we've done online and speaking with other states we figured that would be lethal. Again, it's only used for the fall season to help authorize another weapon type for opportunity since those fall areas are where we're trying to reduce populations.

Bart Battista: Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, any additional questions? If not we'll move onto the comments. We'll do the same order. Austin, do you have any comments?

00:36:22 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Austin Atkinson: I do have some comments, just regarding this youth turkey hunt and this recommendation. I would like to see some feedback from other RAC members about what their experience is in their communities and with the portions of the public that they represent. I personally would like to see as much youth opportunity as possible. It's getting more and more difficult, it would appear, for a youth to draw a limited entry permit taking 2-4 points to be essentially guaranteed a bonus permit in the draw. So I think increasing opportunity maybe in the form of maybe a higher percentage of the limited entry permits would make more sense to me than adjusting this youth hunt cutting into the current limited entry season and potentially upsetting those hunters at this time. Those are my comments.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Austin. Bart?

Bart Battista: None.

Brayden Richmond: Gene?

Gene Boardman: I'd like to make a comment on this WMA closures. I don't like the wording for sponsored events. I think what might happen is that conservation groups might decide to sponsor an event to raise funds for conservation. I'm good with it as long as it's all youth, but I'm not good with it for a pheasant group or some other group coming in to have a sponsored fundraising event on it, and I think the way it's worded may leave it open for that to happen.

Brayden Richmond: Heather, can you provide any clarity there?

Heather Talley: I would love too, thank you Mr. Chair. Just so you know the Division sponsored or co-sponsored events, the DWRs policy is to not take

money for these kinds of things. So in the past traditionally these have all been free events, we plan to continue that. For the Division to set up some kind of paying event it would be incredibly difficult for the Division to do and there's no interest there. So this would just be free events for the public that could register first come first served, and we wouldn't be open to closing a WMA for any other organization to make money.

Gene Boardman: Okay, I'm still skeptical because the pay to slay gets into everything it seems like, as far as hunting goes.

Bart Battista: And just to piggyback, that was kind of my concern. What guardrails are there to make sure it doesn't become something like that?

Heather Talley: There could easily be something put in the verbiage that it had to be a free cost, you know with partnering with the Division so we would be able to oversee that aspect if that's a concern, you could definitely put that into the wording.

Brayden Richmond: Nick, do you have any comments?

Nick Jorgensen: No comment at this time, thank you.

Chad Utley: Well, yeah, I do. I just want to.. and it's more of a question now on the WMAs. It's my understanding Heather from you answering the questions that there really weren't any native population of birds on these lands, it was just using the land, placing the birds and having an event, is that correct?

Heather Talley: There may be some in some areas with the right riparian corridors where there could be some native birds, but places where we're conducting these types of hunts it is strictly a put and take situation where we're putting birds out there and the event participants are able to go harvest them. We put them out there prior to each session. So we're pretty sure that those are the birds that are getting harvested. It's generally for beginners and youths, so it's not something where they're damaging the population and it's all male only hunt of course with the pheasants.

Brayden Richmond: Heather, you know what I'm wondering if it may be appropriate to add some clarity to this. I've participated in these events quite a few times and helped with them and I wonder for those who haven't been there if you could take a second to explain what these events look like cause there could be some confusion on what's going on at these events. Would you mind just briefly talking about how these events happen and what happens during them?

Heather Talley: Sure, so essentially what we would do is put out a registration form online for people to register for these events. We've held these historically in the Pavaunt and Annabella WMAs, and also the Ogden Bay WMA is starting to have these as well. So people would register for that. Then SFW, we'd go help them get the birds from the grower the day before and bring all the

crates of birds, go out that morning, have a safety meeting, make sure everyone knows the rules and regulations and safety precautions and everything. Then we go out and prepare the birds. A lot of times they're spun and head tucked under a wing or a bush so they kind of stay there. These are all generally areas that there aren't wild birds anyway, but our growers are all disease free tested as well, in case that's an issue with impact to our wild population, so we don't have to worry about that either. So we put out all the birds, and then we let them know that it's time to distribute, they go out in all the different sections of the WMA and harvest until their allotted amount of time and we do the same thing for a second and sometimes a third session for the day. So that's kind of the breakdown of how those work. Unless anyone else has something to add to that?

Brayden Richmond: I think that may help, I think it's likely that some people haven't seen these events, and I think after you see these events and how they're structured I think some of your fears would go away because it's a very structured event and the birds are planted many times after the first wave of kids go out the people that planted kind of point them to the bush that maybe they can go kick and it's about providing a great experience for people that wouldn't otherwise be in the field otherwise. Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: No comment right now. I've seen the pheasant hunts and I think they're a great opportunity for grandparents and parents to get their kids involved. It's a good experience for them.

Brayden Richmond: Dan, do you have any comments?

Dan Fletcher: No comment, thank you.

Brayden Richmond: I just wondered, we had a couple comments from the Turkey Federation that no one really addressed from the pheasants, and then Austin brought up if we wanted to have any further discussion on SFW. I want to make sure before we head into a motion that we've had ample opportunity to add any comments or thoughts we may have had. I'm just going to open it up one more time, if there are no additional comments we could entertain a motion.

Austin Atkinson: This is Austin. Mr. Chair, I would just bring up the fact, the way I understood SFW recommendation on the youth hunt was to cut that hunt in a little earlier by extending it to where most years on the calendar it would cut days out of the limited entry season, not out of the general season into May, so it would allow that hunt to be longer, where it would be youth only general, but it doesn't appear that any RAC members have any comments on that so I think I am ok with going with the Divisions recommendations on this which is to not change the youth season, which is in accordance with National Wild Turkey Federation's comments as well.

Brayden Richmond: Are you making a motion Austin? Or is that a comment?

Austin Atkinson: That was a comment.

Tammy Pearson: Would you accept that as a motion? Because I was going to say what he said I would put into a motion.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, so Tammy would you mind just presenting a motion? I think the motion is just to accept the presentation as presented.

Tammy Pearson: Exactly.

Brayden Richmond: But if you'd mind just stating the motion so we have it on record.

Tammy Pearson: I would like to make a motion that we accept the recommendation from the Division as presented.

Nick Jordensen: I'll second that.

Brayden Richmond: Ok, so Tammy made a motion, Nick seconded, do we have any additional comments on the motion? Discussion?

Bart Battista: Could we add language, some verbiage about not pay to slay as mentioned earlier?

Brayden Richmond: You can make an amendment to the motion if you want to. I'm not sure the motion should say pay to slay, but however you want to say it.

Bart Battista: They aren't revenue generating, and they're for the benefit of the public, that's currently the way they're ran now, correct?

Kevin Bunnell: Not revenue generating.

Bart Battista: So I'm amending to add language so the closures are not revenue generating and are beneficial to the public.

Brayden Richmond: Do we have a second to that amendment?

Gene Boardman: I'll second.

Brayden Richmond: So what we would do first is any additional discussion on that amendment, then we vote on the amendment and then we'd go back to the original motion. Any discussion on this amendment?

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, this is to clarify this is stating that a WMA cannot be closed for a sponsored youth event unless it is non revenue generating. Is that correct?

Brayden Richmond: That's my understanding. Is that correct Bart?

Bart Battista: That's correct. Basically continue the procedures as I believe it's done now. So it doesn't turn into a revenue generating scheme, that's all. So what we're doing is giving latitude to close WMAs at their discretion, so we just want to put some guardrails on it.

Kevin Bunnell: To amend the motion to state that WMA closures are non revenue generating and benefits the general public. Now the non revenue generating, is that relative to the DWR or the group that co-sponsors?

Bart Battista: I mean to me it should be cost neutral. Typically do they generate revenue to cover their cost?

Kevin Bunnell: These events are quite expensive, and I could see a scenario where there is an option to recoup the cost with a small fee for registration. That's not currently what we're doing, but I wouldn't want to limit that so we could continue the program under that scenario.

Bart Battista: Right, I would say revenue neutral, whatever the right terminology you would use so that it could cover cost, but we don't want the purpose of it to be a fund revenue stream, it should be for the benefit of the public.

Heather Talley: Just one side not on that too is there is a DWR lands rule that should prohibit that from happening also, but I can send that to the Chair to send to the RAC also.

Bart Battista: And to be in accordance with that rule.

Brayden Richmond: Well, we have an amendment and a second so we should probably vote on it. And we're not making rules the Wildlife Board will. I guess my comment would be where we already have a land rule that takes care of that concern it may not be needed, but I don't know that that matters for what we're doing here, we can kind of leave that to the Board.

Chad Utley: I have one concern, with the SFW involved or any other type of organization involved they may be out soliciting donations to help fund the activity. They may actually make money for their conquerors and solicit those donations if they exceed the cost of their activity. You've got a pheasant farmer that's making money on this as well. I mean how do you limit that? If you've got a rule I think you just probably stick with it.

Brayden Richmond: Let me vocalize a concern too that's already kind of been addressed. I've been fairly heavily involved in these in fact I think I've had pheasants in my garage for, I don't know how many years now, we store them in the garage for the night for the next days activity. There is a lot of money donated to this. It comes at quite a cost to the groups that are helping put these on.

I definitely understand the concern and where you're coming from, again I would maybe offer my opinion if you saw these and how these happened maybe some of these concerns would go away. It comes at quite an expense to those putting them on, there is now revenue, not even close to revenue generating on these. And that doesn't even go into all the labor that goes into raising these birds for free. Any additional discussion? Let's go ahead and vote on the amendment again.

00:46:57 The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Nick Jorgensen. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendations from the Division as presented

Motion to Amend: The following motion was made by Bart Battista, seconded by Gene Boardman. Amended motion fails 3-4 (Against Austin Atkinson, Chad Utley, Tammy Pearson and Dan Fletcher.

AMENDED MOTION: I move that WMA closures are non-revenue generating and are for the benefit of the general public.

Austin Atkinson: No.

Bart Battista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Chad Utley: No.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: No.

Dan Fletcher: No.

Brayden Richmond: Ok, so the amendment fails, 3 yes and 4 no. Now we go back and vote on the initial motion which was to take the recommendations as presented. Let's go ahead and vote on that.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Battista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Brayden Richmond: Great, so the motion passes unanimously. Let's move on to agenda #6, the Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments. Let's first go to Kevin for the public comments.

00:55:18 6) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

00:55:28 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Sorry, I was on mute. Public comments on this second agenda item are similar to the first agenda item. We had 2 comments, one in favor and one neutral.

Brayden Richmond: These are very polarizing issues apparently. Questions from the RAC? Austin, we'll start with you, this will be the last time then we'll switch it up.

00:56:11 Questions from RAC Members

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, I do have a question, I don't know if Blair is available, just for clarification on the tagging of swans, little bit familiar with swan hunting, but essentially if you were to be hunting say off the Bear River Bird Refuge, or something like that, you would be able to retrieve the swan, return to the dike and proceed to notch your tag is that accurate?

Blair Stringham: Yes that is correct. Our current rule requires you to tag your swan at the location of kill, so in the example you just stated, it's not really feasible to do that when it falls out in the middle of a water body, so we're just allowing people to retrieve that and get to a place where they can tag it accurately.

Austin Atkinson: Just a quick follow-up question on that, so you would not be able to return back to your vehicle, you would have to do it as soon as you got back to dry land? Is that fair to say?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so we had a hard time kind of defining that would be, so it would probably be the first location you would come to where that would be feasible to do that. So either returning to your boat, or kayak or canoe, something that you've been hunting out of, or back to the dike or dry ground

essentially. You wouldn't be able to return back to your vehicle or more than probably 100 yards or so. Some of that would be to the discretion of the law enforcement officer.

Brayden Richmond: Bart?

Bart Battista: No questions.

Gene Boardman: No questions

Chad Utley: No questions.

Nick Jorgensen: No questions.

Tammy Pearson: No questions.

Dan Fletcher: No questions.

00:58:21 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Brayden Richmond: Ok, we'll go to comments. We'll go back to you Austin, any comments?

Austin Atkinson: I do not have any comments.

Bart Battista: No comments.

Gene Boardman: No comment.

Chad Utley: No comments.

Nick Jorgensen: No comment.

Tammy Pearson: No comment.

Dan Fletcher: No comments.

The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Bart Battista. Passed unanimously.

00:58:58 presented. MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Battista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

00:59:46 **7) AIS Rule Amendments (Action)**

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

00:59:55 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: I can just say ditto, it was the exact comment as the last one. One comment in support, one neutral.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you. Comments or questions from the RAC? We'll go in a different order this time, we'll start with you Dan.

Questions from RAC Members

Dan Fletcher: No questions.

Kevin Bunnell: Brayden, just so everyone knows, we do have Bruce Johnson on the line now, he wasn't on at the beginning of the meeting, but he is on and available to answer questions.

Tammy Pearson: Was he going to give any kind of a read through this at all?

Brayden Richmond: So with the process we're doing now, he wouldn't necessarily give a read through it, we all watched the presentations beforehand, but he is available for clarification and questions where he is the one over this agenda item. Did you have any questions Tammy?

Tammy Pearson: No, because the only critters I ride or drive have four legs or four wheels, so I don't know about that stuff.

Nick Jorgensen: No questions.

Chad Utley: Yes, sorry about that, I did freeze up. I don't have any questions.

Gene Boardman: I would just ask, is the quagga mussels still confined to just Lake Powell or are they in any other Utah waters?

Bruce Johnson: Yes, just in Lake Powell at this time, no other waters.

Brayden Richmond: Is that it Gene, any additional questions?

Gene Boardman: No that's it.

Bart Battista: I have a question, do the current regulations require resident boaters to complete a species education course?

Bruce Johnson: Could you please repeat that? I was getting some interference.

Bart Battista: Do the current regulations... The proposal is asking the non-residents to complete an AIS education course, I was just curious if residents are currently required to complete an AIS education course?

Bruce Johnson: No they are not, we encourage it just because it speeds up the process for them and it makes everything a lot smoother in operation that we have out in the field.

Bart Battista: So our residents don't have to take the course, but.. ok.

Bruce Johnson: We still offer the self certification forms because we still have segments of the population that benefit from the self certification forms due to technology restrictions or what not, so we still have the option available.

Bart Battista: Okay.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Bart. Austin?

Austin Atkinson: I have a question about the non resident \$20 fee. Is that something that would be required at all lakes and how would that be managed at Lake Powell? Would it only be at the Utah State ramps or how would that be ran?

Bruce Johnson: Yes, that would be required on all Utah waters including the interstate waters where they are within the state boundaries.

Austin Atkinson: One follow-up question about the education course. What does that look like? Is that something they could take while they are in line at a boat ramp to enter a park, or is it on their phone? What does that look like and do they receive a COR or some sort of certification?

Bruce Johnson: Right now, our current system is a little bit longer than what you were talking about. It is probably 30 minutes and it can be done via phone or laptop computer/desktop stuff. It's not too difficult, but gets the

education portion handled. They receive that on their phone, they can use it on their phone and present it to any staff, or they have the option to print that out. I recommend that they print it and laminate it and they can put it on their dashboard like what we do with the self cert. forms and it's always visible.

Austin Atkinson: Is that a one time, or is that a yearly thing?

Bruce Johnson: Yes, it's yearly.

Austin Atkinson: Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Austin. Lets to comments, we'll start with Dan. Any comments?

Dan Fletcher: No comments.

Tammy Pearson: No comments.

Nick Jorgensen: No comments.

Chad Utley: I kinda have a question now. Do you know if Lake Mead has the quagga mussel?

Bruce Johnson: Yes, they do, they had it in advance of Lake Powell.

Chad Utley: That's what I thought. Living in St. George you see a lot of boat travel, so is this designed to prevent that from entering these waters that get used so much?

Bruce Johnson: I'm sorry, is what to present?

Chad Utley: Never mind, it was a self-answering question.

Bruce Johnson: Okay

Chad Utley: I just wanted to comment that we see a lot of boat traffic from Nevada to Sand Hollow and for a long while Sand Hollow had a check station because you believed there were quagga mussels in there.

Bruce Johnson: That's why we have the port of entry, mandatory inspection station there on the border. We do see a lot of traffic, you're correct.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you Chad. Gene?

Gene Boardman: I just want to say I really appreciate that you've been able to hold this problem to Lake Powell and not to any other Utah waters.

Bruce Johnson: Thank you. It's from the hard work of all the staff of the state. Very diligent, very dedicated employees. Thank you.

Bart Battista: Just a comment about how are the out of state residents are going to take the course? If they get on do we have Utah DNR there or something? How do you ensure that you take those courses before they get on to Utah waterways, especially if they're on a boat?

Bruce Johnson: Part of the administrative rule proposal is that they take that course and they take for it at that same time. They are required to present that and have it displayed or carried either 1-2 pieces of paper depending on if they print it separately or together, it will show that they took the required course, that they have a receipt showing payment for that required non resident fee. And then yes, we intend to enforce that in the future. We are working on that program right now and developing how that is going to work for them at this time, it won't take effect until later this year, towards the end of boating season and we fully intend for it to be more education based and providing those opportunities and educating the non residents to the new program and we will look towards further measures towards next boating season.

Bart Battista: Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Bart. Austin?

Austin Atkinson: No comment.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, at this time we'd entertain a motion.

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Nick Jorgensen. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Bart Battista: Yes.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

01:09:25 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Verland King. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

01:10:29 8) Walk-In Access Rule Amendments (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

01:10:32 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: It's exactly the same as the last two. Two comments, one in support, one neutral.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Kevin, questions from the RAC? And we'll start in the same order we did this last time with Dan.

01:10:47 Questions from RAC Members

Dan Fletcher: No questions.

Tammy Pearson: Just curious why this meeting is not so controversial? We needed one of those, right?

Brayden Richmond: We tried to introduce some of that with the first agenda item, Tammy, but no one really bit. The rest of the meeting is pretty easy.

Tammy Pearson: I appreciate that, it's been a long day already. I don't have any questions.

Nick Jorgensen: No questions.

Brayden Richmond: Chad?

Chad Utley: No questions.

Brayden Richmond: Gene?

Gene Boardman: I have one question. Is this walk in access and blue ribbon stream access the same thing?

Bryan Christensen: So the walk-in access properties we have are agreement, they're leases basically we make with private landowners. Some are for hunting, some are for fishing and some are for both. It's not necessarily tied to anything related to blue ribbon fisheries, although some of the walk in access properties are really great places to fish.

Gene Boardman: Okay, thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you. Bart?

Bart Battista: No questions.

Austin Atkinson: No questions.

01:12:43 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Dan Fletcher: No comments.

Tammy Pearson: No comments.

Nick Jorgensen: No comments.

Chad Utley: No comments.

Gene Boardman: No comments.

Bart Battista: No comments.

Austin Atkinson: No comments.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, I'll entertain a motion.

The following motion was made by Bart Battista, seconded by Chad Utley. Passed unanimously.

01:13:15 MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Bart Battista: Yes.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

01:14:16 12) Other Business (Contingent)

Brayden Richmond: Alright, that is all we have on the agenda for today, we appreciate everyone that is watching, we appreciate the RAC for being here, for the Division staff. Hopefully our next meeting, maybe we'll be back in person. I don't have the date on that, what is the date of the next RAC meeting Kevin? Do you have that? I don't think it's on there. I think we have a little break though, I think it's a couple of months out, but I don't have the date.

Austin Atkinson: August 4th.

Brayden Richmond: So a little bit of a break, and hopefully the world is getting back to normal by then, I think we all hope for that. Thanks everyone for your time, maybe in the next meeting Tammy we could talk about something like spike elk hunting just to get people excited, if that's your request.

Tammy Pearson: I'm just glad we're not all driving home 3 hours in a blizzard tonight. Gene's had to do that a few times.

Brayden Richmond: Yes, he has.

Tammy Pearson: Him and Verland always have a long road home.

Brayden Richmond: Yes they do. Anyone else have anything they want to bring up tonight, or are we ready to close the meeting? Thank you everyone.

Brayden Richmond: adjourn the meeting.

01:16:06 Meeting adjourned.

**SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 20, 2020
SUMMARY**

1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Dana Truman and passed 9/9.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda and minutes.

2) REGIONAL CHAIRPERSON ELECTION

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Todd Thorne and passed 10/10.

MOTION: To reelect Trisha Hedin as Chair of the Southeastern RAC and Kent Johnson as Vice Chair

3) UPLAND GAME AND TURKEY GUIDEBOOK AND RULE

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Darren Olsen and passed 9/9.

MOTION: To accept the upland game and turkey guidebook rule recommendations as presented.

4) MIGRATORY UPLAND GAME RECOMMENDATIONS AND SWAN RULE AMENDMENT

The following motion was made by Kirk Player, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed 9/9.

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented by the DWR.

5) AIS RULE AMENDMENTS

The following motion was made by Eric Luke, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 9/9.

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

6) WALK-IN ACCESS RULE AMENDMENTS

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Dana Truman and passed 9/9.

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

6:30 Chairman Trisha Hedin called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the Board and RAC members introduce themselves.

6:33 Approval of the Agenda

Kent Johnson: Motion to approve

Dana Truman: Second

Motion Passed (9/9)

6:36 Update from the past Wildlife Board Meeting by RAC Vice Chair

6:38 Regional Update

6:44 Reelect Trisha Hedin for another year as Chairman

Motion Passed (10/10)

6:45 Amendment to keep Kent Johnson as the assistant chair

6:48 Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook Rule Recommendations

Public Comment Report by Chris Wood

6:49 Questions from the RAC

Dana Truman: I had a question

Kirk Player: Can you go into the reasons...?

6:54 Eric Luke: I have a question regarding...

6:56 RAC Discussion/DWR Clarification and Motions

6:58 Darren Olsen: I don't ...

6:59 Heather Talley: So, I'm not sure where this landed...

7:01 Eric Luke: Trish, I did look...

7:02 Kent Johnson: I was curious about the air rifles

7:17 MOTION to approve the upland game and turkey guidebook recommendations

7:09 Migratory and Upland Game and Swan Recommendations

7:09 Dana Truman: I have a question...

7:13 MOTION to accept the recommendations

7:14 AIS Rule Amendments

7:15 Kent Johnson: I have a comment...

7:17 Dana Truman: I have a comment...

7:18 MOTION to accept the recommendations

7:19 Walk-in Access

7:20 Kent Johnson: I have a question...

7:22 Bryan Christensen: Yeah...

7:24 MOTION to accept the recommendations as presented

7:25 Meeting Adjourned

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
May 21, 2020
6:30 p.m.**

Attendance

RAC MEMBERS

Brett Prevedel – Chairman	Natasha Hadden
Dan Abeyta	Rebekah Jones
Joe Arnold	Mike Smith
Dick Bess	Jeff Taniguchi

Division Personnel

Miles Hanberg	Dax Mangus
Tonya Keiffer-Selby	Randall Thacker
Blair Stringham	Bruce Johnson
Heather Talley	Brian Christensen

00:00:01 Chairman Brett Prevedel called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the Board and RAC members introduce themselves.

00:04:39 1) Approval of Agenda (Action)

The following motion was made by Dan Abetya, seconded by Natasha Hadden. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

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

2) Approval of Minutes (Action)

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jeff Taniguchi. Roll call vote, motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: I moved that we approved the minutes as presented.

00:07:35 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair, Brett Prevedel

Brett Prevedel: I will give a brief update from the Wildlife Board. As you remember from our last meeting we didn't have a lot of division and we sent everything up there with a strong majority, and not a whole lot changed at the Wildlife Board although they did change some numbers on some permits. They decreased the Cache unit by an additional 800 permits for a total decrease of 1,600 from last year's 2019 numbers. They reduced the desert bighorn sheep on the West Kaiparowits to 12 permits which was the same as 2019. They added the extra bison permit on the Henry Mountains to take care of the bonus points, so there will be one that goes to bonus points, and one with the random draw. They decreased some deer tags on the San Juan Abajo buck deer unit by 150 tags to bring the decrease to 650 which was 150 more than recommended. There was a recommended increase on bull elk tags on the central mountains and they voted to keep that number the same that it was last year which was 47 tags. They reduced the buck deer tags on the La Sal Mountains by an additional 100 permits bringing the total reduction to 1,300. The remainder of the BBOIL was passed as presented. On the antlerless tags, Randy Dearth made a motion to reduce the Book Cliffs cow tags that we discussed quite a bit to a total of 150. So if I'm not wrong that was a reduction of 25 or 50 of what we recommended. Then the remainder of the antlerless recommendations were approved as presented. The CWMU rule amendments went through without not much controversy or discussion and were approved, and all the CWMU antlerless permit numbers were approved as presented. The management bison hunt on the Nine Mile Range Creek was approved as presented. Then the only other thing was there were some modifications to the cougar and bear amendments and it was approved. I believe that it was fairly straight forward and that's a summary on the Wildlife Board. I'll pass it to Miles for an update on the region.

00:11:00 4) Miles Hanberg, Regional Update (Informational)

Miles Hanberg: Thanks Brett. I'll give it a quick update for the region. Like we've mentioned in previous meetings we've been working on this Book Cliffs action plan, we have finalized that action plan at this time, so it has a number of strategies that the group has decided and agreed to try to address. And actually there are a number of things that the group has made progress on in this calendar year. We're excited to have that plan in place and hopefully get some things to turn around to help out our deer and elk populations out there. We're excited about that, we'll try to keep the RAC updated as time moves along and more projects are completed. Been wanting to mention that during this Covid-19 pandemic, fishing licenses have skyrocketed, the sales for those, and just one statistic to point out that in youth 17 years and younger we've had a 71% increase of license sales during Covid-19. All across the board fishing licenses are up except for non-residents, but residents have more than made up for that. People are really excited to get out and enjoy some fresh air during this time, so it's pretty neat. Our habitat section is busy working on finalizing a number of project proposals and working through the funding meetings for those projects. If anyone from the RAC is interested you can go into the watershed restoration initiative page, it's wri.utah.gov and you can do a search for the northeast region and take a look at some of the projects that are being proposed, you can take a look at historic projects as well. We're excited to get another batch of projects

lined up to begin working on in our new fiscal year which will be July 1. Our habitat crew finished building 3 pronghorn on the Anthro unit in some lower elevation areas of that unit to help those pronghorn out. Remember those old guzzlers were built in the 80's and lived out their life, so our folks are out there taking care of some of those. I'd also like to mention that next week our habitat crew will be flying materials and guzzler tanks into the Dry Fork and Mosby Mountain areas north west of Vernal and this is a project that is in cooperation with the Forest Service. Some good projects going on this year and hopefully a lot more coming this fall. Our outreach section would like to remind folks, as they find out they've been successful for the dedicated hunter program, to really start looking for projects and get their hours done sooner than later. That last minute crunch before the hunts it's sometimes hard to find enough projects and work for people to get those credit hours, so we encourage people to get an early start on that. I'd also like to mention that the Fishing with the Fox tagged fishing contest starts this week, so there will be tagged fish in Matt Warner Reservoir, Moon Lake and Moose Ponds. So if a person catches one of those tagged fish they can bring it in and they can be entered in for a drawing for some really cool prizes later this year. There's a Facebook page for that if anyones looking for some more information. Law enforcement section has really been busy working on some illegal bear baiting stations in the region. Of course it's illegal to bait bears during the hound hunts so they're working those right now and trying to find out some of the causes and who's been doing those things. We'll have a new officer coming into the region around the first of June and his name is Ray Windsor. He's replacing Brandon White who transferred to a Sergeant position in southern Utah. Good news, our AIS program is up and running now. We have a number of technicians on board, covering a lot of our ramps especially up at Flaming Gorge to prevent any AIS species like quagga mussels from entering our waters in the region. So that's really good news. Our aquatics folks are busy with cutthroat work, they'll be starting to spawn, the Colorado River Cutthroat, over in Lake Canyon next week. They'll be moving to the West Fork of Duchesne and eventually Sheep Creek Lake in the upcoming weeks to complete those spawns. Those efforts are very crucial for being able to stock cutthroat in their native range across the region, so those are good efforts that are going on. Our Aquatic crew is also busy completing the spring gill netting surveys and sampling efforts as well. I'd mention that in our wildlife section our nuisance situation is starting to pick up. In the last week we've had two cougar incidences and two bear incidences here in the region. None of them have been very serious, but these animals are starting to pop up around some of our private lands, so that's something that we're trying to work on. Hopefully it doesn't turn into a bad year for those types of things. Our winter range assessments went pretty good this year. Range is looking in pretty good shape this spring. That's to be expected after the good participation we had here last year, but given our winter was relatively normal I'd say the losses on winter range for deer and elk is pretty minor this year. Hopefully we'll have a good year for deer and elk production and help boost up some of our populations. I'll also mention that the Book Cliffs study with BYU is actually starting up now and this is the second year of fawn and calf, elk and deer captures. We're capturing fawns and calves, collaring those and ultimately determining what their survival rates are. So that's started, we've already had a calf elk being born and in the next few weeks we'll experience the fawing period out in the Book Cliffs. We have a lot going on, those are just a few things, as we've loosened the Covid-19

restrictions our people are trying to get busier in the field and have a lot of work going on . I think that's all I have to share today and I'll turn the time back over to you Brett.

Brett Prevedel: Thanks Miles. Are there any other comments people want to make or any other updates that are informational and not related to the agenda?

Dan Abeyta: I just had a question for Miles on his update. My question is on the first thing you mentioned, the Book Cliffs action plan, you said that's in place now and has been approved. Will the elk and deer management plans be updated? Will it adhere to this new plan, or how will they interact? The new Book Cliffs action plan, how will that affect the deer, elk, and other species management plans?

Miles Hanberg: The working group plan is to help direct the partners on what kind of efforts we're going to do collectively to try to improve range conditions and those types of things in the Book Cliffs. The unit plan, when those are revised, there may be some things we consider with that, but really they're two separate plans that we're looking at. Really I'd say it's more to help guide the recovery and improvement efforts out in the Book Cliffs. Certainly they would carry a little bit, but they are different.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, so it's really more habitat based, this new action plan?

Miles Hanberg: Yeah and like I said it's not really a DWR plan, it's a plan put together by the group collectively. It's really something that addresses habitat, it mentions feral and stray type horses, those things included, so it's a member of efforts to try and improve conditions in the Book Cliffs.

Dan Abeyta: Thanks for that clarification Miles.

Miles Hanberg: One other thing I'd mention is the flows on the Green River are expected to ramp up next week and so that will impact some of the users below Flaming Gorge Dam, because those flows will be ramping up next week. So I thought I'd let people know that as well.

Dan Abeyta: Just one more question Miles, this is Dan again. What was the name of the new incoming CO that is replacing Brandon White? I heard Ray Windsor, is that right?

Miles Hanberg: Yes, that's right.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, thanks.

Miles Hanberg: He'll be stationed in the Book Cliffs area primarily.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, if there are no other comments, we'll proceed with item #5 on the agenda which is Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations. Heather Talley is on with us, and if you don't mind Heather, we've

looked at your presentation online, but I'd like you to just take a moment and a brief synopsis on what changes or however you want to present it. Just give us a brief update.

00:20:55 5) Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook and Rule Recommendations (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

Heather Talley: That sounds good, thank you. So we do have a few different things that we're asking as far as a justification for changes for moving the youth quail hunt and the youth pheasant hunt both to the last weekend right before the general season starts, so that would be the last weekend in October. We want to extend that youth pheasant hunt through the following thursday. The reason for that is we release pen reared birds for those hunts and they are generally not long lived in the wild. So we want to make sure that we're giving the youth all the opportunity to harvest those. The reason for those movements of dates is because the hunts are usually under utilized, so we're just trying to see if that might make a difference as far as participation goes. Also, the wild turkey management plan extension is due now for a 3 year extension, otherwise it would need to be revised right now. Because we don't see any significant changes that need to be made and there are triggers in place to assuage any issues that might come up, that's why we're asking for that 3 year extension and we'd continue to work on that new plan. We'd like to be able to have sage grouse translocations for any time of the year that we can incorporate broods and different ratios of males and females in the adults of those, so that way we might wait until after the lucking season over to be able to really tell where our populations stand before doing any translocations from our source sites. Also, for closing WMAs for Division sponsored and co sponsored events. This is to alleviate the issues with the public coming on to our events that are reserved for registrants and a lot of these things have happened with youth pheasant hunts in the past that we've gone out and released birds for them that SFW has purchased for these events, and then different members of the public come on and adults are shooting them before the kids get a chance to. So those are the closures we've asked for, but because some of these events can pop up within the 3 year guidebook cycle, we would like to have the latitude and support from the Board to close those WMAs during that guidebook cycle, and that would be advertised online and in the guidebook. Then some of our rule changes, we just have some really simple tagging changes that we've made for clarifications. Also the air guns for turkeys in the fall season only and for rabbits and hares. So do you want me, since this has come up at every RAC, would you like me to just read out of the RAC packet what the specifications would be for requirements for the air guns?

Brett Prevedel: Sounds good, please do.

Heather Talley: Excellent. Precharged pneumatic air rifle means a rifle that fires a single projective with compressed air released from a chamber that's built into the rifle, pressurized at the 3,000 psi from an external high pressure device or source such as a

hand pump, compressor or scuba tank. The precharged pneumatic air rifle firing a single broad tipped bolt or arrow or pellet or slug during the fall turkey season that is a .22 caliber or larger, weighs 18 grains or more, and is fired at the velocity to produce at least 30 ft of energy at the muzzle. So we feel that with these minimum requirements we can make sure that these are lethal, and again, they would only be approved for species that you are already allowed to harvest with a rifle such as rabbits or hares and turkeys in the fall season only.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Miles would you summarize the public comments on this topic, and then we will open it up to questions.

00:25:52 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg, Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: So we had 2 respondents to the survey and one of them opposed the proposal and the other supported it. I can give a quick update on the National Turkey Federation, they opposed the recommendation proposal and the reason why is they oppose the use of air guns. I think their comments are, they feel like it was demonstrated that air guns are effective on adult turkeys. They also expressed concern for the rim fire rifles for turkeys, and a lot of that will be for youth only for the fall, and they also opposed the new youth seasons dates, those were their main comments. The other letter that was submitted was from Pheasants Forever, and their main comment was they would like to see a trial hunt program in five areas for pheasants, in which a person would be able to buy a punch card and harvest pheasants that were stocked in that area. That's a little different than what the DWR has done in the past where we stock pheasants and a valid hunting license is all that's needed. Those are the two main comments, I think you all had an opportunity to read through them in detail, but that's a quick synopsis on them.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. We'll open it up to questions and maybe I'll take the opportunity to start with one, Heather. By extending the youth pheasant hunt for the 5 days or whatever you extended it to, you now have a discrepancy between the youth pheasant hunt and the youth quail hunt. Do you think that could cause some confusion when they could be potentially seeing both species during that time?

Heather Talley: There is always a possibility of confusion with different season dates for different species, so that's a good question. The reason again why we wanted to allow for a longer period of time to harvest those pheasants, is if the youth go out there for just one weekend to harvest those pheasants and they don't harvest all those pen reared birds, they might still be alive for a few more days, but they are not going to last until the next hunting season. So, we just want to make sure that they have ample opportunity to harvest those so they're not wasted. That would be up to the RAC and Board if they feel that would be a confusion.

Brett Prevedel: And I'm not suggesting we shorten the pheasant hunt, I'm suggesting we lengthen the youth quail hunt to match. So when they're in the field there is not the opportunity to have a violation if quail are hunted.

Heather Talley: Right, there is that slight possibility of impacts because it is a three day season and for quail it is either sex and it is wild populations, they are not a put and take, so we wouldn't have the same concerns about them not living until the next hunt season, but that's a good question.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. I'll open it up to questions from the RAC.

00:29:04 Questions from RAC Members

Dan Abeyta: Heather, my question for you is, I'm trying to better understand these air guns and I guess the requirements with the air guns. I thought you mentioned these typically have a charge of, or a capacity of 2,00-3,000 psi. Is that what you mentioned?

Heather Talley: Yes, that's correct.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, so my follow up question to that is do you know what that equates to in feet per second? Because I'm more familiar with air guns and their weighting in feet per second. What are we talking about, do you have a conversion, or on these airguns that we're talking about, what's the feet per second rating on these?

Heather Talley: So, we didn't have a conversion listed like that in our rule. I can find that out for you though and have that sent to the chair and have it disseminated to the RAC, we can do that. But they do have to be at least 30 ft lbs of energy at the muzzle.

Dan Abeyta: Right, and that's another metric that I'm not familiar with for air guns, and maybe that's because I'm not really into air guns, but I'm just trying to get a better understanding of these air guns and I'm sure that you guys have probably used examples from other states where this is legal and probably followed those same requirements, is that correct?

Heather Talley: We have looked into all the requirements on other states and have done research online to determine lethality. Yes that's correct. Thanks.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, if you could follow up with my question on feet per second that would be helpful. Thank you.

Heather Talley: Sure, thanks.

Brett Prevedel: Any other questions from the RAC?

Joe Arnold: Again on the air guns, just curious about why we need air guns vs other means? I can see crossbows and things make sense for people that want to bow hunt, but what particular group are we going toward with an air gun vs a shotgun or an archery piece of equipment? I guess I just don't understand why air guns...

Brett Prevedel: Joe we're having some trouble hearing you, there's some feedback.

Joe Arnold: I'm just curious as to why air guns as a means? What groups are we trying to.. I understand archery, different forms of archery, but why air guns? What are the advantages of offering air guns vs a shotgun?

Heather Talley: Thank you Joe. So the reason for the air guns is to try to add another weapon type to the fall season. Try to keep in mind that the fall seasons are meant to reduce populations where there are a lot of human/turkey conflicts. So the whole reason behind that is if someone did have an air gun that they wanted to hunt with, that we're able to offer more of that opportunity and give them another means to be able to accomplish that goal of reducing those populations within the fall season where they are causing nuisance and depredation issues.

Joe Arnold: Ok, are .22 allowed or is it only shotguns and archery currently?

Heather Talley: Currently with the fall season rimfire .22s are allowed, yes.

Joe Arnold: Ok, thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Any other questions from the RAC? If there are no other questions, I would entertain any discussion that you would have leading to a motion.

00:33:58 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Brett Prevedel: If there is no discussion, I'd entertain a motion.

Joe Arnold: Yeah, I would like some clarification on the punch pass suggested by Pheasants Forever, it sounds like that has worked in other areas. Are we voting on ... (inaudible)

Brett Prevedel: Joe, we're still having trouble with your audio.

Heather Talley: Hey Joe, I think I've got it if you want to go ahead and mute, Joe. I think I've got what you're getting at. So you're asking us about the proposal that Pheasants Forever put in for the WMA pay to play situation, is that true?

Joe Arnold: Yes, that's exactly right.(inaudible)

Heather Talley: Ok I think I got most of that, I'm so sorry, you have a lot of feedback in your room. So what happened was we had already submitted our RAC packet and we ended up talking to Pheasants Forever after that. So they brought this proposal to us after the proposed changes already went out. Since then we have had a really good conversation with them about how some of this might be possible in the future, but we have a lot of logistics to work through, for example some of the things with the prices of

the punch passes and who would be administering those and actually policing who's doing the punch passes as far as our law enforcement and everything. We have to get our birds ordered a year in advance, so we'd have to work out some of those things because we'd have those set numbers for those different WMAs and have all the logistics fiscally and with enforcement figured out. It is something that we're looking into and we're interested in that and we feel like they've got a really good idea, but we feel like it happened a little too quickly to come in for this round for us to figure out all the logistics.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, did that answer your question, Joe?

Joe Arnold: Yeah, I'm good I think. It doesn't sound like it's something we're going to vote on.

Brett Prevedel: So, there's another issue there with Sportsmen's groups kicking in a significant part of the percentage of the cost of the pheasants and I'm sure that's a part of the discussion. So where we're at is we have a motion to accept the item #5 as presented in our RAC packet. Do I have a second?

00:34:10 The following motion was made by Dan Abeyta, seconded by Rebekah Jones. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendations from the Division as presented

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Dick Bess: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Rebakah Jones: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brett Prevedel: That passed unanimously. We'll now move into item #6 Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments. I'll ask Blair to take a few moments and summarize this for us.

00:38:59:18 6) Migratory Upland Game Recommendations and Swan Rule Amendments (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

Blair Stringham: So I'll be talking about essentially 5 species, that's Mourning Dove, Whitewinged Dove, American Crow, Sandhill Crane, and Band Tailed Pigeon. We're only recommending one change to those species and that's to one of our Crane hunts in Box Elder county. We're asking to make that a longer season, so it would be a 60 day hunt rather than a 9 day hunt which it currently is. That's partly because of the similar problems you guys are experiencing out in the Uintah Basin with the cranes essentially staying for a longer period of time, keeping them moving around, reducing depredation in some of our key areas where we're having a lot of damage right now. The other change I'd be talking about is a rule change to Swan tagging and that would allow people to actually retrieve their swan after they shoot it and return to a better location essentially to tag their bird. We currently require them to tag it at the exact spot they retrieve the birds and generally that tends to be on a pond or something like that, so we're just making the change to allow people to move back to a dry spot or their boat or where ever they shot the bird so they can put that tag on. Those are essentially the only changes we're making with my recommendation.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Miles, did we have any public comment on this item?

**00:41:01 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg,
Regional Supervisor**

Miles Hanberg: Just the two comments. One supported the proposal, the other was neutral. But no specific comments on this one.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. I'll open it up to questions from the RAC.

00:41:14 Questions from RAC Members

Jeff Taniguchi: I have a question. Are Sandhill Cranes a nuisance, or what are their numbers like? Are they pretty harty? Are there good populations in Utah?

Blair Stringham: We have probably a couple thousand birds that we would consider resident birds that nest here. Ultimately most of those go and migrate to New Mexico where they spend the winter. They're part of a larger population called the Rocky Mountain population of cranes which extends basically from Arizona all the way up to the Canadian border. So there are probably about 25-30,000 population of cranes in that population and we get a percentage of that population to hunt each year. So that's what our tag numbers are based on, and we share essentially how many cranes can be harvested out of that population with about 7-8 other western states. We only get a portion of the harvest, which is why the population being small, we're not allowed to give out more permits than we do, because we'd be essentially over harvesting the

population. We do have some challenges with them as well, to answer the other part of your question. We do have some nuisance issues, but for the most part they're considered a game species just like deer or geese or other species like that.

Jeff Taniguchi: Ok, thank you.

Brett Prevedel: I believe, Jeff, we had the same issue that was being proposed with the longer season here in the Uintah Basin. Blair was it last year or the year before? When we didn't increase a lot of tag numbers, but we increased the season just to disrupt the crop damage that was being reported, is that accurate?

Blair Stringham: Yes that's correct, pretty much the same issue, just a different part of the state.

Dan Abeyta: Blair, this is Dan Abeyta, I've got a question for you. On the swan tagging, is that going to be pretty much up to a case by case situation and officer discretion in terms of the location of tagging a swan?

Blair Stringham: We tried to define it to some extent and it will require some officers evaluating the situation. So if someone shot a swan and went all the way back to their vehicle, that would probably violate that rule because they did have an opportunity to tag that swan prior to returning to their vehicle. But what exactly that situation is will have to be determined by the officer, whether it's their boat, or whether they have to walk a couple hundred yards to set the bird down on dry land. So there will be some officer discretion there, but it is fairly clear that you can't walk three miles and then tag your bird too.

Dan Abeyta: Thank you, Blair.

Brett Prevedel: Blair, could I ask on the permit recommendation, that has been consistent for many years, is that correct?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, we've tried to have it fairly consistent message across the board for our bird permits. So for turkeys and species like that. Swans are a little bit different just because they get harvested over water a lot, so the real language needed to be adjusted a little bit from what we had for turkeys and cranes and a few other species like that.

Brett Prevedel: And the permit numbers on swans are stable from prior years.

Blair Stringham: Yep, the permit numbers will be the same that we had last year, that would be 2,750.

Brett Prevedel: Just to educate the RAC what's the rule on the Trumpeter Swans, once it hits a certain threshold, it affects the Tundra Swan hunt, is that correct?

Blair Stringham: Yes, we do have a quota of 20 Trumpeter Swans in the state. So each hunter is required to have their birds checked in at a Regional office or a bird refuge to verify if it's a Trumpeter Swan or a Tundra Swan, and when we do hit that quota of 20 the swan season is essentially shut down, if there are any days remaining in it.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. Are there any other questions from the RAC?

Dan Abeyta: I do have another question, Blair. Band Tailed Pigeons, are they abundant in Utah? Or are they more of a rare occurrence.

Blair Stringham: They are more of a rare occurrence. Back in the 60's we had a really really large population of Band Tailed Pigeons down in the Four Corners area. A lot of that was tied to grain production down there. We've seen in the last 50 years or so there has been less and less grain produced in that part of the state. As that has happened we've seen fewer and fewer Band Tailed Pigeons down there. They're still there, they're still abundant, but they tend to be in more natural habitats like Oak Brush, Conifer Trees, Aspen Stands, just makes them a lot more difficult to see when they're not around grainery and it's more open, you'd see them on power lines. They're still in the state, but not as abundant as the Canada Goose or a turkey.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Any other questions? Ok, if there are none I would entertain a motion.

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Rebekah Jones. Passed unanimously.

00:47:06 MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Dick Bess: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Rebakah Jones: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, motion passes unanimously. We'll now move on to the item #7, which is the AIS Rule Amendments. Bruce Johnson, would you take a moment and give us a brief summary?

00:48:03 7) AIS Rule Amendments (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

Bruce Johnson: Yes, thank you. This year the state legislature enacted some statutes that we are going to follow with some administrative rules to back those up, and some others that weren't necessarily associated with legislative changes. First off the legislative changes are a \$20 non resident fee that we'll now implement for non resident boaters, along with that the non resident boaters will be required to take the education course and present those while boating. It also creates a new account for those fees that we'll be collecting. We'll also be removing drain plugs across the state. Up til now we've only had drain plug removal required for boats that were leaving Lake Powell. We want to be consistent in the state as well as in our surrounding states for that. It also asks for a feasibility study for an automated system for real time data entry. Then administrative rules that were not associated with those were a 30 day dry time clarification for complex boats. We added a few definitions and also prohibited the alteration of the seals that were attached to those boats after inspection or decontamination. That follows up with an existing rule we have of altering the self certification form, this just ties them together now.

Brett Prevedel: Miles, were there any public comments on this item?

**00:49:55 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg,
Regional Supervisor**

Miles Hanberg: The same two responded. One in support, the other neutral, but no specific comments.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Questions from the RAC?

00:50:10 Questions from RAC Members

Dan Abeyta: Mr. Chair, I have a question for Bruce on this. My question Bruce is the \$20 non resident fee. How does the Division plan on using that funding?

Bruce Johnson: That will go towards our interdiction efforts for our seasonal employees, our equipment, inspection stations that we're trying to set up throughout the state.

Dan Abeyta: Like 100% then?

Bruce Johnson: Yes.

Dan Abeyta: Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Are there any other questions or comments from the RAC prior to proceeding to a motion? Ok, if there are none, I will entertain a motion on the AIS rule amendments, item 7.

The following motion was made by Dan Abeyta, seconded by Jeff Taniguchi.
Passed unanimously.

00:51:30 MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Dick Bess: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Rebakah Jones: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, the motion passes unanimously. We will now proceed to the final item on our agenda which is the Walk-In Access Rule Amendments. Bryan Christensen, would you take a moment to summarize this, please?

00:52:26 8) Walk-In Access Rule Amendments (Action)

Presentations could be viewed at
<https://wildlife.utah.gov/online-board.html>

Bryan Christensen: Sure thing. So basically what we're doing with walk in access is going through the rule and through our program and making some simplifications. We're trying to make the whole thing easier for the sportsmen and the landowners, and really for the Division to administer. We made some clarifications, we took out some old methods of gathering data and signing up for the programs and applications and things like that. And really moving more towards more standardized practices with running this program. That's kind of the short nutshell version of it. There aren't any real major changes as far as the program itself goes. There are some small changes, one of them is removing the wooden registration boxes from each of the walk-in

access areas, that's a small change. Any of the changes we made there, we feel like we can find better ways in getting the information we need in working with our landowners and our public.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. The process would still be that you need the permit and take the test, right? To hunt the walk in areas.

Bryan Christensen: Right, we haven't changed that at all as far as walk in access authorization. Anyone that goes on to one of those properties to hunt or fish would still have to get an annual authorization. One thing we did change about that is it's good for a 365 day period instead of January to December each year. So it's more consistent with other license types that you'd buy.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. Miles, would you address the public comments on this item?

00:54:28 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg, Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: Sure, same thing on this one. We have just the two responders. One supported the proposal, the other was neutral on this proposal.

Brett Prevedel: Questions from the RAC?

00:54:43 Questions from RAC Members

Natasha Hadden: I was just wondering if some of the walk in access areas could also extend to maybe wildlife watching? Where they could take the same manner for hunting, fishing, and trapping, have to take the online course and purchase a permit or something like that, if the private landowner was amenable to that?

Bryan Christensen: And that is something that has come up in our process this time around. The activities that happen on walk in access really are dictated by the funding source. The hunting properties we have are actually paid almost entirely by a federal grant that stipulates that the money is to be used for walk in access purposes for hunting and fishing, or hunting and trapping. Any activity outside of that like hiking, or mountain biking, or camping, we don't have the authorization to give as part of a walk in access. Now the landowner may choose to do that. They may say, I'm a walk in access property and I'm totally fine with these different activities like wildlife watching or camping or other things. They would have to do that independently from us. As a Division the hunting walk in access is the only thing we're allowed to authorize for the public to go do there. This rule actually helps clarify that's the case.

Brett Prevedel: Is it just a payment issue, or why can't we offer non consumptive types of activities as a part of the DWR? We have those programs.

Bryan Christensen: Right. And I see the benefit in doing that. Many of our walk in access properties haven't had any issue with doing those types of activities, we just don't have the authorization to tell the public they can go there and do it on the properties that are funded by that federal grant. It's very specific what hunting means in that grant and those non consumptive options are not considered hunting per say. Now if the Division uses different sources to pay for those walk in access leases or we create different types of walk in access specifically for bird watching or something else like that then we would need to use a different funding source. And that could happen, we just haven't explored this as an option as of yet. But it certainly could happen under a different funding source.

Brett Prevedel: And maybe it wouldn't even need to be funded. Maybe non-consumptive would be something that a portion of these landowners would welcome just to let people enjoy the bird watching or whatever it may be, hiking on their property. I guess we don't know.

Bryan Christensen: Yeah, it is something we haven't really explored and bird watching and those other kinds of wildlife watching are very popular, so perhaps there is some opportunity there. We may explore that, but would probably call it something different than walk in access so it didn't get confused by the consumptive side. So maybe there's another way to treat that. I like the idea though.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. Any other questions from the RAC?

Jeff Taniguchi: I just want to know about compliance. Is there any data that you could share with how many people are in compliance and really accessing these properties. The second part of my question is, is there more walk in access in the Uintah Basin or statewide that is growing? Or is it pretty well staying at a certain level?

Bryan Christensen: Ok, help me remember both questions if I miss one. The compliance is the first one. This is part of our rule revamp. The method that we've had in the past was for a public user to go to a walk in access property and sign in at a paper registration at a wooden box at an access point. We aren't confident that's happening all the time. There are some that are very good about doing it, and there are some properties that have a very good track record. But there are many that we go to and the papers have been blank for months, if not a couple of years. Others we go to the boxes and it's got people that just visited the property but weren't actually hunting or fishing. So we're not very confident in the paper registration box system as it is now. So we're looking at doing some different, updated methods. I'm not sure if you're familiar with how the HIP program works with migratory hunting. Before you can get your HIP number, you've got to go on and answer a few questions about your previous year of hunting. There are methods like that I think we could try moving towards and get a lot better data about which properties are being used, if they are satisfied, how often they are being used, and get some really usable stuff rather than these paper boxes that fill up with bees and hornets during the years. So I can't say that we have a really good set of data now, but

that is the goal with this recommendation in mind. Then if that satisfies that question, the second question...

Jeff Taniguchi: Yeah, that's fine. The second one was are we growing with walk in access? Are there any new places in the Uintah Basin that have been acquired, or statewide? What are the numbers looking at?

Bryan Christensen: We've got some new coordinators across the state that are running walk in access. Not only are they new to it, but they are very energetic and very good at what they're doing. So we haven't tried to grow walk in access areas statewide quite yet. What we've been doing is walking through walk-in access areas that have been enrolled, and making sure that it's the quality that we want to have in this program. Making sure that the maps are accurate and really there is a good opportunity on these properties. That's our main goal. There has been some growth, and not much in the northeastern region, but we're looking at that. Wes is actively looking around and taking opportunities where there is interest. We can grow a little bit, but for now our main focus has been to make sure what we have is good first and then if there are properties that aren't as valuable as they were 10-15 years ago we would direct that money towards properties that are more beneficial.

Jeff Taniguchi: So, are they surveyed often for the quality?

Bryan Christensen: They are now. We surveyed basically when an enrollment would end. So if it was a 5 year contract with the landowner we would go look at it basically when they would renew. Part of this rule recommendation is to go every year if not more than that. We want to visit these properties frequently. Especially fishing properties with ponds where water can be drawn down easily in a year. We want to make sure that those things are looked at, and we want to hear from our public users too and see what kind of experiences they're having. But we'll definitely be monitoring each property with much more frequency than they probably ever have.

Jeff Taniguchi: Great. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, any other questions from the RAC?

Dan Abeyta: Yeah. Bryan, I'm just trying to understand the program, so the property owner is monetarily compensated based on usage, or how does that work?

Bryan Christensen: In Utah the way we have it set up is we have blocks of acreage, if we just talk hunting for a moment, there are blocks of acreage if you have a certain amount there is a 1 year to a 5 year allotment as far as their payment can go. It's actually online where we publish that information, so we just look at how much acreage they have, a biologist goes out and reviews that property and looks at how usable it is, what habitat conditions are, then we look at that table grid on our website and that's what the landowner gets paid for a hunting area. A fishing area is a little bit different. We

measure that by streams by quarter half mile increments. Ponds, lakes, reservoirs, those are done by flatwater acreage.

Dan Abeyta: I see so it is based on, if I heard you correctly, it is based on the size?

Bryan Christensen: At the moment the current rule really just looks at the size. The rule that I'm proposing, it gives us a little more flexibility on how we rate a property and how they're paid. We haven't changed the payment table at this point, but the new rule would not only consider it's size but the quality, how much opportunity there is to harvest different species, the length of the agreement, if it's a 1 year thing or a 5 year thing. So there are multiple factors now within this rule change that give us a little bit more discussion power to decide is it really worth another property that has more hunting opportunity that's the same size, or do we pay them all the same way. So I kind of hope we can move forward with that and refine the way we pay these out. In some ways it will actually be a benefit to a landowner who has a little bit more quality will have the opportunity to receive a little bit higher payment.

Dan Abeyta: Do you see usage ever factoring into that payment?

Bryan Christensen: I think eventually, yes. There are states that actually only pay, for like big game hunting, they only pay by per user. So the way they run their system is you would have to go online and print off a little certificate thing and then when we got to property we would have to fill it out and drop it into an iron ranger, one of those medal pipes, and the Division would go collect those and see how many people went to hunt there and they'd pay based off of that usage method. It's a little challenging based on staffing and time and other things to run a program based off that, and it may be beneficial in the future to just look at usage, but we're also not talking about a whole lot of money per area either. If it was tens of thousands of dollars a year, it would be easier to be more picky about how it's paid. We give nice compensation, but the landowners are not making money off this, it's more an opportunistic program where they believe they want to share their land and make it available rather than making profits. It's got a lot of heart to it honestly.

Dan Abeyta: Yeah I just pulled up the table and looked at the different ranges of acres and how much it pays out based on how many years, etc. I see what you're saying. I think the maximum, in this table I'm looking at online, it's like 2,200, that's for a 5 year contract with 5,000+ acres. So it's not a lot of money.

Bryan Christensen: No, it's really not. It's been sufficient for a lot of landowners to participate and they're grateful for what we can do. It's a small program and it's funded in part by the Division and by that federal grant. So there's not a whole lot of money behind it, but we are grateful for the landowners that participate and are willing to be a part of this and share their land with the public. I think it's pretty cool.

Dan Abeyta: What year did this start out?

Bryan Christensen: I was hoping someone wouldn't ask me that. I have been in this position in just under a year and I haven't found that answer yet. I know it's been more than 10 years, I can give you that much.

Dax Mangus: 2007.

Dan Abeyta: Thank you.

Bryan Christensen: 13 years, is that right, did I do my math ok?

Dan Abeyta: Yes sir.

Jeff Taniguchi: I have another short question. I know this kind of pertains statewide, but as stream access has been won in court cases, do you see more landowners allowing access now that their lands are able to be fished by the public anyway? And if a landowner comes to you, even though they start an agreement they still kind of share in that whole compensation business. I'm just saying that, has there been any significant landowners participating with the stream access laws being changed?

Bryan Christensen: I can answer that in two ways I think. Since I've been in this position, I haven't seen any change at all with participation from landowners with any of the stream access law changes or appeals. Within a year I haven't seen anything. I don't see a lot through the notes from my predecessors either, that the stream access has changed our participation in this program. Where I think we see the most up and down changes where landowners are participating or not is actually through the sale of their land. It sometimes goes to family members, the dad will sell it to his kids, the kids have different opinions on how they want to use the lands or the waters. That tends to be the biggest factor with whether someone continues to be a part of the walk in access program or not.

Jeff Taniguchi: Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. If there are no other questions we'll move on to comments.

01:11:34 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Brett Prevedel: Maybe I'll start one. I think it's acceptable that when you make this motion Natasha, that this motion could be made to accept as presented with the recommendation that the DWR look further into non-consumptive uses if that's what was desired. I personally think.. It might not put it right on you Bryan, but it would at least get it into the minutes and get it in writing that we think that would be a positive step. That's just a comment I have, I can't make motions, so that's what I have to say. Are there any other comments? If not I will entertain a motion.

Bryan Christensen: I don't have any objection to that Brett, not at all.

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Rebekah Jones. Passed unanimously.

01:12:20 MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the addition of looking into further uses of walk-in access areas to include non-consumptive user activities.

Joe Arnold: Before I vote on it, with the non-consumptives, would it affect the amount of huntable acres if we tried to lump them all together?

Brett Prevedel: I don't believe it's that specific, clarify me if I'm mistaken Natasha, just recommend that the DWR look at potential for non consumptive uses. Is that what I heard, Natasha?

Natasha Hadden: Correct, accepting the proposal as presented but looking further into options for non consumptive users as well in the future.

Bryan Christensen: And Joe, I don't think that we would see that incorporation for any kind of reduction for the hunting side of the walk in access. I think they could be treated at the same time without any loss of opportunity there.

Joe Arnold: Ok, you just mentioned grant money that was specific to hunting so if the money went away then acres could possibly come away to access more non consumptive. So I would be concerned if that was the case. I can approve it, yes. Or yes on the way it was presented.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Dick Bess: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Rebakah Jones: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

01:14:42 12) Other Business (Contingent)

Brett Prevedel: Ok, there was one other item that was informational, and I don't know if anyone looked at it. It was quite interesting, and if you haven't looked at it, I

suggest that you do, with the Willard Spur. Ashley did a good job with the presentation, it was quite informative. Miles, is there anything else you'd like to talk about before we adjourn this meeting?

Miles Hanberg: I don't think so. So again, we appreciate your participation in the RAC meeting tonight. I know this format is tricky at times, but I think it actually works pretty well for us. Again, thank you all the RAC members for taking some time out of your evening to participate in the process with us.

Brett Prevedel: I'd like to echo what Miles said, thank you everyone. We do have to have a motion and a second and a roll call to adjourn though, officially. I know you could shut off your computer, but that doesn't count.

The following motion was made by Joe Arnold, seconded by Dick Bess. Passed unanimously.

01:15:48 MOTION: to adjourn the meeting.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Dick Bess: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Rebakah Jones: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.

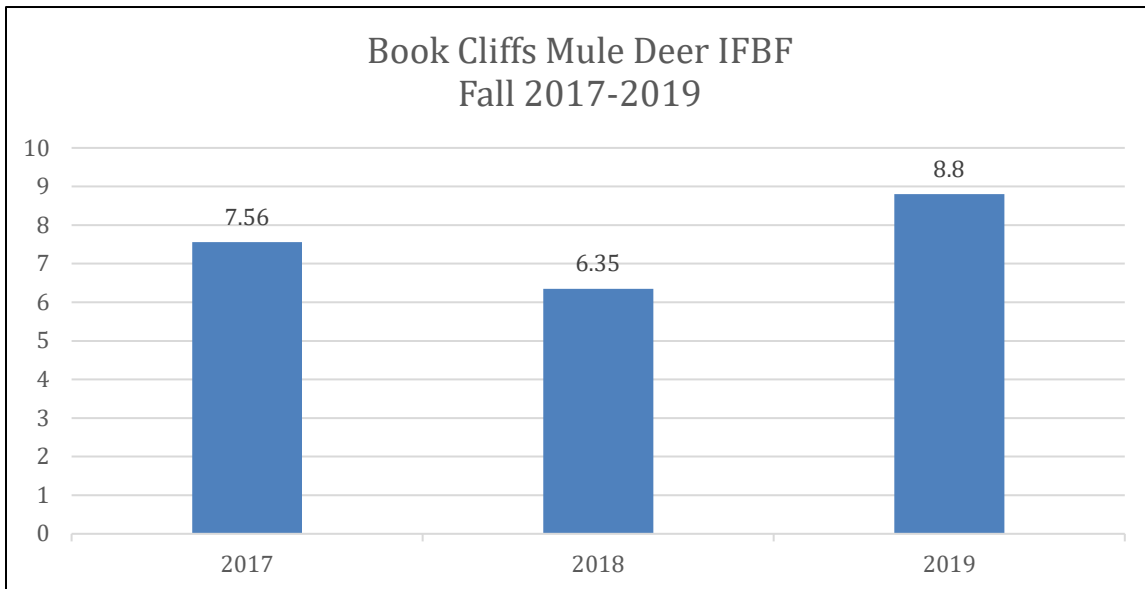
Book Cliffs Working Group Action Plan May 2020

Background

The Book Cliffs Wildlife Management Unit is located in northeastern Utah and is generally located north of I-70 and south of the Uinta Basin. The unit extends from the Green River corridor on the west to the Colorado/Utah state line on the east. The Book Cliffs unit has long been recognized as a summer range limited unit, due to the narrow band of lower elevation summer range.

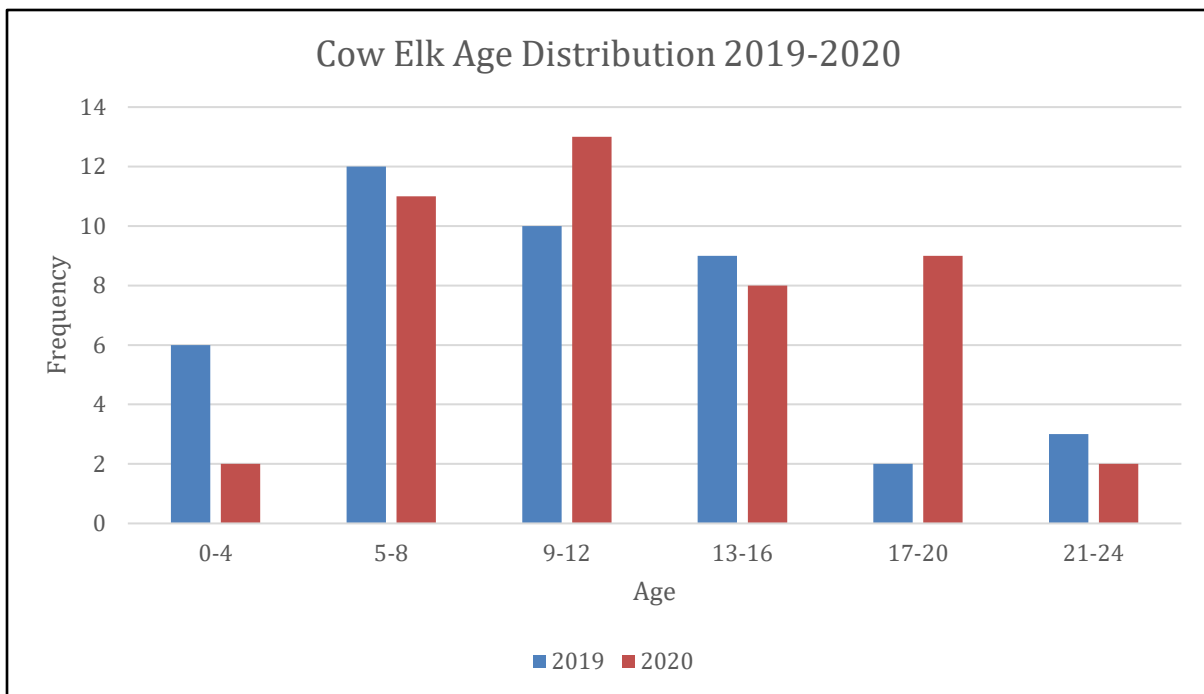
In the past decade, wildlife managers have documented a decreasing trend in deer population numbers. Elk populations have remained stagnant. Fawn and calf ratios have been lower than desired during this same time period. Higher than normal mortality rates of adult doe deer were also noticed.

The Book Cliffs unit was selected as a priority for Utah's newly formed Wildlife Migration Initiative. Beginning in 2017, adult and fawn deer were captured and fitted with GPS collars. Body condition information was collected and indicated that deer generally had lower than average body fat during the fall before the start of the winter. Body fat was recorded as percent ingesta free body fat (IFBF), which is a measure of energy stores. The average IFBF during December was 7.56% in 2017, 6.35% in 2018, and 8.80% in 2019. During 2017 and 2018 the Book Cliffs was the second lowest unit of those recorded, while in 2019 it was below average.



In consideration of the lower than normal fawn ratios and general poor body condition of adult doe deer, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) and the Wildlife Board became increasingly concerned. Because these low metrics were observed at the beginning of the winter, it became apparent that the causes of the poor mule deer herd performance are likely centered on the summer range.

Elk captures in the spring of 2019 and 2020 revealed that the age structure of cow elk is skewed towards a high proportion of older elk in the population. In addition, only about 50% of the cow elk captured in 2019 were pregnant. This age structure is not typical of most elk populations in Utah and could be a contributor to low calf to cow ratios and overall lower elk herd productivity. Pregnancy rates rebounded significantly in 2020, with an overall pregnancy rate of 87%.



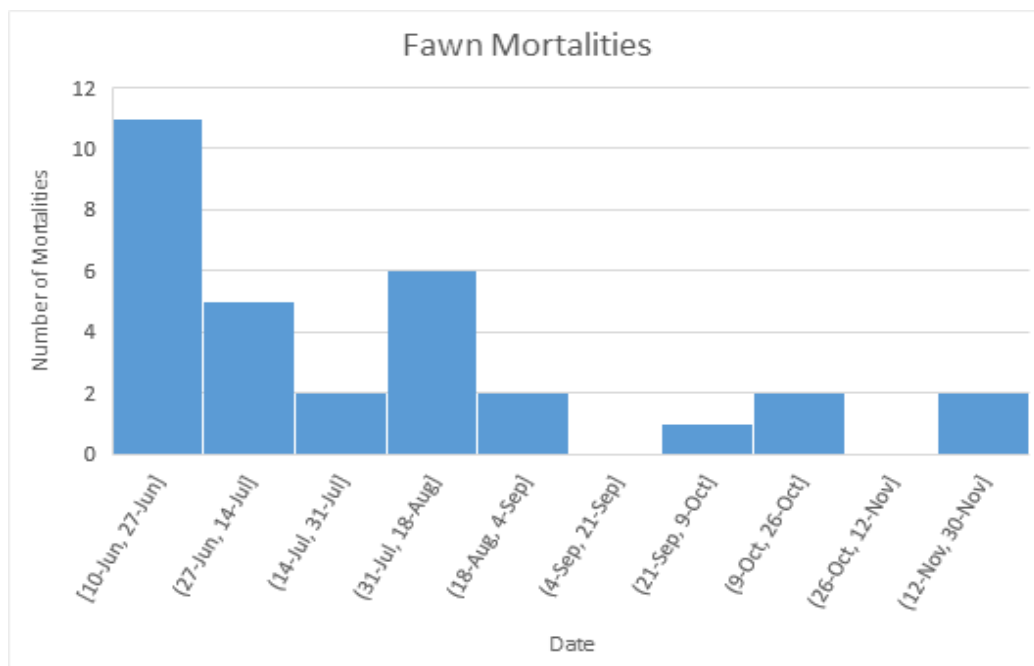
In November 2018, the Wildlife Board asked the DWR to investigate the issues surrounding Book Cliffs mule deer and elk populations. The DWR formed the Book Cliffs Working Group and began meeting in April 2019. The group was formed with representatives from Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Main Canyon Ranch, Lazy 3X Ranch, West Willow Creek CWMU, DWR, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), Ute Tribe Fish and Wildlife Department, State Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), Northeastern Region Resource Advisory Council (RAC), Southeastern Region RAC, Utah State University Extension (USU), and Farm Bureau. The group was tasked with identifying priority issues facing deer and elk in the Book Cliffs, and to develop an action plan to address these issues and base

recommendations to various partners. The working group was formed under an advisory capacity, without specific decision-making authority.

BYU Neonate Study Overview

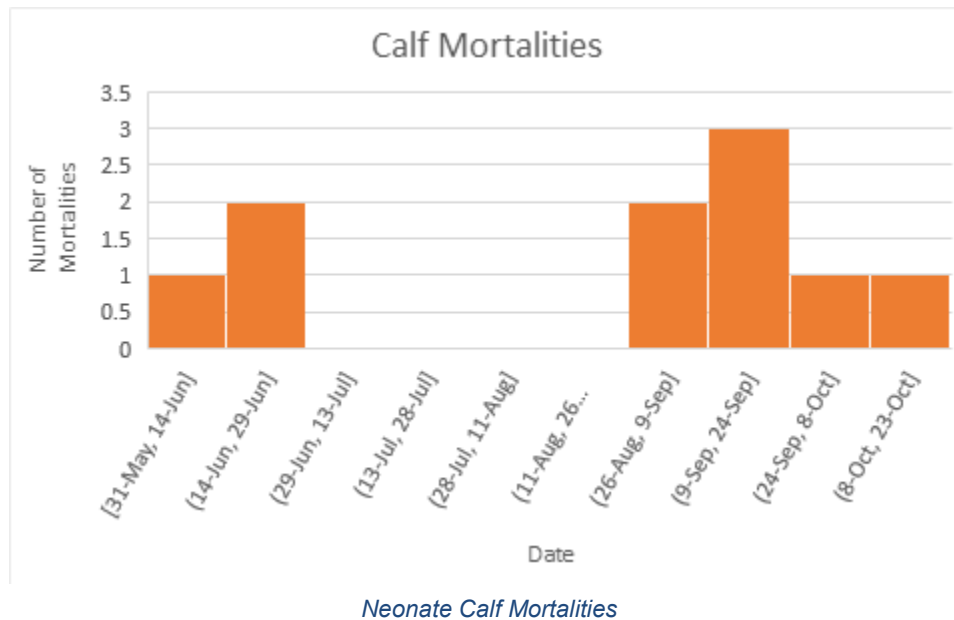
Brigham Young University (BYU) began a two-year neonate survival study beginning in 2019. Neonates are newborn deer and elk from birth until December 1st, 2019. After December 1st, 2019 the collared fawns move into the “fawn” category (6-12 month old). Adult cow elk and doe deer were captured in March of 2019 and vaginal implant transmitters (VITS) were placed in 23 cow elk and 43 doe deer. An additional 42 deer and 46 elk were captured in March 2020. The VITS were synchronized to the GPS collars of the adult female and trigger an alert once the mother has given birth. Field personnel attempt to locate the newborn animals as quickly as possible to place a VHF radio collar on each fawn or calf born. In addition, neonate fawn deer and calf elk were incidentally captured during the peak parturition period. During the first few months, collared neonates were monitored daily for mortality notifications from their VHF radio collars. Upon receiving a mortality notification, researchers attempted to locate the animal as quickly as possible to determine the cause of death.

Of the 50 individual newborn fawns that were captured in 2019, 16 survived until December 1, 2019. The leading cause of mortality was attributed to predation. The predation events prior to November 1, 2019 can be classified into 15 cougar kills, 10 bear kills, 2 coyote kills, 1 bobcat kill, and 5 unknown predators. Other causes of mortality include 1 death from malnutrition or disease. Most bear predation events occurred within the first month, while mountain lion predation occurred relatively evenly throughout the summer.



Neonate Fawn Mortalities

Elk calf survival trends closely mimic those found with mule deer fawns. There were 22 neonate elk calves captured in 2019 and the leading cause of mortality was from predation. The predation events occurring prior to November 1, 2019 were 8 cougar kills, 1 bear kill, and 1 unknown predator. Predation events peaked during the calving season with no predation events during July and most of August. A second predation pulse on elk calves began in late August and lasted into October.



BYU will repeat neonate capture and monitoring efforts in 2020 to further develop understanding of neonate survival in the Book Cliffs. The 2019 collared neonates will continue to be monitored until they reach one year old.

USU Cougar Study Overview

Utah State University began a cougar study in the Book Cliffs and other parts of the state during the winter of 2018/2019. In early 2019, UDWR staff captured and collared 5 adult female and 1 adult male mountain lions in the Book Cliffs. The male lion was harvested during the 2018/2019 harvest objective season. Starting in May of 2019, USU graduate student Kristin Engebretsen and technicians began monitoring the 5 female GPS-collared mountain lions for predation events, indicated by the formation of a cluster of GPS-points. Between May 2019 and January 2020, USU visited a total of 189 GPS-clusters, yielding 149 located and documented prey items. USU also set over 50 trail cameras on active kill sites to record feeding behavior and scavenging events.

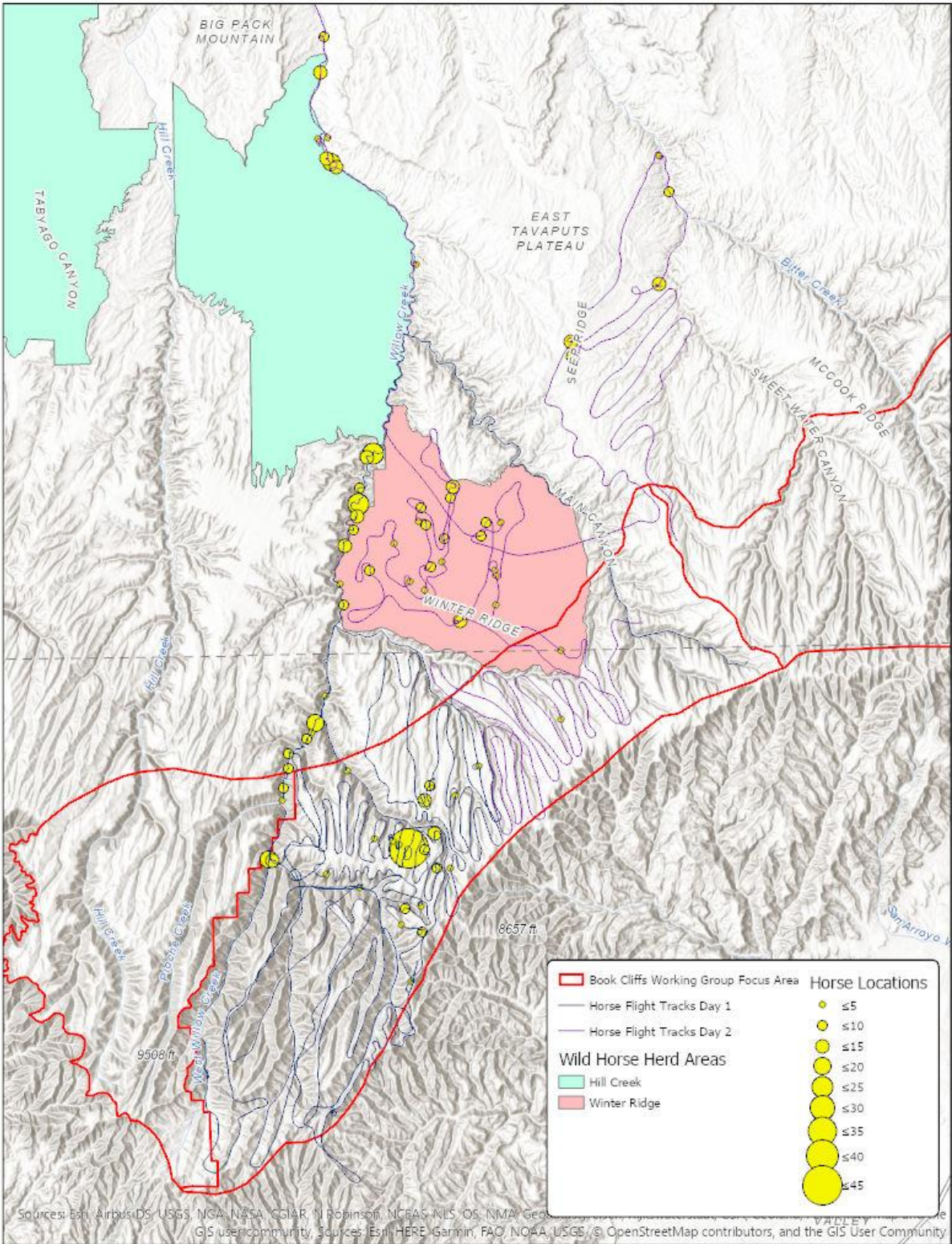
Three of the GPS collars on female mountain lions failed by October 2019 (1 collar remotely dropped off the animal and 2 collars had technical issues). USU continues to monitor the two remaining female lions and visit their kill site clusters through the winter. In early 2020, UDWR staff captured and collared 3 additional adult females and 1 young male mountain lion to add to the monitored sample. USU will begin investigating kill sites for these new individuals likely in the spring, when capture season is completed. The data for this research project is still preliminary and in the process of being collected, cleaned, and analyzed.

Stray Horse Survey

On August 12 - 13, 2019 DWR biologists conducted a helicopter survey to count stray horses on the summer range focus area and adjacent areas. The survey was flown using existing DWR aerial survey methodology typically used for counting elk or bison. Three trained observers and a pilot flew a combination of grids and contours and created a GPS flight track with waypoints at locations where horses were observed. Observed horses/horse groups were counted and classified into adults and juveniles as possible. Biologists observed 603 total horses, 518 adults and 85 juveniles. These are the actual observed/counted numbers and have not been adjusted for sightability.

Horse Survey Data Summary by location:

- 1) Summer range focus area: 197 horses
- 2) Winter Ridge Herd Area (including 1-mile buffer): 236 horses
- 3) Upper Willow Creek (between summer range and Meadow Creek): 44 horses
- 4) Seep Ridge Road corridor: 48 horses
- 5) Lower Willow Creek: 78 horses



Forage Balance Process

Data from 2017, 2018, and 2019 indicate that the body condition of captured mule deer does not remain below the state-wide average. Body conditions were especially bad in 2018 as the result of very severe drought conditions. While body conditions were much better in 2019 during a favorable precipitation and forage production year, they are still lower than other parts of Utah. These data all point to limited nutrition in crucial summer range areas, because body conditions are determined at the beginning of winter. As a result, an effort was completed to compile all the demands for forage on the summer range, and balance them with the potential forage production.

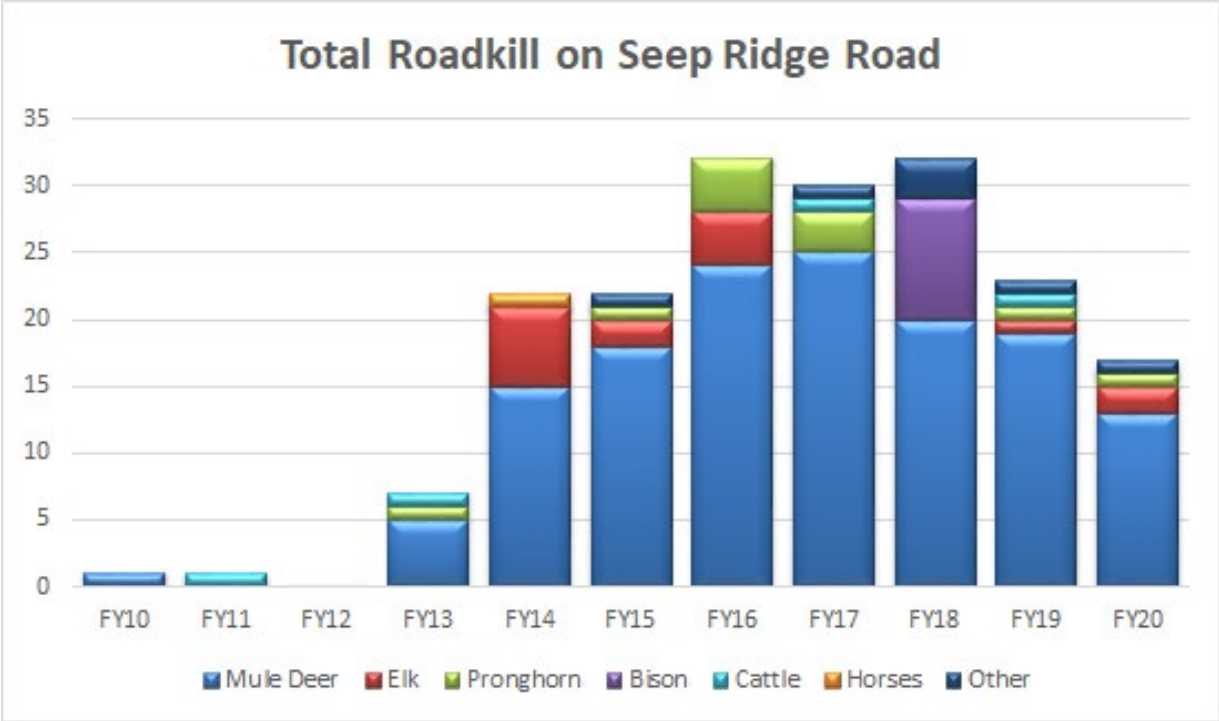
Crucial summer range areas were classified into Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil unit types. NRCS soil map data was then used to determine the forage productivity potential for these soil units. Based on the soil data, a range of available forage was generated for the Book Cliffs summer range areas, considering production potential during dry and favorable precipitation years.

Forage demand was determined by compiling DWR wildlife population data, the stray horse survey, and land management agency permitted livestock AUM's.

Overall, on the entire summer range focus area, forage demand generally falls within the range of potential forage production during average precipitation years. It was recognized that higher forage demand may be focused in the area between Seep Ridge and Steer Ridge, where stray horses are present. When analyzed specifically, the forage demand is at or slightly exceeding the forage production potential on good production years. Forage use is not uniformly distributed across the focus area due to limiting factors including water availability, creating areas of heavy use. There is an estimated production of 9,000-12,000 AUMs annually in the focus area. Annual forage production varies due to precipitation, range condition, and other factors. The estimated forage demand is 12,419 AUMs, however this estimate can vary over time depending on animal movements and distributions. The forage estimator spreadsheet is included at the end of this document.

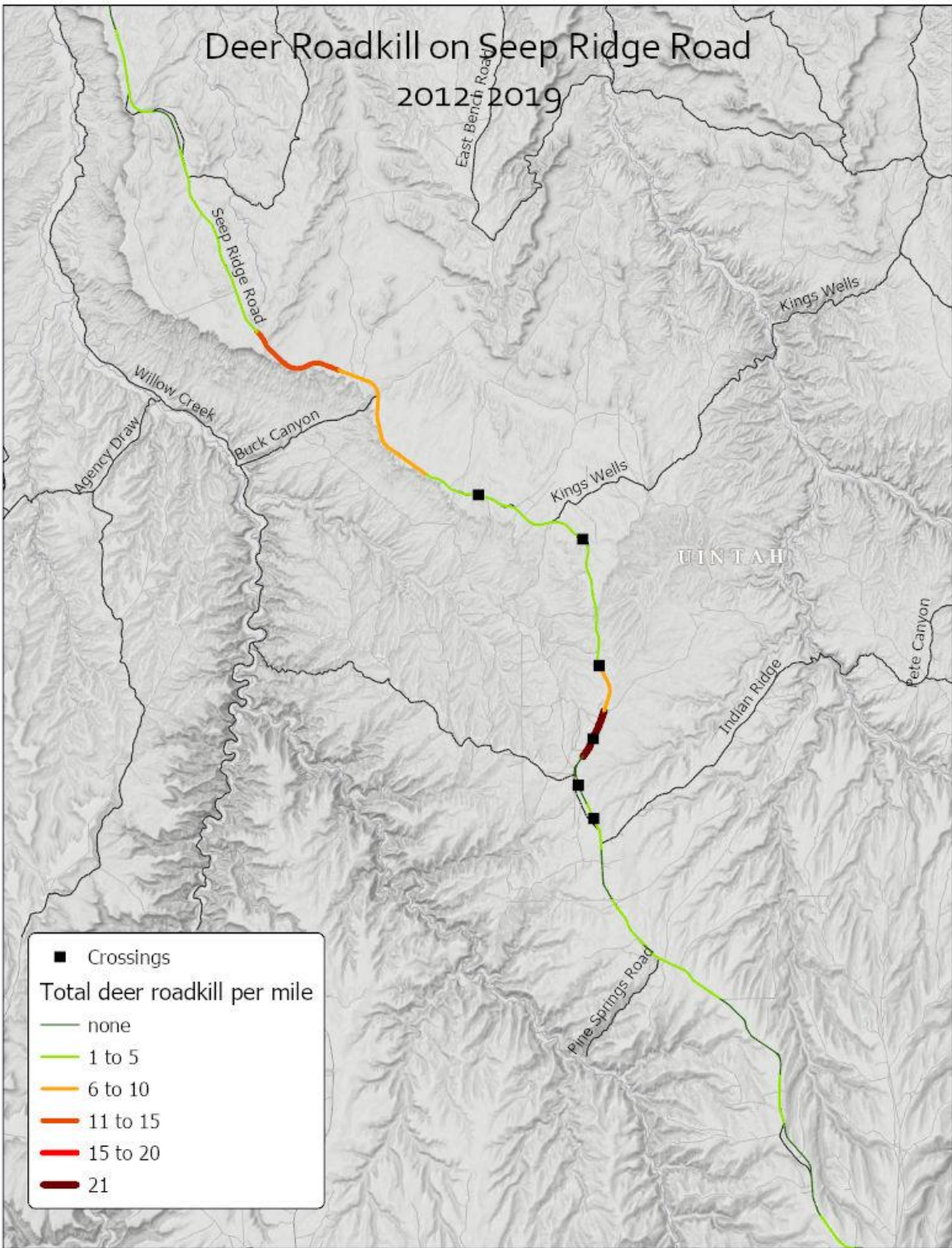
Seep Ridge Roadkill

Uintah County improved and paved the 52-mile-long Seep Ridge Road in phases from 2010-2013. The road crosses through crucial deer and elk winter range and the improvements end at the Grand County line. This project resulted in a roadway that is engineered for vehicle travel at speeds in excess of 65 mph. In the two years prior to the paving project, UDWR did not document any deer or elk roadkills. However, after paving, roadkills increased to an average of 20 deer annually.



Uintah County installed 6 large underpass structures in the crucial winter range area of the roadway. These structures were monitored for several years following project completion. Deer, elk, and other wildlife species are using the structures. However, wildlife fencing was not installed on the roadway, so animals continue to have the ability to cross anywhere in this road segment.

Deer Roadkill on Seep Ridge Road 2012 2019



PRIORITY ISSUES

Based on data, discussions, and historical observations; the Book Cliffs Working group identified several topics where it is believed that improvements are possible to help address range and wildlife conditions. It is recognized that no single issue is likely to cause the concerns identified in the Book Cliffs. A multi-pronged approach to address numerous issues is needed to achieve benefits to all interests represented by stakeholders in the working group. Continued partnership and cooperation is needed to implement tasks designed to address the issues identified by the group. A list of issues and strategies are identified in this section, and a prioritized annual task list is included at the end of this document.

Forage Deficiency

Issues and Strategies

1. Stray Horses
 - a. Work with counties, state and federal governments, and private landowners to identify potential mechanisms to gather stray horses in the Book Cliffs.
 - b. Identify any potential owners with claim to stray horses.
 - c. Seek partner funding to conduct stray horse gathers.
 - d. Work with animal control districts, sheriff departments, and brand inspectors to facilitate transfer of ownership of stray horses.
 - e. Develop water traps and other ways to manage stray horses into the future.
 - f. Work cooperatively with the Ute Tribe, when possible to conduct stray horse gathers.
 - g. Encourage the Ute Tribe to continue to remove stray horses from the Hill Creek Area.
 - h. Establish a target goal of zero stray horses outside designated horse areas.

2. BLM Wild Horses
 - a. Encourage BLM to conduct a formal wild horse survey on the Winter Ridge and Hill Creek Horse Areas (HA).
 - b. If funding is a limiting factor for a survey to be completed, identify potential partner funds.
 - c. Encourage BLM to implement NEPA for wild horse gathers on the Winter Ridge and Hill Creek HA's.
 - d. Work with BLM to gather excess wild horses by identifying potential funding sources, if needed.
 - e. Partner with BLM to establish target herd numbers according to allocated forage on the Winter Ridge and Hill Creek HA's.

- f. Support BLM in managing wild horses in accordance with allocated AUMS.
- g. Work with BLM to manage nuisance wild horses on SITLA and private lands.

3. Cattle Distribution and Usage

- a. Begin annual operating meetings with the permittees, land managers, and other parties to discuss issues, strategies, etc.
- b. Land management agencies, in cooperation with grazing subcommittees, will coordinate during annual operating meetings to confirm cattle grazing dates and numbers are consistent with existing allotment plans.
- c. Grazing distribution and usage subcommittees will work together to determine if there are any under-utilized pastures.
- d. Land management agencies, in cooperation with grazing subcommittees, will complete a grazing management plan for each allotment identifying ideal scenarios for grazing. The plan would include desired grazing programs and intermediate steps to reach the desired goal.
- e. Identify challenges preventing full implementation of desired grazing programs. (e.g. fences, water, range improvements, etc.)
- f. Develop actions to address roadblocks preventing optimal grazing systems.
- g. Grazing subcommittee members will begin joint vegetation utilization monitoring efforts on summer range areas.
- h. Identify potential grass banks for restoration and fire rehabilitation needs.

4. Water Availability

- a. Identify and prioritize areas needing additional water to allow for better distributions.
- b. Identify a 5-year plan for water developments.
- c. Propose at least two water development projects annually to the Utah Grazing Improvement Program-Water Development Fund.
- d. During annual operating meetings, identify annual maintenance schedules and responsibilities of water developments.

5. Vegetation Treatments

- a. Identify additional areas to complete vegetation management projects with emphasis on projects with the potential of increasing forage on or near summer range.
- b. Complete a 5-year plan for vegetation improvements.
- c. Propose at least two vegetation improvement projects annually to the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and Grazing Improvement Program.
- d. Identify grass banks and other options to provide grazing rest for vegetation projects.

Deer Herd Health

Issues and Strategies

1. Body condition
 - a. Evaluate mule deer body condition through fall and spring captures, as time and budget allows.
 - b. Compare body conditions between drought and favorable precipitation years.
 - c. When possible, evaluate fawn weights in the fall to monitor body condition.
2. Predation
 - a. Implement the new Utah Predator Management Policy once it is finalized through the RAC and Board process.
 - b. Continue to monitor predation rates on deer and elk, where practical.
3. Species competition
 - a. Evaluate the results of the BYU camera study and determine if further action is needed.
 - b. Continue USU cougar study to determine if bear and cougar competition may be leading to increased predation rates.
4. Roadkill
 - a. Continue to document roadkills on the Seep Ridge Road to document hot spots for collisions.
 - b. Work with local, State, Federal agencies, and NGO's to implement wildlife fencing in hot spot areas.
 - c. Work with project proponents to develop mitigation strategies including fencing and additional crossings for any extensions of the Seep Ridge road.
 - d. Continue research opportunities to evaluate potential road impacts.

Elk Herd Health

Issues and Strategies

1. Pregnancy rates
 - a. Continue to monitor elk pregnancy rates as time and budget allows.
 - b. If needed, work with universities, agencies, or other groups to develop research projects to evaluate causes of low elk pregnancy rates.
 - c. Investigate potential causes of low pregnancy rates, including the evaluation of hunt strategies and their potential impact.
 - d. Explore the possibility of lowering elk age structure through harvest to increase overall herd productivity.

2. Predation
 - a. Implement the new Utah Predator Management Policy once it is finalized through the RAC and Board process.
 - b. Continue to monitor predation rates on deer and elk, where practical.
3. Cow Age Structure
 - a. Evaluate cow elk age structure through elk captures in the spring of 2020.
 - b. Consider using tooth age analysis of hunter harvested cow elk.
 - c. Utilize antlerless elk hunting to decrease the overall age of the elk herd to increase herd productivity.
4. Hunt strategies
 - a. Utilize antlerless elk hunting to lower the average cow elk age and increase herd productivity.
 - b. Utilize antlerless elk hunting to distribute elk on the landscape and reduce pressure on crucial summer ranges.

Bison Herd

Issues and Strategies

1. Distribution
 - a. Continue to use hunting as a tool to distribute bison on the landscape.
 - b. Complete vegetation and water developments to further distribute bison use.
 - c. Continue to monitor bison distribution between tribal and public lands using survey data and GPS telemetry technology.
2. Population management
 - a. Continue to use hunting as a tool to manage bison numbers and distribution.
 - b. Complete annual bison surveys to monitor population numbers, as time and budget allows.
 - c. Coordinate bison flight surveys with the Ute Tribe.

Future Efforts

1. Meet semi-annually as an overall working group to report and evaluate progress towards implementing this action plan and task list.
2. If possible, continue future research to further learning and understanding of Book Cliffs wildlife and habitat.
3. Evaluate and revise the plan as needed at least every 5 years.

Sub-Committee Assignments

Stray Horses

- Committee lead-Slate Stewart
- Involved groups- SITLA, Department of Ag., permittees, Farm Bureau, Ute Tribe, DWR, SFW, RMEF, MDF

Wild Horses

- Committee lead-Deej Brown
- Involved groups- BLM, SITLA, Farm Bureau

Grazing Distribution and Usage; forage and water development-West Side

- Committee lead-Slate Stewart
- Involved groups- SITLA, BLM, DWR, Main Canyon Ranch, GIP

Grazing Distribution and Usage; forage and water development-East Side

- Committee lead- Deej Brown
- Involved groups- BLM, SITLA, DWR, Lazy 3X, GIP

Wildlife Herd Health

- Committee lead- Dax Mangus
- Involved groups- DWR, BYU, USU, MDF, SFW, RMEF

Book Cliffs Forage Balance Estimator (September 2019)

							AUM Requirement on Focus Area		
Species	Herd Objective	Population	AUM/Animal	Annual AUM Requirement	AUM Requirement on Focus Area (Percent of Time)	AUM Requirement on Focus Area (Percent of Population)	Summer Range	Seep Ridge to Tribal (44%)	Seep Ridge to Roadless (24%)
Elk	7,500	6,500	0.7	54,600	70%	40%	15,288	6,727	3,669
Deer	15,000	5,500	0.1	6,600	50%	80%	2,640	1,162	634
Bison	450	430	1.25	6,450	60%	50%	1,935	851	464
Cattle (BLM)			1	2,374	100%	80%	1,899	836	**456
Cattle (SITLA)			1	10,749	100%	100%	10,749	4,730	**2580
Cattle (Private)			1	883	100%	80%	706	311	170
Horses		386	1	5,558	80%	100%	4,447	4,447	4,447
TOTAL	22950	12,816		87,214			37,664	19,062	12,419

Estimated Forage Production

AUMS Available Seep Ridge to Tribal	Potential Forage Production
Unfavorable Year	14,943
Favorable Year	20,776
AUMS Available Seep Ridge to Steer Ridge (Excluding Roadless Area)	
Unfavorable Year	8,838
Favorable Year	12,212

** The BLM and SITLA cattle AUMs are estimated by acreage percentage of the total acres in the summer range polygon.

Priority Projects and Tasks for 2020

Stray Horses

- Complete a helicopter gather of stray horses from the summer range focus area.
 1. \$250,000 needed to complete gather.
- Construct a water trap on Steer Ridge to capture stray horses from the summer range area and to manage strays into the future.
 1. \$10,000 needed to build the trap.

Wild Horses

- Encourage BLM to complete an official wild horse survey on the Winter Ridge and Hill Creek horse areas.
- Discuss the need to gather and manage wild horses on the Winter Ridge and Hill Creek horse areas with state wild horse program leadership.
- Begin planning for a BLM gather of wild horses from SITLA lands in 2021 as per interagency agreement.

Grazing Distribution and Usage

- Partners will attend allotment annual meetings in 2020 and begin developing allotment management plans.
- Develop 2021 projects and tasks and begin NEPA, if needed.
- Complete joint monitoring of forage utilization in 2020.
- Complete maintenance on Flat Rock fence in 2020.

Water Availability

- Seek funding and plan implementation of the Book Cliffs West water development project. (\$128,000 needed). UDWR will submit a proposal to GIP Water Development Fund.
- Seek funding and plan implementation of the Book Cliffs East water development project. (\$112,500 needed). UDWR will submit a proposal to GIP Water Development Fund.
- Additional water development proposal will be submitted by permittees for GIP funding for West Book Cliffs. (\$66,000 needed).
- Additional water development proposal will be submitted by permittees for GIP funding for East Book Cliffs. (\$47,000 needed).
- Plan 2021 project proposals and begin NEPA and archaeological clearance needs.

Vegetation

- UDWR will submit a Spike treatment proposal for Horse Point on the west side. Implementation will occur in fall 2020 if funded. (\$20,500 needed).
- BLM to begin NEPA and archeological clearances for bullhog treatments on Augustus Ridge.

Deer Herd Health

- Continue BYU neonate study in 2020 and evaluate additional deer research needs in the fall of 2020.
- DWR will accelerate predator management beginning in 2020. Bear and cougar quotas to be increased under UDWR predator management policy. Future predator management needs will be evaluated annually under UDWR predator management policy.

Elk Herd Health

- Implement additional cow elk hunting opportunities. Collect tooth data from harvested elk to get a better picture of elk age profiles.
- Evaluate elk research questions in fall of 2020 to determine if an additional year of elk neonate survival, or other research is needed to answer management questions.

Bison Herd

- Continue to use hunting as a strategy to manage bison populations and distribution. Shift hunting pressure to other areas of the unit including the Roadless Area.
- Adjust permit numbers to react to high harvest success in 2019.

Accomplishments and Progress Made 2019-2020

The following accomplishments and planning efforts have been implemented as of June 1, 2020:

- Annual operating meetings with the two major ranches were held. For the first time, these meetings included several partners to better discuss and plan grazing programs and identify project needs.
- Progress is being made on project proposals for 2020-2021 projects. GIP water development funding has been secured and additional funding decisions are anticipated.
- Significant bison harvest (89 individuals) occurred in 2019, demonstrating the ability to manage and control the population and help manage their distribution. New hunt strategies are proposed for the fall of 2020.
- Deer and elk research continue with the second year of neonate capture and monitoring planned to begin in May 2020.
- Completed 500 acres of tebuthiron treatment in Cherry Mesa during fall 2019.
- Augusi Ridge bullhog treatment completed during the fall of 2019 at 692 acres.
- Pine Spring ponderosa pine thinning project, 212 acres, finished fall 2019.
- Joint vegetation monitoring initiated in May 2020.
- Bear harvest quotas on the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek South unit were increased from 56 to 81 tags in 2020.
- Bear harvest quotas on the Book Cliffs Little Creek unit were increased from 18 to 24 tags in 2020.
- Cougar harvest objective increased from 29 to 44 in 2020.
- Cow elk hunt approved (150 tags) to allow for age structure evaluation and in 2020.



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: June 1, 2020

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council members

From: Drew E. Dittmer, Native Species Coordinator/Herpetologist

Subject: Variance Request for Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC to receive confiscated or unwanted reptiles and amphibians that UDWR classifies as prohibited

The Native Species section of the Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) recently developed a contract for assistance with UDWR's Desert Tortoise Adoption Program and assistance with the care, husbandry, and occasional euthanasia of confiscated or surrendered reptiles and amphibians (herpetofauna). This memorandum is specific to the contracted assistance with confiscated or surrendered reptiles and amphibians.

In May 2020 the contract for assistance with tortoise adoptions and herpetofauna confiscations was awarded to Dr. Joseph Mugleston, owner and operator of the Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC in Lindon, Utah. Dr. Mugleston is also a faculty lecturer of biology and herpetology at Utah Valley University. Dr. Mugleston has more than 30 years of experience with the care, husbandry, and humane-euthanasia of reptiles and amphibians. His current business, the Great Basin Serpentarium LLC, operates from a 3000 square foot building that currently houses 100+ species of herpetofauna and is aided by a staff of 6 employees. Additionally in October last year I (D.E. Dittmer) toured Dr. Mugleston's facility with UDWR LE Officers R. Loken and S. Spencer. We all agreed that the Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC was a well-run facility and that Dr. Mugleston was excellently qualified with regard to his facilities, knowledge of herpetology, husbandry of herpetofauna, and ability to receive almost any size and quantity of confiscated herpetofauna.

To date the only remaining requirement for Dr. Mugleston to receive confiscated herpetofauna is for him to be issued a variance from the Wildlife Board to receive confiscated or surrendered reptiles and amphibians that UDWR classifies as prohibited in Administrative Rule R657-53-9. This specifically applies to the following:

- Venomous snakes that are not native to the state of Utah
- Reptiles in the order Crocodylia, e.g., crocodiles, gharials, caimans, and alligators
- Any amphibian or reptile listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered or threatened
- Reptiles or amphibians that were otherwise illegally owned and listed on UDWR's sensitive species list, or listed as prohibited

Issuing Dr. Mugleston and the Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC a variance to possess venomous reptiles will satisfy a presently unfulfilled need for UDWR. First and foremost is that it is common for UDWR Law Enforcement officers to confiscate venomous snakes. Handling, transporting, and housing venomous snakes is risky for individuals lacking experience and species specific knowledge. Additionally the safe and humane handling, transport, and care of venomous snakes requires specialized tools and equipment, e.g., snake tongs, snake hooks, snake bags, locking transportation cages, temperature controlled and locking husbandry cages, etc. Dr. Mugleston has all of these tools and the knowledge to humanely, professionally, and safely assist UDWR with venomous snakes. While it is less common for LE officers to confiscate large numbers of prohibited reptiles, it has happened. Currently UDWR lacks the capacity to receive and maintain large numbers of confiscated reptiles. Dr. Mugleston's facility is large enough to receive at least 100 confiscated reptiles. Additionally, in his application for a UDWR contract he articulated a very detailed, robust, and organized identification procedure used at his facility. This procedure means that the Great Basin Serpentarium can easily keep track of confiscated herpetofauna that may be used as evidence in legal proceedings. Occasionally, humane euthanasia is also needed for confiscated herpetofauna, as the animals can be in very poor health and unable to recover. In this scenario Dr. Mugleston has demonstrated that he is familiar with the standardized and humane approved methods for euthanasia (e.g., asphyxiation, lethal injection of MS-222). Dr. Mugleston is willing to euthanize herpetofauna and, on an as needed basis preserve the specimens for deposition at BYU's Monte L. Bean Natural History Collection.

The reasoning above is ample evidence that Dr. Mugleston via his facility, the Great Basin Serpentarium LLC, is a much needed partnership for aiding UDWR with issues regarding prohibited reptiles. I recommend Dr. Mugleston be issued a variance to receive reptiles and amphibians that UDWR otherwise classifies as prohibited in Administrative Rule R657-53-9. I suggest the terms of the variance allow Dr. Mugleston to engage in the following:

- Receive and care for venomous reptiles that may be used as evidence in legal proceedings
- Transport venomous reptiles or crocodylians via legally owned and licensed vehicle from the possession of UDWR LE Officers to the facility known as the Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC.
- Transport venomous reptiles or crocodylians from the Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC to other facilities that UDWR permits (via previously issued variance) to legally possess venomous reptiles or crocodylians, e.g. Utah's Hogle Zoo.
- Transport venomous reptiles or crocodylians from the Great Basin Serpentarium, LLC to other facilities outside of the State of Utah that are permitted by their state government to possess venomous reptiles or crocodylians.

Sincerely
D.E. Dittmer, PhD
Herpetologist and Native Species Program Coordinator
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