

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

April 29, 2021, Electronic Meeting

The Board Meeting will stream live at https://youtu.be/S7T2dcO_6n4

AGENDA

Thursday, April 29, 2021, 9:00 A.M.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 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
– Rory Reynolds, DWR Interim Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Riley Peck, OIAL Species Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Conservation Permit Rule Amendments
- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 11. Weber Florence Creek CWMU Permit Request
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. AIS Rule Amendments – Dip Tank
- Nate Owens, AIS Coordinator/Boating Access Coordinator | ACTION |
| Items 13-14 – Time Certain 1:00 pm | |
| 13. Clint Heiber Permit Variance Request
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing
Coordinator | ACTION |
| | ACTION |
| 14. Eric Richins Stipulation
- Greg Hansen, Asst. Attorney General | INFORMATIONAL |
| 15. Technologies Survey Result
– Wyatt Bubak, Captain, DWR | CONTINGENT |
| 16. Other Business
– Byron Bateman, Chairman | |

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Fall 2021 – Target Date – Resident Only permits for the Youth Elk hunt

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to review the possibility of youth any weapon elk tags going to residents only and bring back the information next year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Covy Jones/Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented November 2021
Placed on Action Log: December 3, 2020

Action Log Assignment

December 3, 2020

Chad Wilson – DWR and the CWMU Committee to put a presentation together educating the public on the benefits of the CWMU program.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 5, 2021

Electronic Meeting

The Board Meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/5hftBj4VNOo>

AGENDA

Tuesday January 5, 2021, Board Meeting 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
– Byron Bateman, Chairman

2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
– Byron Bateman, Chairman

3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
– Kevin Albrecht, Vice-Chairman

4. DWR Update **INFORMATIONAL**
– Rory Reynolds, DWR Director

5. 2021 Landowner Association Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
– Rory Reynolds, DWR Director
– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

6. R657-33 Black Bear Rule Amendments and Recommendations **ACTION**
– Darren DeBlois, Game Mammals Coordinator

7. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
– Byron Bateman, Chairman

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.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ability of the virus to spread from person to person, the Governor has implemented a number of Executive Orders directed at controlling spread of the virus by minimizing face-to-face interactions. Public gatherings are strongly discouraged by the CDC, State of Utah, and local health departments since they facilitate face-to-face contact and pose an elevated risk for virus transmission. The Division of Wildlife Resources and the chair of this public body have determined that public gathering at Regional Advisory Council and Wildlife Board meetings presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who attend—and will conduct this meeting using a fully electronic format. This meeting format is authorized by recent amendment to the Utah Code¹ and Executive Order by Utah Governor Gary Herbert²—and will be temporarily used in place of the in-person public meetings that usually occur around the state. Anyone wishing to comment on agenda topics in future meetings or to observe this meeting may do so by logging on to the Division’s webpage at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html> where instructions and links are provided.

¹ Utah Code Section 52-4-207(4).

² Executive Order Suspending the Enforcement of Provisions of Utah Code §§ 52-4-202 and 52-4-207, and Related State Agency Orders, Rules, and Regulations, Due to Infectious Disease COVID-19 Novel, March 18, 2020.

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Spring 2021 – Target Date – Updates in Hunting Technology

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look at any new hunting technology since the last update to the Board, and report on it. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kevin Albrecht
Assigned to: Justin Shannon/Covy Jones
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: August 27, 2020

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to review the possibility of youth any weapon elk tags going to residents only, and bring back the information next year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to:
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: December 3, 2020

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 5, 2021, DNR Auditorium
Electronic Meeting
Summary of Motions

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda for the January 5, 2021 Wildlife Board Meeting.

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting.

3) 2021 Landowner Association Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed 5 - 1. Wade Heaton declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from a vote.

MOTION: I move that we approve the actual permit number recommendations as presented by the Division during the board meeting.

4) R657-33 Black Bear Rule Amendments and Recommendations

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

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

5) Other business

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed 5 in favor, with 1 excused. Wade Heaton was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION: I move that we request from the Division a work session meeting in March on a date that the Division identifies.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 5, 2021, DNR Auditorium
Electronic Meeting
Attendance

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman – Chairman	Randy Dearth
Kevin Albrecht – Vice-Chairman	Wade Heaton
Rory Reynolds – Exec Secretary	Karl Hirst
	Donnie Hunter
	Bret Selman

RAC Chairs

Central – Brock McMillan
Southern – Brayden Richmond
Southeastern – Chris Wood
Northeastern – Brett Prevedel
Northern – Justin Oliver

Division Personnel

Ben Nadolski	Lindy Varney	Teresa Griffin
Chad Wilson	Matt Briggs	Torrey Christopherson
Darren DeBloois	Mike Christensen	Wyatt Bubak
Dave Beveridge	Mike Fowlks	
Dax Magnus	Miles Hanberg	
Dennis Shumway	Paige Wiren	
Greg Hansen	Paul Gedge	
James Christensen	Paul Washburn	
Jason Vernon	Rory Reynolds	
Justin Shannon	Rusty Robinson	
Kevin Bunnell	Staci Coons	

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 5, 2021, DNR Auditorium
Electronic Meeting
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5hftBj4VNOo>

- 00:00:01** Chairman Bateman called the meeting to order, read a public health order from the State of Utah regarding COVID-19 and public meetings, and took a roll call.
- 00:03:39** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Kevin Albrecht and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda for the January 5, 2021 meeting.
- 00:04:22** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Kevin Albrecht, seconded by Donnie Hunter and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:05:08** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
There was no old business discussed at this time.
- 00:05:08** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Director Rory Reynolds gave updates on Wildlife, Administration, Habitat and Law Enforcement sections, mentioned the upcoming two vacancies on the Wildlife Board, and noted the dates of the application period.
A photomontage video celebrating recently retired Director Mike Fowlks' career was played, after which board members recognized Mike Fowlks' contributions to wildlife conservation and management.
- 00:21:12** **5) 2021 Landowner Association Permit Recommendations (Action)**
Chairman Bateman asked Wade Heaton to summarize questions and concerns regarding board member Heaton's perceived or potential conflict of interest when voting on Landowner Association action items. Mr. Heaton presented his standing and position as a CWMU operator, and stated that, to err on the side of caution, he would recuse himself from voting on this action item.
- 00:26:00** **Division Comments**
Director Reynolds requested that the Board vote on the Landowner Association permit number recommendations that were generated based on a motion made at the previous Wildlife Board meeting.
Division of Wildlife Resources Private Lands Public Wildlife Coordinator Chad Wilson gave a presentation on Division permit recommendations based on the motion

made at the previous Wildlife Board meeting.

00:27:31 Board/RAC Questions/Comments

The Board asked for clarification on the method used to derive the permit recommendation numbers, and how acreage change affected the recommendations.

The Board recognized that, included in the motion to vote on permit numbers, was the directive for the Division to rewrite the landowner rule.

The Board asked for clarification on the difference between permit recommendation numbers presented at the last board meeting and the recommendations presented at this meeting.

The Northeastern RAC Chair noted that the change in the permit recommendation for the North Slope, Three Corners hunt area was, percentage wise, a significant change.

The Board commented that if the public were receiving fewer permits, then landowners should receive fewer permits as well.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed 5 - 1. Wade Heaton declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from a vote.

MOTION: I move that we approve the actual permit number recommendations as presented by the Division during the board meeting.

6) R657-33 Black Bear Rule Amendments and Recommendations (Action)

Game Mammals Coordinator Darren DeBloois gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

00:35:25 Public Comments

Director Reynolds summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

00:35:45 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

00:36:05 RAC Summaries

Each RAC passed the bear rule amendments and recommendations with varying dissent and stipulations.

00:39:30 Board Questions

The Board asked the Division to explain the role of the legislature in shaping wildlife management decisions.

The Board asked the Division to share recent general bear harvest data as well as female harvest data, and asked for general information on law enforcement response and depredation issues. The Board also asked about bear permit surrenders in lieu of COVID-19 restrictions and how, or if, COVID-19 restrictions affected the surrender process.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

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

00:51:08 7) Other Business (Contingent)

The Board shared that feedback had been received from sportsmen and the public wondering when in-person meetings, rather than electronic meetings, could be resumed. The Board suggested exploring technology tools to facilitate public input during meetings.

The RACs asked the Division for an update on modifying the annual meetings structure.

The Board, RACs and Division discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the electronic meeting format, as well as the value of engaging the public in forming wildlife management plans.

The Board suggested scheduling a work meeting session prior to the scheduled April 2021 meeting.

The Chairman asked if the new technology update action log item could be included in a proposed work meeting.

The following motion was made by Donnie Hunter, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed 5 in favor, with 1 excused. Wade Heaton was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

MOTION: I move that we request from the Division a work session meeting in March on a date that the Division identifies.

01:17:08 Vice Chair Albrecht pointed out that the Division's update on new hunting technology is due spring 2021.

01:19:39 Meeting adjourned.

**April RAC Meetings
Summary of Motions**

1) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021

CR NR

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

PASSES: Unanimous

SR MOTION: To decrease the number of General Season Buck Deer permits on the Manti/LaSal unit by an additional 600 permits.

PASSES: Unanimous

MOTION: I move that the Division provide a summary of all permits issued on each unit, in one place, and that this information be made available to the public, and the RAC and Board Meetings in April of each year.

PASSES: Unanimous

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

PASSES: 10 in favor 1 opposed

SER MOTION: To decrease the number of General Season Buck Deer permits on the Manti/LaSal unit from 8100 to 7500.

PASSES: 8 in favor 1 opposed

MOTION: To leave the general season buck permits static on the San Juan Unit.

PASSES: 8 in favor 1 opposed

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

PASSES: Unanimous

NER MOTION: To decrease the number of General Season Buck Deer permits on the Manti/LaSal unit by an additional 600 permits.

PASSES: Unanimous

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the recommendations (including mule deer antlerless) as presented by the Division.

PASSES: 10 in favor 1 abstained

2) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021

CR NR SR

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

PASSES: Unanimous

SER MOTION: To ask the Wildlife Board to review the elk age objective on the Bitter Creek, Book Cliffs.

PASSES: 8 in favor 1 opposed

MOTION: To ask the Wildlife Board to evaluate the timing of the application period so that people can see permit numbers before they apply for a permit.

PASSES: 8 in favor 1 opposed

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

PASSES: Unanimous

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

PASSES: 8 in favor 2 opposed

3) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021

CR MOTION: To adjust the Division's recommendations of bison archery permits on the Henry Mountains from four permits to six permits.

PASSES: 7 in favor 1 opposed

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

PASSES: Unanimous

NR NER

MOTION: To accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

PASSES: Unanimous

SR MOTION: To increase the Henry Mountain's Archery Only, Hunter's Choice permits from 4 to 6 in 2021.

PASSES: 10 in favor 1 opposed.

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

PASSES: Unanimous

SER MOTION: To increase the Henry Mountain's Archery Only, Hunter's Choice permits from 4 to 6 in 2021.

PASSES: 7 in favor 2 opposed.

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

PASSES: Unanimous

4) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021

CR NR SR SER

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

PASSES: Unanimous

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

PASSES: 8 in favor 2 opposed

MOTION: To accept the Division's buck and doe pronghorn, antlerless moose, and ewe bighorn recommendations as presented.

PASSES: Unanimous

5) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

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

PASSES: 7 in favor 1 opposed

NR SR SER

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

PASSES: Unanimous

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

PASSES: 9 in favor 1 opposed

6) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments

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

PASSES: 6 in favor 1 opposed 1 abstained

NR SER

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

PASSES: Unanimous

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

PASSES: 10 in favor 1 opposed

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

PASSES: 10 in favor 1 abstained

Central Region RAC Meeting

Video Conference

April 6, 2021

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

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 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. Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 6. Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 7. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Riley Peck, OIAL Species Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 8. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 9. 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Conservation Permit Rule Amendments
- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief | 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
April 6, 2021
Springville, Utah
Summary of Motions

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously 7 in favor. Christine Schmitz did not vote due to loss of connection.

MOTION: To approve to approve the agenda as presented.

2) Approval of Minutes

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously 7 in favor. Christine Schmitz did not vote due to loss of connection.

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

3) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously 8 in favor.

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

4) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Christine Schmitz and passed unanimously 8 in favor.

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

5) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021

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

MOTION: To adjust the Division's recommendations of bison archery permits on the Henry Mountains from four permits to six permits.

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously 9 in favor.

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

6) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously 8 in favor.

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

7) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Eric Reid and passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed. Scott Jensen opposed

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

8) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed 6 in favor, 1 opposed and 1 abstention. Josh Lenart opposed, Ben Lowder abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

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

Central Region RAC Meeting
April 6, 2021
Online Attendance

RAC Members

Brock McMillan – RAC Chair

Danny Potts

Eric Reid

Ken Strong

Ben Lowder

Scott Jensen

Michael Christensen

Josh Lenart

Christine Schmitz

Absent

Jake Steele

Luke Decker

AJ Mower

Steve Lund

Excused

Wildlife Board

Donnie Hunter

DWR Personnel

Jason Vernon

Riley Peck

Covy Jones

Chad Wilson

Matt Briggs

Kent Hersey

Scott Root

Michael Christensen

Rusty Robinson

Dale Liechty

Greg Hansen

Jason Robinson

Justin Shannon

Lindy Varney

Wes Alexander

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

Central Region RAC Meeting
 April 6, 2021
 Springville, Utah
<https://youtu.be/szS2clrQga0>

00:00:00	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.
00:06:32	<p>1) Approval of Agenda (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously. 7-0 Christine Schmitz did not vote due to loss of connection.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.</p>
00:06:32	<p>2) Approval of Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously. 7-0 Christine Schmitz did not vote due to loss of connection.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes as transcribed.</p>
00:08:50	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</p> <p>RAC Chair Brock McMillan updated the RAC.</p>
00:11:00	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Jason Vernon updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
00:19:50	<p>5) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 (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>
00:20:05	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation</p>
00:24:20	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked about Kamas unit permit decrease, HAMS permit limits, West Desert deer data collection, Pine Valley unit permit decrease, biology behind the management plans.</p>
00:54:17	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed buck harvest versus herd health and being part of the conversation. More informative presentations.</p>
01:00:43	Buck Deer Permit Recommendations

	<p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously. 8-0</p> <p>MOTION: I move to accept the Division’s recommendation as presented.</p>
01:02:00	<p>6) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 (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>
01:02:14	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
01:03:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC asked about the management history of the Book Cliffs unit, Southwest Desert permit reduction, and antelope on Parker Mountains.</p>
01:18:16	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>RAC members discussed Book Cliffs recommendation and would like to see a presentation on numbers akin to the deer presentation from last week.</p>
01:23:44	<p>Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Christine Schmitz and passed unanimously. 8-0</p> <p>MOTION: I move to accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.</p>
01:24:50	<p>7) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 (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>
01:24:58	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
01:26:21	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC asked about OTC Bison harvest, Henry Mountains archery permit increase, season dates, harvest numbers and success.</p>
01:45:08	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>RAC members discussed Bison Henry Mountains archery permit increase from one to more permits.</p>
01:57:10	<p>Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021</p>

	MOTIONS
	<p>The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Ken Strong and passed 7 to 1. Eric Reid opposed.</p> <p>MOTION: I move to adjust the Division’s recommendations of bison archery permits on the Henry Mountains from four permits to six permits.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously. 8 to 0</p> <p>MOTION: I move to accept the remainder of the recommendations as presented by Division.</p>
02:03:47	<p>8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 (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>
02:03:52	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
02:04:49	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC had no questions</p>
02:05:02	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC had no discussion</p>
02:05:20	<p>Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Scott Jensen, seconded by Ken Strong and passed unanimously. 8 to 0</p> <p>MOTION: I move to accept the Division’s recommendations as presented.</p>
02:08:32	<p>9) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 (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>
02:08:40	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
02:08:15	<p>RAC Questions</p>

	The RAC asked about public decrease opportunity with elk movement between public and private land, tying CWMU recommendation to antlerless recommendations and include in RAC packet, CWMU harvest information.
02:20:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed they would like to make sure the CWMU's are proactively managing to help meet the objectives of the unit. They would also like to have some additional information about past permit recommendations presented in the future (to help provide context).</p>
02:29:36	<p>2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Eric Reid and passed 7 to 1. Scott Jensen opposed.</p> <p>MOTION: I move to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</p>
02:31:45	<p>10) Conservation Permit 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>
02:31:53	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
02:33:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC asked about merging the 3-year and 1-year contracts, breakdown of sold permits.</p>
00:42:52	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC discussed point creep, waiting period clarification.</p>
02:50:11	<p>Conservation Permit Rule Amendments</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed 6 to 1. Josh Lenart opposed, Ben Lowder abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.</p> <p>MOTION: I move to accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</p>
02:55:35	Meeting adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

April 7, 2021

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/F-B-hJMxNsY>

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. Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 **ACTION**
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
6. Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 **ACTION**
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
7. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 **ACTION**
- Riley Peck, OIAL Species Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
8. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 **ACTION**
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
9. 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator
10. Conservation Permit Rule Amendments **ACTION**
- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

CR RAC – April 6th, 6:00 PM
<https://youtu.be/Hrdq1I2Smz0>

SER RAC – April 14th, 6:30 PM
<https://youtu.be/FH6nAFmZMnQ>

NR RAC – April 7th, 6:00 PM
<https://youtu.be/F-B-hJMxNsY>

NER RAC – April 15th, 6:00 PM
<https://youtu.be/9nB58qQjZqY>

SR RAC – April 13th, 6:00 PM
AM<https://youtu.be/kQWAMxEHLEg>

Board Meeting – April 29th, 9:00
https://youtu.be/S7T2dcO_6n4

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.

2) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kevin McLeod, motion failed due to lack of a second.

MOTION: I move that we accept the recommendation by SFW to lower the tag numbers by an additional 600 permits for a total of 7,500 permits on the Manti.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

3) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

4) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Aaron Johnson, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously .

MOTION: I move that we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

5) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Mike Laughter, seconded by Kevin McLeod and passed unanimously .

MOTION: I move that we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

6) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Aaron Johnson, seconded by Mike Laughter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

7) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kevin McLeod, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimously.

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

April 7, 2021

Attendance

RAC Members

Justin Oliver – Chair

Mike Laughter – Vice-Chair

Ben Nadolski – Exec Secretary

Ryan Brown

Paul Chase

Christopher Hoagstrom

Randy Hutchison

Aaron Johnson

Matt Klar

Kevin McLeod

Darren Parry

Board Member

Byron Bateman

Wade Heaton

RAC Excused

David Earl

Junior Goring

Emily Jensco

Kristin Purdy

Casey Snider

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson

Hayley Smith

David Smedley

Dave Rich

Eric Anderson

Jim Christensen

Covy Jones

Riley Peck

Chad Wilson

Justin Shannon

Mike Christensen

David Beveridge

Kyle Maynard

Kent Hersey

Lindy Varney

Scott Walker

Sydney Lamb

Regional Advisory County Meeting

April 7, 2021

Attendance

- 00:02:47** 1) Chairman Justin Oliver called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures.
- 00:08:08** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.
- MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**
- 00:09:56** 3) **Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Ben Nadolski**
- 00:13:58** 4) **Regional Update- Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**
- 00:22:36** **Questions from RAC Members**
- 00:29:03** 5) **Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021(Action)**
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>

00:29:22 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

00:32:28 Questions from RAC Members

00:51:50 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

The following motion was made by Kevin McLeod. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

MOTION: I move we accept the recommendation by SFW to lower the tag numbers by an additional 600 permits for a total of 7,500 permits on the Manti.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

00:57:00 6) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021(Action)

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

00:57:59 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

01:00:06 Questions from RAC Members

01:19:16 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

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

MOTION: I move that we accept Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 and presented.

01:26:04 **7) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)**

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

01:26:50 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor**

01:28:55 **Questions from RAC Members**

01:45:11 **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Aaron Johnson , seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

01:46:38 **8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021(Action)**

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

01:46:59 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor**

01:48:20 **Questions from RAC Members**

01:58:48 **RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions**

The following motion was made by Mike Laughter, seconded by Kevin McLeod and passed Unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021

as presented.

02:00:30 9) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)

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

02:00:53 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

20:02:15 Questions/Comments from RAC Members

02:05:25 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

The following motion was made by Aaron Johnson, seconded by Mike Laughter and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we we accept 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

02:06:29 10) Conservation Permit Rule Amendment Rule (Action)

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

02:07:29 Electronic Public Comment Report by Ben Nadolski, Regional Supervisor

02:08:18 Questions/Comments from RAC Members

02:11:44 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

The following motion was made by Kevin McLeod, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimously .

MOTION: I move that we accept Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented.

02:13:25 **Other Business**

02:23:16 Meeting adjourned. Motion to Adjourned: Made by Randy Hutchison, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimously.

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
April 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Attendance

RAC MEMBERS

Braydon Richmond	Tammy Pearson
Dan Fletcher	Chuck Chamberlain
Gene Boardman	Craig Laub
Austin Atkinson	Verland King
Nick Jorgensen	Riley Roberts
Chad Utley	Bart Battista

Division Personnel

Covy Jones	Michael Christensen
Phil Tuttle	Vance Mumford
Kevin Bunnell	Alyssa Jackson
Denise Gilgen	Teresa Griffin
Kent Hersey	Riley Peck
Jason Nicholes	Paul Washburn
Wade Paskett	Kyle Christensen
Mike Wardle	Justin Shannon
Chad Wilson	Levi Watkins
Lindy Varney	Guy Wallace
Chad Wilson	

Wildlife Board Members

Byron Bateman

00:04:39 1) Welcome

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

00:09:40 2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Chad Utley.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: n/a.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, then on to the first informational item, Agenda item #3. The Wildlife Board meeting update. Oh yeah let's back up. Verland would you mind introducing who you are, what you represent and where you live quickly? We lost you for a second there.

Verland King: Verland King, I represent agriculture. I live in Bicknell, Utah.

Brayden Richmond: So, we've had several meetings since our last meeting, but let me go first to the Wildlife Board meeting. Oh, now Riley is back on. Riley do you want to introduce yourself quickly, who you represent and where you live?

Riley Roberts: Riley Roberts, Tropic, Utah, Sportsmen.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Riley, I think we have 100% attendance. Thanks everybody, I appreciate everyone making the effort to be here.

00:11:42 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair, Brayden Richmond

Brayden Richmond: Let me first go back to the January 5th Board meeting which was mainly dealing with bears, and then also landowner permits. There were only two motions in the meeting. The first motion that we approve the actual permit numbers as presented by the Division during the Board meeting and that passed 5-1 with Wade Heaton declaring a conflict of interest. And that was on the LOA permit recommendations. The second motion was on the black bear rule amendments and recommendations, and the motion was to accept the Divisions recommendations as presented. And that passed unanimously. There was a fair amount of discussion in the Board meeting, but both recommendations passed as presented. Any questions on that one before I move on? I also wanted to bring up, and hopefully you've had a chance to watch it and the public has had a chance to watch it; there was also a working meeting the Division presented to the Wildlife Board at the Wildlife Boards request to discuss this meeting and how they got the numbers. How the Division came up with the recommendations and what was going to be presented in this meeting. For those that did have the chance to watch it, there has been some really good feedback. There was great information and I would strongly recommend that people take the opportunity to watch it, it is a long meeting, but if you even watched the first two segments and then went to your specific region I think it would really help everybody understand how this process is done and it would probably help to answer many of the questions we get day in and day out as we talk to our constituents and try to field concerns. I thought it was very well done. Did anyone have a chance to watch that? Any comments or questions on that?

Craig Laub: Yeah, I watched it and I thought it was really informative too. I really enjoyed it. I wish a lot of other people would understand what we have to deal with, strictly with our drought conditions right now. That's really informative that way.

Chad Utley: I thought the presentations were really well done and helped a lot.

Brayden Richmond: Good, thank you. If you haven't had a chance, we invite anyone. It's really easy to find on YouTube. You just go to the Division's YouTube page and its right there. I guess one other meeting I'd bring up is they also had the meeting.. I forget what it's called.. but its where they allocate all the money for the conservation program. I watched that the other day. I watch that every year. That's another meeting I'd really recommend that people take the time to watch. If you ever wonder where the money goes that's raised by these conservation permits and how Utah is able to accomplish so much, that meeting is just eye opening. Really informative and eye opening to the work that's happening in Utah that we're fortunate to have. The other states don't get that, they don't have the kind of money we have to do that. A couple of good meetings that are posted on YouTube right now, if anyone wants to watch those. The last item I wanted to discuss quickly, all of us I'm sure got plenty of... maybe we got tired of emails and conversations on this one.. HB-295 caused a lot of conversation, both for and against. But that has been signed into law at this point. I just wanted to read some of the general notes on that. That bill

prohibits big game baiting for the purpose of hunting, requires Wildlife Board to pass rules regarding trail cameras, prohibits commercial guiding on waterfowl management areas without a COR, and requires the Wildlife Board to imitate rule making on the commercial guide permitting system on Wildlife Management areas. Then prohibits construction on new permanent blinds on Waterfowl Management areas. Obviously, most of the conversation was on the baiting and the trail cameras. Just a note on that, there has been some confusion on when that baiting will take affect because it wasn't in the rules and regulations book that the Division released the first of the year. But the Governor signed that into law, that's a legal item, not something that the Division carried, and that goes into effect on May 15th. So that is law and goes into effect on May 15. Kevin, is there anything else you'd want to add to that? Any other comments?

Kevin Bunnell: No, I think you did a pretty good job. I'm happy to try to answer any questions, but I think Brayden covered the basic information on those two items.

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions from the RAC on that?

Craig Laub: I was just wondering what the timetable would be on rules on the cameras? That was controversial.

Brayden Richmond: Great questions Craig, and I did get a little bit of clarification on that. Some of you may have seen it or heard anyway. The Division sent out a survey regarding technology and trying to gather some information. The Division is planning on presenting that information during the next round of RACs and then at some point trail cameras and rules will come through the RAC process to the Wildlife Board to make a decision on how we're going to handle trail cameras in Utah.

Craig Laub: Thank you.

Kevin Bunnell: Craig to add a little bit more to that, at the Board work session the Board couldn't make any motions because it wasn't a regular public meeting, but they made a request that the Division send out a survey that was specific to trail cameras to collect additional information, so that will be coming in the next few months. Then there will be a rule proposed on that topic, I would guess some time this summer.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Kevin. Any other questions or comments there? Alright, let's move into item #4, Regional Update. I'll turn it over to Kevin.

00:18:22 4) Regional Update (Informational)
Kevin Bunnell, SRO Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks Brayden. I'll be brief because we've got probably a long meeting ahead of us. Our wildlife section is right in the middle of doing Sage Grouse lek counts right now. If you've never had the opportunity to do that, I suggest that you contact one of our biologist or even me; I have a couple of leks that I count and I'd be

happy to take you out. One of my favorite wildlife experiences is going out in the spring and watching the Sage Grouse out on the lek. And its important data that we collect. Part of what kept Sage Grouse from being listed several years ago was because of the long-term decades of data set that we have on Sage Grouse.

Biologist are also starting spring range assessments. They are picking up collars as some deer are dying during migration or for whatever reason their collars go inactive. On a non-game side, we'll be beginning our prairie dog counts around Cedar City and Panguitch and over in Wayne county to make sure we're collecting the data there. We are in the process of creating a conservation strategy for prairie dogs, which I'm really hopeful will lead to a new listing of that species in the coming years. It's a long process, but we have a very strong case to make that prairie dogs don't meet the definition of threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. So, we'll be doing that. Like I said it will be a couple of years for that process to work itself through.

Our upland game and waterfowl biologist are busy improving habitat. This is the time of year where they can get a lot done.

From our aquatics section, Richards suggestion is that you go fishing now. Ice is coming off most of the lakes and conditions are good but given the level of the reservoirs and the lack of snowpack conditions are likely to deteriorate. So now is going to be the best fishing of the year and he's really encouraging everyone to get out and take advantage of that.

Speaking of drought or habitat, biologists are monitoring those conditions and working closely with the federal biologists to do so, a lot of communication going back and forth there. Our seasonal closures will end April 30 on our WMAs. We're approaching the end of a long restoration season and starting to the next restoration season. In the Southern Region alone for the fiscal year of 2022, which will begin in July of this year, we have proposed 77 projects which total 110,000 upland acres, 2,500 riparian acres, 129 miles of stream restoration, and six water developments. Now not all that will be funded, but that just gives you an idea of the scope of the amount of work that is out there and needs to be done and funding becomes available.

Our outreach section wants everyone to know that they're getting ready to offer in person hunter safety classes and please monitor our website for more information on that. They're also right now scheduling deer specific dedicated hunter projects. Again, check the website there. As always, we encourage the dedicated hunters to get your hours in early. There is always a rush just before the archery season starts, and some people get frustrated. It's hard to have much sympathy for them at that point when they've had months of opportunity before that point to get their hours in.

From our admin section and the ladies up front. For the landowners, and Tammy, and Verland, and Craig and you guys, if you would help us get the word out, last year we ran out of our landowner deer permits early, and that will probably happen again this year. So the earlier people can get their applications in this year, the more likely they are to be able to obtain their permits. We went for years where we always had enough permits. That has changed and we have had a lot of frustrated landowners come in just before the rifle hunt started last year and they were unable to get their permits. Which it's easy to understand their frustration because it's always worked in the past. Things have changed, in terms of the number of permits that are out there, which means that there are more landowners trying to get those permits and we're run out of them the last couple of years and that will happen again this year. If you'll help us get the word out. We're sending

post cards and emails and everything to get the word out ourselves, but any help would be appreciated.

That's all I have unless anyone has any questions?

Tammy Pearson: Hey Kevin, how soon do you start your landowner? That usually doesn't start until the first of July, does it?

Kevin Bunnell: Well, we will begin accepting applications on May 1st. So the earlier people can get their applications in, the better. And an application is not completed until we have actually sold the permit. So we need to go through the whole process. Get your application in, get your hunters identified, have them come in and purchase their permit and get all the way through that process is what we encourage people to do.

Tammy Pearson: Perfect, thank you.

Craig Laub: That's good to know.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, let's move on with the agenda item number 5. That's the buck deer permit recommendations for 2021. And I'll turn it back over to Kevin again to give us a summary of the comments.

**00:24:37 Electronic Public Comment Report (Informational)
Kevin Bunnell, SRO Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Public comment now? Okay, so I'm going to do it a little bit different this time, I'll add a little more detail to the public comments than we have in the past, just to give you a better sense of the comments that came in other than just who agrees and who didn't. Let me go through those comments first, we had 32 comments that came in specific to this agenda item. Of those 53% strongly agreed with the presentation, and just over 9% somewhat agreed, so we had over 60% of people agree. Then 15% neither agreed or disagreed, 6% somewhat disagreed, and 15% strongly disagreed. Now the comments, as I went through the comments, I tried to identify themes that were present in the comments. I certainly didn't capture everything, but the things that kept coming up repeatedly in people's comments. The thing that was mentioned most was a recommendation for shorter seasons, and some of those were specific to the archery season. Some people, although they supported the reduction in permits that are being proposed they would like to see more. We have a few people bring up antler restrictions, which is a theme I don't think will ever die. It comes up over and over again. We did have some people that want to opt for no antlerless permits, and I know that one kind of goes back and forth between this agenda item and one that comes up later. And a few one off comments, we had one person recommend that dedicated hunters program be reduced to one buck every 3 years instead of two; I thought that was an interesting comment. We had one brave soul recommend that we do away with lifetime licenses, which I think would cause a rebellion among some of our hunters that are lucky enough to have those. Anyway, lots of different comments, but I hope that's helpful to know the main themes that were in the comments that people sent in.

Brayden Richmond: You know, if I can make one comment there, a lot of the public comments do really deal with rules and regulations, which is the November RAC. This one we're dealing with permit numbers. So just a reminder there to stay on task. And we will deal with rules and regulations in November. Also, a lot of those adjustments should really be done during the management plans. Those are on the cycle and rotation and we can ask and get some more information on that if needed. But maybe just a reminder that this RAC we're dealing with permit numbers and that's the primary discussion. With that, again.. Yeah go ahead Kevin.

Kevin Bunnell: You know, just one other thing, the comment that was repeated most often was appreciation for the recommendations. I didn't tally those, but that was the most repeated thing. And appreciation for our biologist which I was really grateful to hear. Those guys take a beating and to hear acknowledgement and an thank you was good to hear.

Brayden Richmond: You know, and I think having these presentations available to the public, and also it feels like in these presentations we're providing better data, I saw that also. It seemed like we had an above average response that agreed with the presentation and supported it, and I believe that has a lot to do with just providing better and more timely information. It was interesting though how many agreed with the recommendations. Again, on agenda 5 it's the buck deer permit recommendations. Agenda 6 is elk and pronghorn and then we'll move to once in a lifetime (OIAL). So agenda 5 is just the buck deer recommendations. Just a quick comment before we go into this, the proposal is to decrease about 4,900 permits statewide, the majority of those are coming out of the southern units.

00:29:03 5) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)
Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Brayden Richmond: With that said, we'll open it up to questions from the RAC.

Austin Atkinson: Chair, this is Austin, I do have a question if I may. I watched the Wildlife Board work session, as far as all the presentations, and I have a question for Covy of the biologist. I appreciate all the work that has gone into figuring out why deer herds are where they are at, and obviously it was predators and now its drought. I think all of those are valid factors, but if we grew deer in 2010-2016 like Covy stated, we shot a bunch of does, especially in southern Utah, and now we have no deer. My question is, are we too late on these severe cuts, mainly the Beaver, the Panguitch, Mount Dutton? Or would you say those cuts are timely and we're reacting how we should have on those cuts?

Covy Jones: Austin, I can take some of that and try to explain it. I think we just have to make sure that we separate the two issues between the number of deer on the landscape definitely affects the number of bucks on the landscape for buck harvest. When we made these cuts to buck permits specifically, these cuts are made to manage for buck to doe ratio post season. So, when we made these cuts, I think it's important to acknowledge is this won't booster populations. What will booster populations is the habitat work, the increased reduction in predators, where predator loads are high. And hopefully some adequately timed moisture. So, these cuts, they follow the data. Basically, when we run calculations on buck/doe ratios, survival, fawn survival and everything else, we just run the numbers of bucks on the landscape, average success and what harvest looks like and what we can pull out next year and still meet our buck/doe ratios in the plan, if that makes sense? So, there timely is the answer, they're timely in the fact that they will help us manage to the plan annually. And to address the populations that have fallen off, we've cut back on doe harvest, we've increased predator harvest, and we've continued habitat work, and those are the things we continue to work towards to bring deer back. Does that answer the question, Austin? Or did I miss some of it?

Austin Atkinson: Thanks, Covy. I think that answers my question. I think the public sentiment I get is, thank you for cutting these tags, but we've been asking for this for a while seeing that as, did you miss something? Did the biologist recommend it and it get shut down? Or is this just how we react? Buck deer recommendation on permits is simply a reaction to the state of the union, if you will.

Covy Jones: Yeah, I think that's it. Buck Deer permits take into account all the data that there is or that there are, and we just adjust annually. We say this is where we are, what is the surplus look like, what can we harvest? More surplus, more harvest. Less surplus, less harvest. I don't want to convey the message that we did this to bring populations back. We are doing other things to bring populations back, and I do want to convey that message. We're not throwing in the towel, we're working hard on deer and I think if thing line up, we'll grow some deer again. And we'll keep working.

Gene Boardman: I have a question. Last year we had a big cut and it all fell on the general public. And this year you've known that that cut wouldn't be restored and there would be more cut. What has been done to spread the misery, besides just shutting off the general public?

Covy Jones: Gene, so when we did that we reevaluated. So, conservation permits are on a three year cycle, they were reevaluated and will be readjusted this year; those will be reduced. We made recommendations on landowner permits, in accordance with the number of permits recommended through this cycle. So we've taken into account all of that, and when wildlife is down, everybody pays just a little. Even if it goes back up over the next three years, the conservation permits and other things that are for sale to the highest bidder are based off of this year for the next three years. So we may have an increase, and they may not have an increase. It cuts both ways I guess is my point, and we do adjust those based on public permits.

Gene Boardman: I have more on conservation permits when we get to the last item. These permits are general area deer permits is what I'm talking about. I guess the

question is, are we really helping out the public and is the public on your mind when you make these recommendations?

Covy Jones: Uh, Gene that is a really good question. I would say definitely. When we go through and make recommendations we think of the animal and the species first and the public second. I read a lot of the comments, I read a lot of the forums. I probably shouldn't, but I do. The two things on every biologist mind is, what's this going to the species and the management plan, and how does this affect the public? It's hard to see us decrease permits like this and know what that means. It means less hunting. It also means we're going to manage to what we agreed to manage to. But thanks for asking that.

Gene Boardman: Okay, one more question along this same line. Is the ability of people to buy privilege in order to obtain these tags, what about that ability to buy privilege?

Covy Jones: Kevin, do you understand that? Maybe I'm missing that one.

Kevin Bunnell: So Gene, if that question is also specific to the general season, there isn't an ability to buy privilege. There are some permits that are given to landowners, but they're just permits, they're not vouchers. They can't be sold. The conservation permit, like we mentioned, is a different deal. So again, if we're talking about general season deer permits, I'm not sure what the question is there.

Gene Boardman: Okay, the question goes to, and I'll get to it in the comments, but the question goes to buying hours in the dedicated hunter program.

Covy Jones: Okay.

Kevin Bunnell: That's a program where you give a little to get a little to get a little and I guess it's open to anybody. It does cost a little bit more, and you have to give service hours. So, it's not a free option I guess. I don't know Gene, it's true what you're saying, if somebody wants to be in the dedicated hunter program it does increase their odds, and as a state we decided it works well for us, and the public process has supported. Not 100%, but overall it's a strongly supported program through the public process. So that's probably the best I can do to answer that.

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, I'd like to ask one more question.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead.

Austin Atkinson: About splitting units, more so as it appeals to general season deer. It seems like in other species we focus harvest or pressure on certain areas, and we've created subunits if you will. But on general season deer there are sentiments that some of these units are too large. I'm curious if there's a reason why we can't split them? An example being the Oquirrh/Stansbury is one that keeps coming up. Beaver East vs Beaver West. Can you give me some insight as to why we don't do that more? Or is there a reason?

Covy Jones: No, Austin, so sometimes it comes down to management scale and data collection and some of the smaller units may not provide enough data to be managed alone. However, you probably just mentioned some of the better examples that we can maybe take a harder look at. I think Oquirrh/Stansbury we have good collar data there, those deer don't exchange much. And the dynamic is very different now, it used to have more public access on the Oquirrh side, and now that that's changed and there is minimal public access on the Oquirrh side and the majority of public access on the Stansbury side. There is a couple of those that we probably need to start looking and seeing, ok does it make sense to split these out and manage them a little differently? And I think we'll be looking at that over the next couple of years.

Austin Atkinson: When would be the appropriate time for to come up on our yearly schedule, and should that come from the RACs to be recommended? Or should we wait for the Division on those?

Covy Jones: It could come either way. So the appropriate time would be November when we're setting unit boundaries. But that could come either from the RACs.. Or I would suggest work with a local biologist, discuss this and see how they feel about it and what the pros and cons would be of splitting some of those units. And after some invested sportsmen that want to work with the local biologist and come back and work through the Divisions process and see where that lands. I don't think we have a hard opposition to splitting a unit where it makes sense. And some make sense. Some don't. Also, there is some public sentiment as well, there is a social aspect to it too, where some folks that hunt the Beaver will spend the majority of their time hunting the Beaver East, but they may spend a couple of days out on Beaver West. Where there is no negative biological impact to having a blunt, the social aspect is on both sides. Some will say, hey I don't want you to pigeonhole me into a small area. We went from statewide, to region wide, to unit wide, and now you're going to tell me you're going to cut down the size of my unit and I'm really frustrated. There are multiple sides to this argument, and we could direct pressure a little better, and there may be some upside.

Justin Shannon: Covy, can I interject real quick? I was going to say another good time to have those discussions is when the unit management plan is up for review. At that point they're looking at not only the boundaries of the unit, but they're looking at everything, the management of the unit as a whole, and those go on rotation every five years. That's not to say that we can't do it in November, but if we make changes mid-stream then suddenly we have changes in how we hunt and manage and it doesn't always align with that plan. I would say when the unit management plan is up, that's probably the most ideal time. But that doesn't mean the RAC and Board can't look at things each November.

Covy Jones: Justin, thanks for interjecting that.

Brayden Richmond: Covy or Justin, just a question on that. Is there a place where the public can go look and see when those management plans are coming up for review? That's on the Divisions site, I'm assuming? Can you just verify that the public can go there and see when those plans are up for review?

Justin Shannon: Do you want me to take Covy?

Covy Jones: Go ahead, Justin.

Justin Shannon: So, all of our unit plans are on our Divisions website, and it will have a date that it was approved by the Wildlife Board. We rotate around the state, essentially we'll do the southern region and update all those plans, then we'll go to the southeast region, northeast, then the only time that it gets really complicated is when we do things like the Manti which is managed halfway with the central and southeast, so I think we could be a little bit more clear on when that's due, but every unit management plan is available so you can see when that five year management plan is coming up.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, I appreciate that. I've had a few questions lately. A lot of confusion out there, people think there is a statewide management plan and not a unit specific. So I think that's good to have the clarity. I have one additional question, and this kind of goes back to Genes question if that's ok. Wondering, and I think Lindy may have this information I kind of warned Kevin that I was going to ask this, but Gene he expressed some concern about the public input of these tag cuts. I appreciated your answer, Covy that first we look biologically and then a social issue. But we're cutting 4,900 tags this year, which are mostly I the southern unit. Last year we had a pretty substantial cut as well. And what we're seeing is increases every year in applications. Particularly in the southern unit it's taking more and more points to draw, and as we continue to cut tags it's going to get increasingly challenging. So I was hoping we could see what it has looked like over the past five years to draw these units and with the tag cuts and predicting the upcoming years of applications, what it's going to look like? And that's not to say that these tag cuts are inappropriate, I agree with them but I do think that it's good for people to realize what this means for their drawing odds.

Lindy Varney: Thanks Brayden, or Mr. Chairman for bringing that up. I did pull that data for you guys; I went back to 2016. If you have a question about any unit in the southern region, I can tell you. But overall, between all units in the southern region it takes about 2.4 years to draw out. That was in 2016. By going off this year and the applications and the cuts, you're almost up to five years in drawing out. Now I don't know points, how many points it will take because I don't have how many people have what point. I didn't look into that, because I can't look into that this early in the game because it's not privileged to me, nor do I want that privilege to look at peoples points when they apply. Based on apps and permits it can take up to five years to draw a southern region permit. Granted that's an overall, some units are going to be higher and some units will be lower. And depending on weapon type this is just a combined archery, any legal weapon, and muzzleloader. Some units, say Fish Lake, you're looking at maybe seven years to draw a tag in Fish Lake with applications and permit numbers. Like I said this is all an estimate, I'm just looking at pure numbers, so things can change in the draw, this is just an estimate.

Brayden Richmond: So, Lindy based on trends do we have any sort of predications we can make just based on trends. So we've gone from 2 ½ to 5 on average.

What would we likely be looking at five years from now if applications continue to increase at the rate they're currently increasing?

Lindy Varney: You are looking at 8 or 9 years to draw a Southern Region tag if the trend keeps going up. Because your applications are increasing from anywhere from five to eight percent for your region. And that's every region because our general season applications are increasing every year. With that trend your applications are increasing, but your permits are decreasing by the same amount. I would say eight or nine years, but ALW may be harder. That's just a combination of all weapon types.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Lindy. I remember when that used to look really bad on the limited entry, and now we're taking about that for general units.

Lindy Varney: Exactly. Yeah, some limited entry units you can draw out with ten points, ten years of applying. And you're looking at that on some of these units. Dutton you're looking at about eight years to draw a Dutton tag this year.

Tammy Pearson: Sorry, I don't mean to interrupt you. What affect does this have on out of state applicants. Do they get the same percentage of cut across the board, or how does that work?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, Tammy I think you asked that to me. Yes they do, 10% of the tags go to non-residents. So that adjusts with the tags. Right now 10% is less than what 10% was a few years ago as permits have gone down.

Tammy Pearson: I've had several people ask me, not only that, but why is it that out of state residents can apply for everything, they're not limited to one species like residents are? I'm not sure if that's the case or not but that's some of the questions that I've been asked.

Kevin Bunnell: I'll let that go to you Lindy, you're probably better equipped to answer that question.

Lindy Varney: I'll let Covy take that one.

Tammy Pearson: Sounds like a hot potato.

Lindy Varney: No, it's a hot question. I get asked that question all the time. Years ago when the Board passes that recommendation to allow non-residents to apply, it's to help them get through the draw to draw something out in Utah because we only offered one or two permits for that species more or less for the OIAL species. So when you offer only 10% it's one desert bighorn sheep tag. So, they wanted to allow the non-residents to apply for everything, because then maybe they'd have a chance at drawing something in Utah just because they're so low in numbers. But it's actually done the opposite affect because now everyone is applying, and their odds are getting worse, because everyone is equal. You can apply for everything, you'll never get ahead, you'll never get that max point round, and it's actually dropped non-residents odds dramatically.

Covy Jones: Long story short Tammy, it would cost our residents more money, and it would hurt their draw odds.

Lindy Varney: Oh, Yeah

Covy Jones: And so when you look at that, I understand looking from the outside it would look like a good idea, but it would mean that you would hunt less. So, we're trying to do what's best for the residents and provide more hunting opportunity in OIAL.

Tammy Pearson: I didn't even know the answer so.

Kevin Bunnell: Is it still true Covy... Last I heard Utah is the most restrictive on the non-residents in the western states in terms of only offering 10%. Some states are higher than that. It looks like Austin is shaking his head...

Covy Jones: Yeah. I don't know that we're the most restrictive, but we're definitely not the most liberal either. We're in a good spot. I'll tell you that when we do go out of state, there are commissioners from other states that hate on Utah pretty hard for our restrictive tendencies. And you've seen the attitudes toward non-residents in Idaho, and Wyoming, and some of these places change a little bit. And the truth is, if any of us hunt out of state we're the non-resident. We have a pretty fair system in Utah, I'd hate to see us get more liberal, I'd also hate to see us get more restrictive. It feels like we're in that sweet spot.

Gene Boardman: Just a comment, a lot of those non-residents are our kids or grandkids.

Covy Jones: Yeah, that's a really good point Gene. There are a lot of non-residents that lived here once, and we all live here in the United States, so we should be kind to one another, even if somebody is from Idaho.

Tammy Pearson: I know if I hunt out of state, I'm renting a rental car from that state.

Covy Jones: Brayden, you're muted.

Brayden Richmond: My space bar quit working. Hopefully you can hear me now. Any more questions on the buck permits? We've had good questions, but I also want to keep it moving along. We can go to the comment period if we're ready.

Gene Boardman: I'd like to ask one thing. If we could just briefly get a summary of what happened to the Dutton, the Panguitch Lake, and the Beaver to be hurt so bad?

Covy Jones: I think those are great questions to the biologists that are on right here. So Dutton, Panguitch Lake, and Beaver. You guys can handle that in whatever order.

Kevin Bunnell: Lets have Kyle take the Dutton and Panguitch Lake, since those are both his, and then we can have Mike take the Beaver.

Kyle Christensen: So on, the Dutton, we're just seeing drought conditions. Mainly I think just poor fawn recruitment. With drought conditions and the hunting conditions are just tough as well. Panguitch Lake we burned in 2017 right when fawns were dropping. We lost a lot of fawns in 2017. Our fawn recruitment has been low since then, we're just not replacing a lot of younger bucks into the population. Our survival has been good the last few years on the Panguitch, it's just been our fawn survival that's struggling there.

Mike Wardle: Gene, this is Mike. I can speak on the Beaver. So when we look at our population estimate for the Beaver we hit a high in 2015 of 14,700, and we're now down to 10,000 deer is what we're estimating. A lot of that is due to what Kyle was saying, due to poor fawn recruitment. We go out every November and do deer classification and we get fawn/doe ratios due to that classification. And we've seen fairly decent fawn/doe ratios on the Beaver. Like in 2015 when that population was higher, we were seeing like 65 fawns per 100 does. This last year we were all the way down to 37 fawns per 100 does. At that point we're not replacing enough fawns into the population to make up for what we're losing from natural mortality. So the population has been driven pretty low, buck/doe ratio is going down with that, which is the cause for the decrease in permits. We were at 13 bucks per 100 does this year and the objective is 18-20. We're significantly below and the dramatic cut is an attempt to try to bring that objective up because that's what we've agreed to do in our unit management plans.

Gene Boardman: Okay, thank you.

Tammy Pearson: With those answers to that Mike, I'd maybe like to make a comment, so I don't get lost in the shuffle. This Beaver unit especially, that's our home base here. There is a lot of public sentiment and everyone has said it for years and years and years and now the data is proving it. So with that being said I've had several phone calls and I'm sure some of you did as well on the Manti/La Sal unit that they want a bigger cut over there, that they're seeing the same thing and some of the data on the fawn recruitment is lower than what the estimate was. I saw a late email just before the meeting started from SFW asking that we increase that... or decrease the tags over there.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Tammy. Tammy led us into the comment section, so if there are more questions, feel free to ask. But we will open it up for comments. Let's try doing it in an open comment. Let's see how that goes. Go ahead Austin, I see your hand raised.

00:58:56 Comments from RAC Members

Austin Atkinson: Yeah, I have a comment as it relates to General Season Deer. I realized that I may be a little biased on this, as I am younger, and I was not apart of the lifetime license program. I'm going to bring this up. Lifetime license holders account for about 5% of our general season deer permit holders, so a small percentage, and I'm

grateful for those that invested in the lifetime license program back in the late '80's to early 90's. However, I feel like with point creep and other things we're trying to address. Mainly point creep and Covy's presentation on where general season draw odds are headed, what we just talked about and Lindy shared some data on that. What it's doing is we are giving these 3,500 lifetime license hunters their general season deer tag before they go to the draw and that happens every single year, as long as their active and alive. So, as we see units like the Pine Valley for example, we have almost 500 of those lifetime license hunters jumping on Pine Valley tags, taking those away from the public draw, before they are allocated in the public draw. So, I've reviewed R-657 on the lifetime license where it says, lifetime license holder may receive without charge a general season deer tag every year. And this came up when we went to multi-units where they could select their unit. But I would like to bring up the comment, put it out there so we can discuss it, that I would like to see lifetime hunters participate in the general season draw and use preference points in the draw, but still waive the charge, thus completing the requirement that they will not pay for their deer tag, but they must sit out. When we get to that point where general season units are taking eight to nine preference points to draw, and you realize a lifetime holder, or 500 of them, could have eight or nine tags in that same amount of time, I think that is skewed wrong and does not help with point creep on general season. Sorry that took so long, but there you go.

Braydon Richmond: Thanks Austin. Other comments? Maybe I can jump in real quick, I was also contacted by Eric Luke, I think that's who contacted you Tammy. He expressed some concerns on the Manti. Eric is very involved on that unit, he also asked some great questions to the biologist on there and I think that's valid to look at that and I'd like to encourage this RAC to take a look at that when we get to it. It's not a significant cut for that unit and the trends they're seeing there are similar to some of the trends we've seen on our units that are pretty scary now.

Covy Jones: Brayden are you okay if I speak at that Mr. Chair?

Braydon Richmond: Please do, as long as you agree with me. If you disagree with me, no.

Covy Jones: I will never agree with you but I'll speak to it. No, just kidding! So, when we looked though the data on that, I think the one thing I can say is we maybe over predicted fawn survival a touch. I've looked through both recommendations, I think the Divisions recommendation is a good recommendation. I also think the recommendation that came through the local channels, the SFW or the local sportsmen there, it's not a bad recommendation either. It's a little more conservative of a recommendation and either recommendation would probably get us in the range. One is just a little more conservative and one is a little more generous. It's not a bad suggestion, if anything we may have over predicted fawn survival a touch.

Braydon Richmond: Thank you. I appreciate that comment. Other comments from the RAC?

Chuck Chamberlain: Sorry Gene, go ahead.

Gene Boardman: This is Gene. Going after Austin, we've got the same problem with the dedicated hunter program, as far as the opportunity. I would rip into the dedicated hunter program a whole lot more if I hadn't talked to Blaine Cox and Brian Christensen this week and they straightened me out on a bunch of things and I really appreciate their efforts and what I learned from them. But the questions I had for them didn't get completely answered, like what percent of the dedicated hunter hours goes to mule deer, and how many bought and paid for hours are in the program, and how many people buy all of their hours? Which is, what I brought up in the questions, buying privilege; and buying a lot of privilege to hunt. Now if this goes to one in five years like Lindy said, that give the public hunter nine days in five years. If the dedicated hunter program continues on like it is, it gives them about 140 days or more in five years to hunt. Now where in the hell is that fair? And when I talked about the hours that are bought and paid for, I realized I asked them about the last year, and I realized last year was the pandemic which caused a whole different dynamic there. But I was told that some people do. At the beginning of their dedicated hunter year write the check, and they've bought the privilege. And others get in a bind and have to buy some or all of their privilege because they couldn't get into a project. I asked, where does this money go? Does it go to mule deer? It goes into a restrictive fund that can go into any kind of conservation program that the Division has. So I really want the Board and the Division to look at this dedicated hunter program. I don't want to see it go away right now; I think they do a lot of good. There is a lot of people there that go above and beyond in donating hours. But the selling of privilege and the extended opportunity that they get over the public has got to be looked at. And that's my comment for right now.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Gene. Chuck?

Chuck Chamberlain: Had I guess a comment and a question. The Forest Service is very supportive of the DWR and their efforts to improve deer numbers, especially where those herds are suffering. We had a question about one unit, the Pine Valley unit, where our three year objective for buck/doe is above objective, and our population objective is right at objective. So I'm wondering what the rationale for cutting those tags when we're at or above objective when we're missing so many tags and looking for opportunities for hunters? So kind of a comment and a question.

Covy Jones: Jason's on, right? Does Jason want to take that?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, Jason do you want to address that please?

Jason Nicholes: Sure, with our deer projections sheets, our average survival over the last five years has been 60% for fawns and 84% for adults. Using that in predicting where we'll be next year after the harvest, and average success on our buck hunts last year, we will be at 19 bucks per 100 does. And that's with the 400 permit decrease. If we didn't do that, we would probably be down around 14-15 bucks per 100 does.

Chuck Chamberlain: Thanks.

Braydon Richmond: Any more comments from the RAC?

Chad Utley: This is Chad. I guess I just have one comment. It's to follow up what Gene said. I really don't see a difference between service hours and paying for those service hours. Either way both go to the Division and they can use it how they want. My experience, at least in the service hours, and I don't hunt. But I've seen dedicated hunter service hours for all sorts of things that are not mule deer related. If they benefit the Division they put in those service hours. I don't see the difference; you're buying it either way.

Brayden Richmond: If there are any more comments, please jump on.

Austin Atkinson: This is Austin, Mr. Chair. One more quick comment. I would like to see, now that we've started the spot and stalk cougar tags for \$30 to be offered. I don't feel like that was pushed very well or offered to those that had deer tags last year. Most of the deer hunters I interacted with didn't know that was an option. So as it relates to these buck deer permit recommendations it would be nice to see a flyer, and insert, perhaps coming from System Consultants when they send them their tag. Say, by the way you can buy this \$30 spot and stalk tag and use it this fall. I think the Division could do much more to get those out in the field and generate some more revenue, potentially harvest some more cougars. Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: We can continue to take comments. Let me also propose how I would like to look at recommendations or motions on this. If you're ready to make motions on single issues and not accept the rest as proposed. Austin you brought up a couple of items, Gene you brought up an item. If we want to do motions on different items we can proceed with that as long as we didn't do to accept the remainder as presented. That would allow us to have some more discussion and make sure we capture the intent of the RAC. If anyone wants to present a motion outside of accepting the remainder?

01:11:28 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

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

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: I propose a decrease of general season tags on the Manti by an additional 600 permits. Verland seconds.

Brayden Richmond: Any additional discussion? Alright let's go ahead and vote on that one.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Brayden Richmond: Motion passes unanimously, thank you.

Tammy Pearson: Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Would anyone like to make any other motions?

Gene Boardman: I'd like to make another comment. In one of the other RACs, Justin Shannon was talking about the different permits and what he said was there are all sorts of permits, and that's what I find. We can't keep track of all the permits that are leaked out, and it wouldn't be a hard thing for all these permits to be shown publicly. They've put out a sheet about how many permits go to the public draw, and how many go to the LOA. But there are about 3-4 tiers of landowners that get different permits, and there are the pay to play permits and so forth. And each unit we've got to have all on one dog gone online, every permit that goes out and who it goes out to. It would be really easy, and it would be transparent as to what's going on with these things. I sure would like to see that done. I've brought it up 2-3 times, but it goes nowhere. We need accountability on that.

Braydon Richmond: Gene, I've heard you bring that up multiple times, and I agree with you. It would be nice to see all of the permits going out in these units. We would entertain a motion.

Nick Jorgensen: I'd like to see a motion to get Gene to lower his camera a little bit so we can see more than his hat.

Brayden Richmond: We, only half of us are fans of the Y Gene. The other half likes that other school. But you seem to be promotion the Y really good tonight.

Gene Boardman: I forgot to put on my NRA hat before the meeting.

Tammy Pearson: Are you going to make a motion Gene?

Justin Shannon: Brayden may I speak to the transparency of the permits please, is that okay?

Brayden Richmond: Yes, please do.

Justin Shannon: So, every permit that we issue goes through the public process. Whether they're conservation permits, we bring those to the RACs and the Board. We bring the conservation permits every three years and the Wildlife Board gets the chance to vote on those. Then the other thing is, with our public draw permits, Covy gets to bring those through on an annual basis. Expo permits are taken through every year on an annual basis. Landowner Association permits are also brought through to the RACs and the Board. Then in addition to the general season landowner buck permits the RACs and the Board in the past have approved rules so we can compensate landowners and build some tolerance through those programs, whether it's the general season buck deer permit for the 640 acres or 100 acres of agricultural crop. And so throughout the year, whether it's in the spring, fall, or summer with the conservation expo permits we do bring every one of those through the public process and the Board gets to vote on those. So the question is I guess that you want to see them all in the same place at the same time? Is that what you're getting at?

Gene Boardman: Yes, that's what I'm getting at. I've been on the Board for five years and I don't remember anyone presenting anything about the Agricultural permits.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so those are rule changes that we brought through in the past. Otherwise we wouldn't be giving these permits out at will. There is a process and a rule that governs the distribution of those. I just wanted to make sure we understood what the conversation was, so thank you.

Braydon Richmond: Justin, I've heard Gene bring this up numerous times and I do believe he has a good and valid point there. So we do hear all of the recommendations as you said, but we don't get to see them all unless we look them up ourselves. We don't see any charts from the Division that says you know, like the Pine Valley unit that we've talked about, what are the total amount of tags given on that unit when you combine all of these together. We do get them brought up individually at separate meetings, but it would be nice to see a sheet that had each unit and all of the tags on that unit.

Tammy Pearson: So like a spreadsheet for every unit.

Justin Shannon: One thing just to clarify, the way that it works Brayden when we bring through public draw permits, all the other like the expo permits, those are taken from the public draw. So if you approve 1,000 permits and there is five expo permits then that is already accounted for in the public draw. It's taken from that. So the conservation permits are taken in addition. I think I understand it better and if we need to put something together like that to be more clear on the distributions are I think that certainly something we can work towards.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, appreciate you discussing that. Go ahead Austin.

Austin Atkinson: I have a question for Justin just to confirm what you said. So when we approve the Henry Mountains rifle deer total public permit number, the expo permit will come out of that before it will go into the public draw, is that correct?

Justin Shannon: Correct, yes.

Austin Atkinson: Okay, I think my comment to follow up with that, and I had this for later in the meeting, but what Gene is getting at in my mind and what I would like to comment is that we do not have those information columns, so we're asked as a RAC to sit here and make decisions on adding 2-3 bison tags or 2-3 deer tags but we don't see that implication. I need a conservation column, I need an expo column, I need a landowner column. Even if I can't adjust those, I need those for information on these recommendations so I can see what the total impact is if we vote to increase or decrease those tags. That's what I would like to see so we can understand how many are carried through and what that puts out there during the hunting season.

Brayden Richmond: Great.

Tammy Pearson: So, you're asking to see a whole picture, a whole spreadsheet, even though we're only voting on one portion of them.

Brayden Richmond: Just a quick comment here is Gene has brought this up I think every year that he's been on the RAC and I don't think I've ever disagreed with where he's coming from. But I also don't think that we've ever had a motion on this. So we could continue to discuss it every year, or we could get a motion.

Gene Boardman: I'll make a motion that we ask that all the information on all of the tags on each of the units be presented to the public on, I don't know how to say it, where we all can see it when we look for the number of tags given or the number of tags available on the unit. That's probably the way, when we look to see the number of tags available on the unit.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, so let me read the motion that I just heard you propose, Gene. The motion I heard you say was, ask the DWR to provide a summary that includes all of the tags that are issued to the public on a unit in one place. Is that what you said?

Gene Boardman: That's readily available for the public.

Brayden Richmond: Available for the public, great. Do we have a second on that motion?

Tammy Pearson: I'll second that

Austin Atkinson: My only discussion on that, Mr. Chair, is if we wanted to add in that to have it available for the April/May meeting when we vote on recommendations? Or should we put a date on that?

Brayden Richmond: Gene, would you be okay with amending the motion to include that language, available for the April meeting?

Gene Boardman: How?

Brayden Richmond: So, obviously not this year, but going forward have it available for this April RAC meeting. So we would either need to amend the motion or if Gene you accept this as your motion, we'd be ok to go forward.

Gene Boardman: Alright, I'll accept Austin's suggestion.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, so let me read this again. So it says, ask the DWR to provide a summary that includes all of the tags issued on a unit that is available to the public and available to the RACs and Board in the April meeting.

Tammy Pearson: I'll second that

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Tammy. Let's go ahead and vote on that.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Brayden Richmond: Gene this may be inappropriate, but I would like to point out this is kind of a monumental RAC, not only did you make a motion but it passed unanimously.

Gene Boardman: Is that the first one I've ever made? Well, no. But seldom do they pass.

The following motion was made by Gene Boardman, seconded by Tammy Pearson.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that the division provide a summary of all permits issued on each unit, in one place and that this information be made available to the public, regional RAC meetings and the RAC board meeting in April of each year.

Tammy Pearson: Can I make a motion to accept the rest of the recommendations?

Brayden Richmond: I think we're probably ready for that, so yes you can. Do we have a second on that?

Dan Fletcher: Second

Chad Utley: Okay.

Brayden Richmond: Was that Dan who seconded it?

Dan Fletcher: Yep.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: No.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

The following motion was made by Tammy, seconded by Dan Fletcher.

Motion passed 10 to 1. (Gene Boardman against)

MOTION: Accept the remainder of the recommendations.

Brayden Richmond: Gene did you say no or yes on that?

Gene Boardman: I said no.

Brayden Richmond: Okay.

Gene Boardman: And I'll qualify that in total agreement with the cuts that they make. I think that they have to be made, the deer will eventually come back but I'm in total agreement with everything except I'm voting no because we haven't made any corrections on being able to buy privilege into the general deer hunt tag situation.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, thank you Gene. So really you're voting opposition to the dedicated hunter program, correct?

Gene Boardman: Yes, particularly to the buying points.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, thank you. Let's move on to Agenda Item Number Six. And just a comment, I do appreciate the discussion. I've commented on this before, although we all like short meetings, I don't think the purpose of the RAC is to have short meetings. We need to discuss and flush out issues and we're here to provide public input and come to an agreement, so item number one did take a little bit of time, I think that will be the longest on the meeting, but I do appreciate that and think it's important to discuss until everyone is comfortable. So let's move on to agenda item 6 and I'll turn it over to the public comments.

01:27:26 **6) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)**
Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

01:27:35 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, on this agenda item where we had 32 people comment on the deer permit numbers, there were only 10... a total of 33 people that provided comments, 10 of them made comments on this agenda item, so there is less to summarize. But the three items that came up were, again, some felt they want to reduce

permit numbers from what's being proposed. There was a comment to not allow archers to take cows on the archery elk hunt. And a request again from an archery standpoint to stop the multi season elk hunt, but that was only one comment out of ten that was made.

01:28:30 Questions from RAC Members

Brayden Richmond: Questions from the RAC? Again, on bull elk and pronghorn.

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, this is Austin. I do have a quick question. As we rely on tooth data for bull elk harvested; some of these units I understand have an extremely small sample size. I'm just curious for Covy, what percentage of our harvest are actually turning in their teeth and valid samples that we can test? Do we have any idea where we're at there?

Covy Jones: Uhh, I've got Kent on data, so I'll ask him to look that up quickly if he can. And Austin, you're right, when you look at the smaller the number of permits we have out there the fewer teeth we have per weapon type, and you see that in the data. The ages start to bounce, and by bounce it's not as smooth and consistent as our large units which are super smooth and consistent. But I'll ask Kent if he'll answer what percentages look like.

Kent Hersey: Awesome. Overall 64 % were turned in in 2020. If you have a specific unit in mind I'm happy to give you that data, but that's the overall.

Austin Atkinson: No, thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Kevin you had another comment.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, I forgot to add the percentages of those 10 people that made comments. 50% strongly agree with the recommendations, 20% that were on the fence that neither agreed or disagreed. Then 30% that were in the disagree column. So 5/10 agreed strongly, 3/10 disagreed at varying levels, and 2/10 didn't make a choice.

Brayden Richmond: When it comes to hunting and how we argue back and forth, to get 50% to strongly agree, I say we just vote on this one and move forward.

Kevin Bunnell: Make a motion.

Brayden Richmond: Other questions?

Craig Laub: My question is this. How far away are we on our spike bull and open bull permits being a totally draw state instead of being over the counter?

Covy Jones: Uh, I hope we can maintain over the counter opportunity. I think I can speak for the Division, and that's our goal. Our goal is to.. I know Lindy can talk about some of the things they've put in place to try and maintain that and it's great to have some over the counter opportunity. And the goal is to maintain it. Lindy can you talk about the things you've put in place to help maintain that?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, so this year we are actually dividing out the way we're selling the permits over the counter. So in July you can go online, to an agent, or to our Division office and buy them by weapon type. So we're starting with archery, so you can start... pulling up my calendar, sorry I don't have the dates memorize yet. July 8th you can go online and buy archery permits. And then we are setting July 13th when you can go buy the any bull elk permits. And then July 22nd you can buy the spike any bull permits. And we're hoping that will divide up the crowds. So if you're interested in certain type of general elk, you'll just on that day and purchase it. Like Covy said, our goal is to keep them over the counter, but last year they did sell out in less than eight hours. So, that is our concern, but we're hoping that spreading them out over different days will help slow that down so people can have that opportunity to buy them.

Craig Laub: Hi, I appreciate that. I just see that the guys, particularly the open bull, because if they don't get an open bull then they'll be a big crowd at the spike. I really think that will be a big loss to Utah when they lose the over the counter tags that we have left. But I don't know how to avoid that with the growth population and the popularity of hunting.

Lindy Varney: Yes, supply and demand, it's going up each year, but we're doing the best that we can to hopefully get them out to the people that want them.

Craig Laub: I guess the only other question is what about the multi season tag? When do those go on sale?

Lindy Varney: So, they go on sale the same day. So if you're buying an any bull permit, you have to wait until July 13th to buy the multi season any bull permit. And same with the spike, you have to wait until July 22nd to buy the spike multiseason permit. So it's still the same date as the type of general season elk.

Craig Laub: Alright, got you. Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Great question, Craig. Other questions?

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, one more question about tooth data. Covy will we be collecting tooth data on all of the September archery in the HAMS hunts for elk? It just will not be recognized when we go to make permit recommendations, is that correct?

Covy Jones: Yeah Austin, so what we decided is there are a lot of unknowns and harvest success and the areas they're in. So we'll start to collect it and see where they come in, get a sense of how the hunts are going to go and then when we rewrite the elk plan in 2.5 years, we can then set an age objective for those units that we can work through and get everyone to agree upon. So that's the goal. Collect it now, evaluate it, see what it looks like, and then make some decisions.

Brayden Richmond: Any comments from the RAC? If there are no comments we don't really have any discussion that would warrant a standalone motion. We could probably go ahead and entertain any motion. If you wanted to go ahead and make a motion to accept as presented. Or we can have additional discussion.

Chad Utley: This is Chad, I motion that we accept the plan as presented.

Nick Jorgensen: I'll second that

Brayden Richmond: Any additional discussion?

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: n/a

Brayden Richmond: Motion passes unanimously.

The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Nick Jorgensen.

Motion passed unanimously. Roll call vote

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

01:36:49 **7) Once-In-A-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)**
Riley Peck, OIAL Species Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

01:36:59 **Electronic Public Comment Report (Informational)**
Kevin Bunnell, SRO Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: This will go really quick. We only had 4 people that indicated that they watched the presentation and of those 3 strongly agreed, one indicated that they didn't agree or disagree and we didn't have any written comments.

01:37:21 **Questions from RAC Members**

Brayden Richmond: Thank you Kevin. Questions from the RAC?

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, I have a question. I'll bring up an example, I'll use the South San Juan sheep unit as the example. I'm trying to use the plan on how ram tags are issued and make sense of that So I'm curious when they did any flight for example, but this flight was most recently in November of last year, and they count all the rams. I understand we can create a permit recommendation on the total number of rams counted or the classification. Do they classify the rams from the air and that's why permits stay low? Because it doesn't work in my math, so that's why I'm curious at only two permits on the San Juan South bighorn sheep.

Riley Peck: Yeah, I can answer that. Yes as you mentioned we can either make a recommendation on either 12-25% of all the counted rams or 30-60% on all the rams that are older than 6 years old. And the classification of the ram does take place from the air. This can get pretty tricky, but with sheep where you can get a decent look at them it's a lot easier than you'd think and sometimes its pretty tricky. So the biologist do a great job of trying to classify those from the air and make that recommendation. So yeah, Austin, I guess the long and the short answer is the classification that we get from that flight then gets made into the recommendation to stay within the fairly low permits. Part of the other reason with low permits is we're talking about a population that are much lower than what we just got done discussing. Our big horn sheep and our OIAL species across the state are in a much lower population densities than our elk, deer, or even pronghorn. Even though we make our recommendations off the population, it's important to remember we're dealing with much, much lower densities and lower population sizes overall.

Austin Atkinson: I might ask one more question, probably for Riley. I understand that we're proposing increase in the Henry Mountain bison permit substantially, and from what I understand from the presentation this is going to put us below the objective after the season. Is that concerning to the biologist, is that where we want to be, is that where we should be? That's my question.

Kevin Bunnell: Austin, this is Keven, we just happen to have the biologists on. I think Wade Paskett from the southeastern region is joining us, so let's let him answer that.

Wade Paskett: Okay, hello. Yeah it is low compared to what we would like to recommend, but the drought is pretty severe down in the Henry Mountains in that area. It's not too low that it's concerning, but it is a step lower than we've been in 10 years. So our objective is 325 adults and yearlings after the hunt, and this recommendation would put us at 290, so 35 adults/yearlings lower than the objective, but it's workable and we feel it's necessary because of the drought. Does that answer your question?

Austin Atkinson: Yes, thank you.

Brayden Richmond: That's good.

Tammy Pearson: While you're still on, let me ask you a quick question. So you're talking the general permits, but what's your success rate? Realistically?

Wade Paskett: So, last year, we had high success on our hunter's choice, it was 90%. On the cow we were 75%. If we have high success, we're going to harvest 10 more animals than the 290, it would bring us down to 280. But this recommendation is based on average success, so generally hunter's choice is generally in the mid to low 80's, and cow was 75% sometimes a little less.

Tammy Pearson: So, just maybe I should save this for the comment period, but as a landowner and one that deals with horses, which to me the bison are very similar impact as to what the horses do, aren't the bison probably the least affected by the drought as far as body condition? I mean it's not like they really suffering but they cover a lot of country trying to eat and drink water and whatever else. Is that...

Wade Paskett: They do cover a lot of country and our GPS collars that we had show that most all of them were up on the side hills of the mountains and not on the flats, but some of them are on the flats, but they move around to find the grass that's available. But based upon the bison that were harvested and the amount of fat they had; the bison were doing all right in consideration of the drought.

Kent Hersey: This is Kent Hersey, I just like to comment as well. We don't see it in the survival of the adults, but you'll see it in reduced pregnancy. We don't have great estimates of calf survival because we don't collar them, but we do know that our calf/cow ratios following drought are much lower, so clearly there is an impact on that recruitment. That's why you see this fluctuation of permits. Last year it was really low, that's coming out of that 2018 drought. Permit numbers are up this year because of

the increase recruitment. So you're not going to see it necessarily in survival it's always going to be up in that upper 90 range, but you will see it in pregnancy and calf survival.

Brayden Richmond: I have a question on the Bison down there on the Henry's also. I know this was discussed a little bit in the central RAC. But the archery permits, I was a little surprised to see the numbers on that. A large increase on the rifle permits and the archery permits appear to be fairly conservative. Now if I remember correct, the discussion from December there was a lot of discussion on when to have that archery hunt and we decided if we put it at the end of the season we would have very low success rates, that archery hunt is a high demand hunt; people are using almost as many points for it as the rifle. The determination was to put it at the end of the season so the success rate would be abysmal frankly. There was some discussion that there may not even be success at that time of year, and yet we only have three tags. It seems to me that is an opportunity to really deal with point creep, people want to hunt them, people want to apply, they're burning a lot of points. That's a way to really handle some of that point creep, especially when we're increasing tags, why did we keep that one so conservative?

Wade Paskett: Yeah our reasoning on that, and there is actually going to be a total of five archery permits based on the draw and non-resident permits. We wanted to see what the success will be. We want to make sure we have the harvest and we can get down to the level we'd like, 290. If we have good success on that late archery hunt then we can increase more next year. That's the reason. Does that make sense?

Brayden Richmond: No that didn't. So if we have good success we'd increase the tags? That seems counter intuitive. I'd think if we had poor success, we'd increase the tags. Because the idea is, we're looking at that overall harvest. So if people are using a lot of points, we're having low success rates, that seems like a great opportunity to help with the point creep.

Wade Paskett: Okay, so because we manage the bison so closely to the numbers, we know what the success rate is for our any weapon hunts, we have multiple years of that. We don't have that track record for a January archery hunt. So to make sure we get the harvest success that we need, we put most of the permits in to the any weapon hunts, and fewer into the archery.

Riley Peck: Brayden, I think we're talking about a couple of different things. I hear what you're saying, and I agree with you that we don't always sell permits expecting 100% success on a hunt. Sometimes those lower success hunts is where we can offer more opportunity because people are just aching to get out and go. So I hear what you're saying and I talked to Wade about this and I know we're on the same page. That is kind of a preference hunt and someone that draws an any legal weapon hunt can pick up a bow. But if it is the RACs desire to add a couple of permits to that, we may have very low success and I don't know that we're strongly against that one way or another. We were talking to Wade, and Wade feel free to chime in if I'm misrepresenting, it has a lot to do with just the preference and how many hunters we have in the any weapon pool compared to the archery. Any the any weapon pool can hunt with archery. However, if it is the RACs discretion and desire to add more of those opportunities, that's something that one or two certainty does not make a difference, especially when that will likely have

very low success. Does that help answer the question? And Wade did I represent correctly? I thought we were talking about two different things and I wanted to chime in.

Wade Paskett: Yeah, that's fine.

Verland King: Hey, this Verland. We put those archery tags in there as a way to harvest some bulls without moving them off the mountain and into the desert. And what it turned out was it didn't work. So basically that's the deal on the archery, they moved it so there could still be some people to hunt archery, so they moved it to the end because it didn't work where they had it. You guys have talked numbers, numbers, numbers, there's not a rancher down there that didn't cut his herd this winter. There is severe drought, when we had our bison meeting, you guys failed to mention it, but you caught a lot of flack from the ranchers for not cutting them enough. And we heard that the bison they range out, but they don't range out until they pulverize the range that's closest to the water. It's not a good thing, it's not a much different than what I'd assume the wild horses are. The range is hurt down there, it will never come back and it's not the cattle that's done it, it's been the numbers of buffalo that have historically been there. And we've finally got your attention and we're not going to quit fighting it. That 290 we appreciate it being down there, but it ought to be close to 200. It's a habitat, a resource that's damaged. We talked about it when you mentioned these couple of units on the deer, it was a drought; you mentioned drought, drought. Well, this whole state is in a drought, which is why I don't argue about any cuts on these deer tags, but the cuts need to happen if you're going to save the resource and there is a big problem on the Henry's and there is a big problem with the elk herd too.

Brayden Richmond: Alright let me pause real quick and make sure we don't have any questions before we get into additional comments. Any other questions? And then we'll jump into comments. Alright, let's go ahead and have some comments. I'll make a comment if no one else wants to. I do appreciate the answer to the question I had on the buffalo. My comment on that would be, when there was a push several years back to get an increase on tags for archery, one of the suggestions that went a long with that was lower success rates would allow more people the opportunity without impacting the resource. Particularly to this Henry's bison, moving to that late hunt the comment was made in December that we could see a zero success rate. It was widely accepted that this would be a horrible success rates. And we are trying to decrease that herd. To only have three in the draw, I guess there are five total, that just seems like that is super conservative. I guess the point was made that we need some data on what these success rates look like, I would suggest that with five permits the data becomes so subjective. We talked about it earlier with tooth data on elk units with small amounts, I think five would be smaller than any of those units with tooth data. I don't think that five is going to give us any data that we can work with in the future. I would suggest that that is an opportunity for those with a lot of points to move through the point pool, to allow some opportunity. I think there is a lot of opportunity we can allow with minimal impact to the resource. I will reach out here and agree with Verland, we may want some impact to the resource. Even if we did take more animals, I think the locals down there would be on board with that. That would be my comment on the buffalo on the Henrys.

01:52:20 **Comments from RAC Members**

Tammy Pearson: I would agree with you Brayden and Verland as well. I hear a lot of this from the counties on both ends of the spectrum on bison. They just make a huge huge impact and they are very resilient animals, and I don't think we're ever going to put a dent in them. And like you said five permits just seem nothing. That's not going to put any kind of a dent in them.

Craig Laub: You know, I think with the bison we need to take the number down because the resources. The bison and elk are probably the two species that can recover better than any species we've got to handle.

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair I have a comment. I'm going to bring up a comment about applying for these OIAL tags before we've got permit numbers set. I know this has been brought up before and Lindy did give us a great presentation last year about her schedule and why it takes so long to get draw results. This continues to get brought up, my comment is, if we operated a true random draw with bonus points, where all of the tags were allocated randomly, I think our schedule is fine and this wouldn't be an issue. I see this as an issue that is driving point creep. That the Division is purposely driving point creep up by not allowing us to see permit recommendations before we apply or before the deadline. Perfect example is this bison issue; there were a lot of applicants that submitted their application by March 4th, which was the deadline this year for the Book Cliffs trying to get a bison tag and they have a lot of bonus points. Now we quadruple the tags for residents on a lot of these Henry Mountains, and there's a lot of Book Cliff applicants that wish they would have applied for the Henry Mountains now. Therefore, they will add a point and continue in the point creep forever because they can't see how many tags will be available. So the RAC members understand at least 50% of the permits have to go to the guys with the most bonus points. The idea is to pull them out of the pool when they get drawn. But this setting the tag number so late in the game after they've applied and not allowing modifications, is not doing us favors and it's not doing any favors to residents or nonresidents. If the vendor cannot do it in time, meaning run the draw from the Board meeting in the end of April and produce results, I suggest that we get an RFP and find a new vendor that can press buttons faster and run the database. We've seen it in many other states, they can run a draw pretty quickly, and Utah is now one of two states left that does not have tag numbers before the draw period. All the other states in the west have tag numbers so you can plan and hopefully address point creep. There is my comment, I didn't have another position on the agenda that would be better to bring that up than now.

Brayden Richmond: Austin, I want to jump in here, this is an issue I've discussed for years. It's bothered me, but in the past two years we've seen more extreme examples of where this issue comes to light. This year with the buffalo, last year we had issues with sheep in I think Kaparowitz and we didn't allow people to make an educated decision. As you know Austin, and others know, it's a big business, a very big business that helps hunters figure out how to use their points. They have thousands of dollars invested into these points over 20+ years and they're going into these draws blind; I think there's got to be a better way. I understand we don't have our numbers until this board

meeting, so let's just push back the draw results a couple of weeks. I think there has got to be a better way.

Gene Boardman: While...

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Gene.

Gene Boardman: While we're talking points, I think that our point system is probably the fairest way that they could distribute tags. When does it overload? We're going to have people that by the time they draw that buffalo tag, the kids have got to load the gun on their walker so they can go hunt them. It's really tough. Speaking of my own outfit, I've spent a lot of money putting my kids in for tags. Then they messed it up quite bad because they say I'm too busy this year I'll just take the bonus point. For a buffalo tag you've got to max out your credit cards, mortgage the home and quit your job, whatever it takes to get out there and do that. By the time they get through taking the bonus point instead of trying to get it drawn, and then the old men don't have horses and can't outfit them anymore they say, oh the hell with it. I don't know, we're just having a hard time getting there and a lot of people are getting too old to even hunt elk by the time they manage to draw them out. Just a comment.

Kevin Bunnell: So, Gene, this is Kevin. If I could summarize your comment, the point system is the fairest way to do it, but it's still frustrating as hell.

Brayden Richmond: Can you say hell with a BYU hat on?

Gene Boardman: I sure as hell can.

Brayden Richmond: Good commenting. Thanks, any other comments? We have a few comments here, we've primarily focused on the buffalo here on the Henrys. Is there anything besides that? Then we also have the comment of seeing permit numbers before they apply. I don't know that it fits under any items on this agenda, but it's probably good to make a motion here as anywhere. So we'd entertain a motion if anyone wants to propose or make a motion. We'd entertain that.

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair I'll make a quick motion. I move that we increase the Henry mountains archery only hunter choice from 4 tags to 6 tags for this year.

Brayden Richmond: So motion to do the archery tags from 4 to 6 on the Henrys.

Riley Roberts: I'll second that, this is Riley.

Brayden Richmond: Seconded by Riley. Do we have any discussion on that motion?

Tammy Pearson: Is that enough tags?

Verland King: It's never enough.

Brayden Richmond: Verland, would you like to polar pose 40 perhaps?

Verland King: I'll go with the motion, I'll second it if it ever gets that far

Brayden Richmond: It's already seconded.

Tammy Pearson: I was gonna say 10, let's round it up to 10.

Chuck Chamberlain: This is Chuck, I know this ship kind of sailed a while ago, but hunting with archery equipment in January is kind of tough, I've done that before and it doesn't function as well as the rest of your equipment. I would really like to see that hunt moved back up to the front if it's not causing chaos with the number of buffalo, but I've crawled through the snow in January with a bow and it is really tough it to, and keep your equipment functioning. It seems like we've relegated the lowest number and the worst spot for the guys who have the lowest chance to do anything.

Covy Jones: And, Chuck, I think just as a comment some history on that. It was by design. We did try to put this hunt at the first, and Verland probably understands this better than anybody, the goal was to harvest animals and keep them off those winter allotments. And it worked for maybe a year and then when we increased permit numbers it pushed them right back out early. So in managing bison and working with producers and everybody else on the mountain, it just won't work that early time of year. And at this point we're not interested in moving it back.

Brayden Richmond: Well, my quick comment there too, I realize there are several opinions, but my idea when these were presented was to have them be a low success hunt to allow for more permits. And that early hunt wasn't a low success hunt. Not only was it not a low success hunt, but it was also causing problems on the range. This late hunt is going to be brutal, but it is an opportunity to give a lot of tags with little success and move people through the points. So we have a motion to increase tags from four to six, and we've had some discussion. Any additional discussion or are we ready to vote?

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: No.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

Motion passed ten to one. (Chad Utley against)

The following motion was made by Austin Atkinson, seconded by Riley Roberts.

MOTION: To increase the number of archery bison tags on the Henry Mountains from four to six.

Brayden Richmond: Chad, did you want to state a reason for the no?

Chad Utley: You know, I'd rather see how the hunt goes this year, and what the success rate is before we raise it. That's the reason.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, thank you. Both passes with one no. Oh sorry, I got ahead of myself. That was one motion. We will entertain any additional motions or to pass the remaining as presented.

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, I don't see, like you said, how setting permit numbers and changing that schedule would fit into this agenda item. It would be nice to recommend that the Board instructs the department to look at that and to change something. I don't know if this is the proper place. So let's make a motion to accept the balance to accept the remaining recommendations as presented.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

MOTION: To approve the remaining portion of the presentation as presented.

The following motion was made by Austin Atkinson, seconded by Tammy Pearson.

Motion passes unanimously.

**02:07:53 8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)
Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Administrator**

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

02:08:08 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Alright, on this agenda item we had a total seven people that submitted comments. 43% strongly agreed, another 43% somewhat agreed. So 84% of people that commented somewhat agreed. Then 14% strongly disagreed. A smattering of comments came in; some comments specific to the Zion requested to have more of a balance between the private land and the draw cow permits on the Zion. That's gone back and forth and we're still trying to find the sweet spot there. Again several comments that we shouldn't have any doe hunts, I think there is a lot reasons why we do have doe hunts in several areas and oftentimes it's an attempt in targeting resident deer that are causing problems and are really in a place where we don't want deer. So there really are good reasons why we have doe permits, even in a time where we have low deer population numbers. A comment about too many cow tags, a similar issue with elk. Then some comments on getting out of balance with our bull to cow ratios that we're trying to in areas offer trophy bull hunts and also we're trying to manage population objective. There are probably some places where that is the case. And it does give us concern to have herds where we have, you know, really high bull to cow ratios and we'll address those as we have opportunities.

02:10:00 Questions from RAC Members

Austin Atkinson: Mr. Chair, I have a question. What was the success of the archery California bighorn hunt out on the Newfoundland Mountains? Do we have the numbers from last years hunt? I see we're offering 10 permits once again for the archery only. Do we know how those hunters did last year?

Covy Jones: Yeah, we can get those numbers. Kent can you pull those up? As he does Austin, I do want you to acknowledge that we do give you antlerless information before the application. So you're welcome.

Austin Atkinson: Months before Covy, months before.

Brayden Richmond: And oddly enough, it's amazing how many points people are using on the antlerless hunts.

Covy Jones: It really is. No, I understand it's frustrating. And it's something we'll continue to work on. It's hard to speed up the data, but we probably need to look at some other things with the process of providing information.

Austin Atkinson: Maybe Mr. Chair, I'll ask one more question while he's looking up that bighorn data. Help us understand since we're in the southern region this Zion elk flip flop. Are we chasing the elk on private and they're not using private land only tags, and now we need public tags? I see 300 frustrated hunters if they apply unknowing. And I know there is going to be a popup on the draw, but that's a lot of private land to have 300 cow tags on the side.

Jason Nicholes: So uh, can you hear me?

Brayden Richmond: Yes

Jason Nicholes: Okay, so we are actually taking the permits from the private lands only hunt and putting them in to the draw. The reason being is I've had a lot of complaints from private landowners. If you remember last years RAC we had some landowners come and they're seeing a lot of trespass with these private lands only tags. Some of these hunters that buy these tags are seeing them as a trespass permit, and they're not. So, we decided to ship some of those permits back into the draw. It actually expands the area if a hunter has access to private land they can go hunt the private land. If they don't have access to private land they can go on the public land. It is an increase of 60 permits from last year. We flew the unit the first part of February this year and it was significantly over objective. So we're trying to work with the landowners and reduce trespass as well as reduce the elk population. Does that cover it?

Austin Atkinson: Yeah, thank you Jason.

Kent Hersey: And that ewe hunt was 70% success. The seven out of ten guys killed.

Brayden Richmond: I have a question that I get asked frequently and because this is a public meeting, I think it would be good to get the answer from the

Division in a public meeting. I feel like I probably have got the answer but let me ask. On the cow hunt specifically, there is a lot of concern of how many there are kind of back to back. We have hunters on the range all the time. Particularly the late hunts, so there is a lot of concern for the deer. We feel like there are a lot of different reasons we've discussed; the deer aren't doing well but there is a lot of concern that a lot of that is because of pressure and human pressure on those deer. Yeah, we're hunting cow elk in January. We have seen some early hunts on those, but on many of those units they kind of go back to back clear to the end of January. Can you address why we have those January hunts and if they're necessary. And why we don't look at doing more... you know we can do those August 1st, why are we doing them January vs August, and just kind of the pros and cons.

Covy Jones: Yeah, so Brayden this came up at the Board a couple years ago too. We committed at that time that we would have January hunts where we didn't need them. And what it comes down to is it's a combination of managing to the population objective and harvesting the right animal at the right time. What we don't want to do is end up with a situation where we could be managing to the population objective and be able to do that in August and September and then we are in a situation where we have depredation in key areas, or high conflict, or other problems and have to issue additional permits and still have to have that same pressure but now we're doubling it up in August and January. So, when we put one of these hunts on the landscape, we can think through it and say, ok we're trying to harvest these animals and we have six months to do it. We can work through this the best way we can to harvest the most that we can. And these January cow hunts allow us to target specific areas where we have current problems. And where those animals cause problems. And there are two sides to that Brayden, one side is if we have an area... you're right there is additional pressure on the landscape running elk. And it allows us where we may have some conflict and overlap with deer, it allows us to alleviate and move those elk to where they're not competing as much with the deer. So there can be a plus side to that as well. We will keep our commitment to the Board. The Board asked us to have these when we needed them, and we'll keep that commitment and ask ourselves those questions.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, I appreciate that answer. Again, that is a very common question, so I think that's good discussion.

Gene Boardman: I have to form this as a question. A dead elk in August don't equal a dead elk in January.

Covy Jones: It may be the wrong elk is what I'm saying. It may be the wrong cow. It may not be the animal that causes the conflict in January. We still may need to remove that animal in January as well. And trying to manage that all together, at times it's a difficult balance, but we try out best.

Gene Boardman: Okay, another question. Made big cuts on the doe antelope and cow elk on the Dutton, and other places, but it really shows on the Dutton. I'd like to have somebody kind of explain that.

Kyle Christensen: I can answer that Gene. Do you want answers to both or specifically pronghorn?

Gene Boardman: Well, the cuts have been big on the pronghorn and the cow elk. Yes both.

Kyle Christensen: So, we've taken some pretty big cuts in pronghorn permits, we've had some pretty low fawning recruitment. Significantly below objective. Our objective is 800 and we're down to just about 300. So we're just in rebound mode trying to build pronghorn. We don't have any access on landscape that we need to take. With the elk, same thing. We're chronically below objective. Our objective is 1,500 and when I flew last year we were barely under 1,200 elk. We're just in grow mode on those units, we're just below objective.

Gene Boardman: There's 60 public tags available on the Dutton and 50 private tags. That looks like it's directed towards the private more than it ought to be, and there ought to be more opportunity.

Kyle Christensen: That's just mainly to address depredation concerns. We have some private ground there in John's Valley, and areas of conflict with agriculture. So that's the concept behind those private lands so we can keep pressure on elk that are causing problems. Coming back to Covy's comment we're trying to target specific elk with those, that's the reason behind those.

Gene Boardman: Okay, thanks.

Austin Atkinson: Sir, Chair. I have a question. I have a question about antlerless moose. Forgive my not understanding of this. Is that managed by Riley primarily or a unit biologist? I'm trying to understand a 50% cut in antlerless moose is alarming. I know neighboring states like Idaho just cut 98% of their antlerless moose. So I'm wondering who makes those decisions and are we strictly managing to the plan or are we managing socially? I don't understand the moose.

Riley Peck: Yeah, that is a good question, Austin. Those recommendations primarily come from the biologists and most of these moose are found in the northern region, specifically the antlerless moose that we have. Covy you may want to help me out specifically on the cuts on the antlerless, but I believe it has to do with, we were over a while looking at the body condition of our moose and even though we continued to cut the permits on the antlerless moose we were not seeing the changes in the body conditions. As a result, we were just chipping away at our herd and not getting any return for the decrease of permits. The biologist looked at it and decided we were at a sufficient level and that was low enough to cut. I did a hack job on that, Austin. Covy if you have any thing you'd like to add to that, please clarify. To the first part of your question it is the biologist that make that recommendation.

Covy Jones: Yeah, and primarily the big cut was the north slope. What it came down to was Dave Rich and I had a good conversation about this, and there is some habitat work that needs to be done up there to improve body conditions. Dave is aware of

it, but we need to move some things around and, it's what Riley said, as he looked at what was going on with the moose population, he wasn't seeing the bang for his buck that he wanted to see with the antlerless recommendations. So right now they're working to address some habitat issues and hopefully that with what they've already reduced with population will give them the boost they need to do better. The moose on the north slope have struggled, it's no secret. Our moose population is the fringe of their southern population habitat at times they peak and crash. We're aware of that and try to manage a population at a carrying capacity and in this situation, we choose to address habitat instead of harvesting antlerless.

Brayden Richmond: Let's go ahead and entertain comments. I guess not entertain, that's what we use for motions. But let's move to comments from the RAC.

02:22:56 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Austin Atkinson: I'll make one. Oh, go ahead Gene.

Gene Boardman: This is Gene. We've been cutting back on deer for a lot of years and the family deer camp pretty much went to hell. So we started looking at getting cow permits and doe antelope permits to hunt. And we enjoy doing those hunts. Now, last year we had a poor year on drawing, this year we might not have anything drawn. The elk tags and the doe antelope tags are looking pretty thin. Plus, I'm not technically proficient enough to get into that spike antler elk hunt and compete with all the other electronic efforts to get one of those tags. So it's looking kind of grim for us. I'm concerned and have been concerned about how the numbers have jumped from the public elk tags to the private elk tags. When it started it was to educate a few elk to get back on the private land; that's how it started. Now it's gone all to heck where there are so many private tags compared to the opportunities on the public. Years ago we drew a cow elk tag in John Valley, and the reason for the hunt was extreme depredation. We tried to get across Sorenson's land and they wouldn't let us. There was a little herd of elk up on the Griffins Top side that we could see. Couldn't get across Sorensen's land, someone else didn't want us on his place. So we went over to the other side and shot an elk without bothering anybody. I guess my problem is I go back to days of old when you could go on to private land and landowners were acceptable to that. Somewhere along the way we've lost that. I just want to say as much public opportunity as we can. I'm not too sympathetic with the landowners that won't allow people to go on their land to hunt. I don't think we should be giving a plethora of tags in that direction, especially when we're taking it from public opportunity.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Gene, other comments? If there are no other comments we can entertain a motion.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: Yes.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 as presented.

**02:28:40 9) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)
Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

02:28:48 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Alright, we're in the home stretch folks. Thanks for staying with us and staying with the process and continue to ask good questions. On this agenda item we only had three people that commented. Two of them strongly agreed with the recommendations, and I honestly don't get this that some people take the time to comment and say they don't agree or disagree, that they're right in the middle. So 2/3 strongly agree and 1 that didn't agree or disagree.

02:29:30 Questions and comments from RAC Members

Brayden Richmond: Sounds good, thanks Kevin. Questions from the RAC? And we can go right in to comments I think a lot of the questions and comments on this one was very similar to agenda item 8. Comments from the RAC on this?

Austin Atkinson: I have a comment Mr. Chair, this is Austin. Kind of a question as well. This gets brought up every time, people say they don't understand the CWMU process. They don't feel like there is enough transparency. Is there a website or should there be a website that shows everybody, here are the choices the CWMU operator has and shows everybody that you must have this many acres, he can choose a 90/10, and then show everybody that x happens? We say we're going to do more education for the public, but do we have a site set up for the public, where you don't have to read a packet or the rules to understand?

Chad Wilson: Currently we don't have anything on there, it would be referring to the rule or these presentations. Part of the Board in the December Board meeting they asked us to come back with an education packet. So coming up this summer there will be an education packet, I'm working with the CWMU association to put that together. Hopefully we'll be able to put that on our website and educate more people about the CWMU program. So it is in the works.

Brayden Richmond: Any additional comments? We can go ahead and entertain a motion if we're ready.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: n/a

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

The following motion was made by Chad Utley, seconded by Nick Jorgensen.

Motion passed unanimously.

**MOTION: Accept the 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit
Recommendations as presented.**

**02:32:37 10) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments
Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief**

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

**02:32:46 Electronic Public Comment Report by Kevin Bunnell, Regional
Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, you guys can decide what to do with this one. We had three people that commented. One of them strongly agreed, one disagreed, and one didn't agree or disagree. Not much help in the public comments there.

02:33:10 Questions from RAC Members

Brayden Richmond: Alright, questions from the RAC? Justin got off real easy in the other two RACs I think you really need to give him a curve ball.

Austin Atkinson: This is Austin, I've got three questions. First one. A new group that joins the half percent market share, that's like thanks for coming, we'll throw you a bear tag. But how do they increase and eventually take more of that market share to balance out, or can they?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, thanks for the question Austin. With the .5 increase in market share, that's actually an increase from what the old rule would allow. Initially it would only allow up to \$20,000 in conservation permits and if we do .5 it will be more than that based on the last three year average. I know it's not a ton to start out with but it is an increase which is one of the ways to start out with. And the way we can increase the market share is, if you take a conservation permit that sold for let's say \$10,000 over the last three years and you take it and sell it for \$20,000 moving forward, that's how you get a market share and that's how you get more permit. And so the goal of this is to raise money for wildlife so it rewards high performers that sell those permits for more money. Did that help at all?

Austin Atkinson: Perfect, thank you. My next question if I may is, are non-residents or national groups eligible to apply for conservation permits?

Justin Shannon: So we'll have groups like, take the National Wild Turkey Federation, they have a Utah chapter and they do conservation work for the conservation species in Utah. So that chapter is eligible for the conservation permit program. As long as they are doing conservation work for a species in Utah, then that would suffice.

Austin Atkinson: Okay, and to clarify, so a National organization without a chapter, like Wild Sheep, or SEI could come in and bid if they wanted.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, we have those organizations, we have SEI and Wild Sheep now and we work with their Utah Chapters, yes.

Austin Atkinson: One other question, can you define direct purchase? In on of your last slides you talked about direct purchase and I didn't understand what that meant and why it needed to be changed.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, thanks for bringing that up. With the direct purchase sometimes conservation organizations will pay for a product directly as opposed to giving the money to the Division and we pay for it. An example of this would be if we're trapping bighorn sheep in Nevada, for instance, and we're bringing those sheep to Utah. Nevada may have a capture company that they're working with, that we don't have a contract with. So we can't pay for it, so they do a direct pay for that. So what we want to highlight is if there is going to be direct payments, then we can require a competitive bid process or discuss the benefits prior to the Division approving that purchase. But I would say the majority of it, overwhelmingly goes through our WRI process, Watershed Restoration Initiative which has a lot of contracts in place already. We just have a few exceptions where it doesn't.

Austin Atkinson: One last quick question, how long can they hold over funds, conservation organization from year to year?

Justin Shannon: Uh, 2 years.

Austin Atkinson: 2 years, ok.

Justin Shannon: And then they've got to commit those funds to conservation work.

Brayden Richmond: At the beginning of this meeting I discussed watching the meeting that kind of allocates some of these funds, also I've worked with conservation groups for years up at the hunt expo and I've seen the money raised and watching where it goes. Can you tell us, how much was allocated this year? Do you have that number?

Justin Shannon: I don't have that at the top of my head. Oh, Kevin, did you have something?

Kevin Bunnell: I remember it was 3.1 million dollars were committed to habitat projects by conservation groups at the meeting a couple of weeks ago. Several of those were in the southern region including a project that I'm involved with on Indian Peaks and several up around the Monroe and Boulder units. I think probably most of the units in the southern units, maybe not all of them but most of them, have projects that received conservation funding through that. But it was 3.1 million dollars that were committed to habitat projects just for this next fiscal year.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, thank you. I knew it was a large number. Just another comment I would make from watching that meeting. It would seem that there is more effort and more projects going up on the mountains than down lower this year and I know that's been a focus and concern with our summer habitat. When I watched the meeting that was definitely a focus.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I would agree with that. I think that we've done a lot of good work on our winter ranges and a lot of the work we've been doing with monitor deer and getting body conditions every winter, kind of the idea is if we can get more fat on them going into winter they'll have a better shot at surviving. Summer range projects can be difficult at times but as an agency we would love to get more work done in the transitional and summer ranges. And that's been an emphasis moving forward.

Brayden Richmond: Chuck, I hate to put you on the spot but just would be curious to hear your comment on that from a Forest Service standpoint. If you're comfortable?

Chuck Chamberlain: So, you're going to have to repeat that I was reading part of this rule again. I missed your question. Go ahead.

Brayden Richmond: I was just curious if you had any input on the work that's going on on the Forest Service land this year. Does it appear that we're doing more summer and midrange projects than we have historically, and the impact that it has. Again, if you're comfortable commenting, if not that's fine/

Chuck Chamberlain: No sure, we are targeting more summer range projects, especially on the Boulder Mountains and there are other areas where we are trying to get NEPA clearances so we can begin to do that work. It's really one of the bottlenecks we have to get through is we have to go through that NEPA process. So we're working directly to do that with the DWR and state agencies. I think we've got some that are in progress right now that have gotten clearance, and hopefully in the next few years we'll have quite a few acres cleared where we can chip away at some of those projects and get some of that Conifer habitat. Really blow down and hack timber that's good for pine martins and squirrels and that's about it. Hopefully it will let up a little bit again. We're working towards that.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Chuck, it's exciting to see that going forward more than I've seen historically. Any other comments? Conservation rule amendments.

Gene Boardman: I've got a question, since everything is going to three years so they all run the very same three year cycle?

Justin Shannon: Yes, yes they would Gene.

Gene Boardman: And what year would be the start of the three year cycle?

Justin Shannon: So, we will have that meeting this spring and summer so it would start next year. It would be 2022-2024.

Gene Boardman: Okay, are we doing comments too?

Brayden Richmond: Yes.

02:42:30 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Gene Boardman: Okay, a few years ago the age objective on Mount Dutton and Panguitch Lake was changed. It took a lot of permits off from there because they weren't reaching the age objective in the first place. They got raised up and they cut a bunch of permits. The next year it didn't change much, so they cut a bunch more permits. And I asked about the conservation permits if they were getting cut. They weren't getting cut, it was at three year thing. Well after three years the conservation permits on those two units were about 16 ½% of all the tags on those units. Nothing really sat really well with me or others that wanted to draw those units. If you're going to have this three year cycle are we going to get wacked with that again, and again and again?

Brayden Richmond: Any additional comments? Gene you stated that was going to be a comment. Was it a question?

Gene Boardman: Yeah, it kind of got to a question on the end. I would like to know what's going to happen. Make a three year contract, that's the three year contract from the situation what it is when you start it and no matter what the hell it can't be adjusted?

Kent Hersey: Gene, this is Kent. I just like to make a comment and clarification for everybody. I just went back and looked at the conservation permits really quickly. In 2014 there were six issued and that's when we had a high number of public draw permits. In 2015 that was reduced to five as we started decreasing tags. In 2020 that was down to three which is also what it is this year. So those permits have decreased as those public draw permits decreased. And that is how that program works. It might have some lag because of the three year cycle, but it will be decreased as the public tags are adjusted.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and I would add to that, I think Gene you bring up a good point that it does need to adjust, and it does. The rule has formulas that show when the conservation permits need to increase or decrease based on the public draw permits. But once we set those on the public cycle and we have units increase on the public draw, we don't interrupt that cycle and add more conservation permits to it as well. So I understand you're focusing on the times where there might be disproportionate

lower public draw permits, but I also want to point out there are times we increase public permits and the conservation permits might take a few years to lag and catch up as well. So I guess it happens on both sides.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, additional comments?

Gene Boardman: What about those who buy conservation permits, does that take away points? Is there any waiting period?

Justin Shannon: I think we'll let Lindy tackle that if she's still on.

Lindy Varney: I am, sorry, just couldn't find my mouse to turn on the microphone. So our LE permits, if you buy a conservation permit, your LE elk, deer, and pronghorn you do not lose your points or get a waiting period. But if you buy a OIAL permit, so your moose, bison, sheep, and goat, you do obtain the once in life waiting period so they can no longer apply in the Utah drawing for that particular species. And that applies to conservation, CWMU, expo, all the same.

Gene Boardman: Where the person can buy a conservation permit year after year after year, is that right?

Lindy Varney: Yes they can.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, I think we're probably ready to entertain a motion.

Austin Atkinson: Yes.

Bart Batista: Yes.

Gene Boardman: No.

Riley Roberts: Yes.

Chad Utley: Yes.

Nick Jorgensen: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes.

Verland King: Yes.

Craig Laub: Yes.

Tammy Pearson: Yes.

Dan Fletcher: Yes.

The following motion was made by Tammy Pearson, seconded by Craig Laub.

Motion passed 10 to 1. (Gene Boardman against)

MOTION: Accept Conservation Permit Rule Amendments as presented.

Brayden Richmond: Gene, did you want to comment on your no?

Gene Boardman: Just that I'm generally against pay to slay.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Gene. With that, that's the end of our agenda. Our next RAC is May 18th, time to be determined. Appreciate everyone's comments on this RAC. This is always a big RAC. It was interesting to watch tonight, just a quick comment, and I don't know if this is good or bad, but we had more unanimous votes in the southern region than maybe the southern region has ever had in this meeting. Part of that I think is we're getting better information. We see and understand it better. I don't know all the reasons, but it's probably a good thing that we're seeing that, I think it's a good sign. I appreciate everybody's efforts with discussion on the questions. Thank you. Kevin has a comment.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me just ask, typically this next RAC we'd start at 6:30 or 7:00. It's probably not going to be an overly long meeting. Is there a strong preference from the RAC members for a starting time?

Nick Jorgensen: Any chance that it might be live?

Kevin Bunnell: I don't think this one will be, but I think the next one there's a chance.

Tammy Pearson: I'd say 6 or 7. I don't care.

Nick Jorgensen: 6:00 is a good time I think.

Brayden Richmond: I'd vote for 6:00.

Kevin Bunnell: Ok, we'll plan on 6:00. Thanks everybody. Have a good night.

02:51:17 Meeting adjourned at 8:47.

**Southeast Region RAC Meeting
Video Conference
April 14, 2021**

The meeting streamed live at <https://youtu.be/FH6nAFmZMnQ>

Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6:30 pm

1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair
4. Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor
5. Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
6. Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
7. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Riley Peck, OIAL Species Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
8. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager
9. 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
- Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator
10. Conservation Permit Rule Amendments
- Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief

Video Conference
April 14, 2021
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

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

MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.

2. Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Lynn Sitterud, and passed, 8/1.

MOTION: Reduce the general season buck deer permits on the Manti-La Sals from 8100 to 7500.

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, and seconded by Steve Duke, and passed, 8/1.

MOTION: To leave the general season buck permits static on the San Juan Unit.

The following motion was made by Eric Luke and seconded by Kent Johnson, and passed unanimously, 9/9.

MOTION: To accept the remainder of the recommendations and presented.

3. Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Kirk Johnson, and seconded by Eric Luke and passed unanimously, 8/1.

MOTION: Ask the wildlife board to review the elk age objective on the Bitter Creek, Book Cliffs.

The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Kent Johnson, and passed 8/1.

MOTION: Ask the wildlife board to evaluate the timing of the application period so that people can see permit numbers before they apply for a permit.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and seconded by Todd Thorne, and passed unanimously, 9/9.

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

4. Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Kent Johnson, and passed, 7/2.

MOTION: Increase archery bison permits on Henry Mountains from 4 to 6.

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

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

5. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and was seconded by Eric Luke, and passed unanimously, 9/9.

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

6. 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Steve Duke, and seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously, 9/9.

MOTION: Accept the recommendations as presented by the DWR.

7. Conservation Permit Rule Amendments

The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously, 9/9.

MOTION: Accept the recommendations as presented by the DWR.

Southeast Region RAC Meeting
April 14, 2021
Online Attendance

RAC Members Present

Trisha Hedin, Chair; Sportsmen & Women
Kent Johnson, Vice Chairman; Public at large
Lynn Sitterud, Elected Official
Scot Flannery, Sportsmen & Women
Steve Duke
Darren Olsen, USFS
Todd Thorne, Public at Large
Kirk Player
Dana Truman, BLM
Eric Luke

18:30:00	RAC Chair Trisha Hedin called the meeting to order. She called the roll of RAC members to indicate who attended the broadcast. She explained the process that there will be no live presentations or public comments taken during the meeting.
18:33:18	<p>1) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously 10.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes for the Southeast Region RAC meeting.</p>
18:33:00	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</p> <p>Chris Wood updated the RAC with Wildlife Board decisions.</p>
18:34:00	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Chris Wood updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
18:41:00	<p>5) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html</p>
18:42:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Chris Wood stated there were many online comments from the public.</p>
18:46:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked about for clarification about: where DWR got population estimates from San Juan units; why is it a three-year recommendation.</p>
19:08:30	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>Kent Johnson had a comment and Eric Luke had a comment.</p>
19:14:00	<p>The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Lynn Sitterud, and passed, 8/1.</p> <p>MOTION: Reduce the general season buck deer permits on the Manti-La Sals from 8100 to 7500.</p>
19:23:00	<p>The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, and seconded by Steve Duke, and passed, 8/1.</p> <p>MOTION: To leave the general season buck permits static on the San Juan Unit.</p>
19:25:00	<p>The following motion was made by Eric Luke and seconded by Kent Johnson, and passed unanimously, 9/9.</p>

	MOTION: To accept the remainder of the recommendations and presented.
19:26:00	<p>6) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html</p>
19:26:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Chris Wood stated there were many online comments from the public.</p>
19:28:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked about: what would happen if we did away with the spike hunt on the book cliffs.</p>
19:56:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members had no comments.</p>
20:00:00	<p>The following motion was made by Kirk Johnson, and seconded by Eric Luke and passed unanimously, 8/1.</p> <p>MOTION: Ask the wildlife board to review the elk age objective on the Bitter Creek, Book Cliffs.</p>
20:01:00	<p>The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Kent Johnson, and passed 8/1.</p> <p>MOTION: Ask the wildlife board to evaluate the timing of the application period so that people can see permit numbers before they apply for a permit.</p>
20:03:00	<p>The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and seconded by Todd Thorne, and passed unanimously, 9/9.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the remainder of the recommendations as presented by the Division.</p>
20:05:00	<p>7) Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html</p>
20:06:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Chris Wood stated there were many online comments from the public.</p>
20:06:00	<p>RAC Questions</p>

	The RAC members asked about: bison on the Book Cliffs; the bison archery hunt on the Henry Mountains;
20:15:00	RAC Discussion The RAC members had no comments.
20:15:00	The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Kent Johnson, and passed, 7/2. MOTION: Increase archery bison permits on Henry Mountains from 4 to 6.
20:25:00	The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and was seconded by Darren Olson and was passed unanimously, 9/9. MOTION: To accept the remainder of the recommendations as presented by the Division.
20:27:00	8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action) A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html
20:27:00	Public Comments Chris Wood stated there were many online comments from the public.
20:28:00	RAC Questions The RAC members asked: boundaries for new antlerless hunt.
20:33:00	RAC Discussion The RAC members had no comments.
20:35:00	The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and was withdrawn by Kent Johnson. MOTION: To leave the antlerless permits on the La Sals static at 500.
20:38:00	The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, and was seconded by Eric Luke, and passed unanimously, 9/9. MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented by the Division.
20:40:00	9) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action) A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html

20:40:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Chris Wood stated there were many online comments from the public.</p>
20:40:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked about: if the DWR has ever considered requiring CWMUs to harvest tooth data.</p>
20:45:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members had no comments.</p>
20:45:00	<p>The following motion was made by Steve Duke, and seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously, 9/9.</p> <p>MOTION: Accept the recommendations as presented by the DWR.</p>
20:47:00	<p>10) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments</p> <p>(Action)</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html</p>
20:47:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Chris Wood stated there were many online comments from the public.</p>
20:48:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked: how many dollars were put into wildlife in 2020.</p>
20:50:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members comments on how great the conservation program is.</p>
20:55:00	<p>The following motion was made by Eric Luke, and seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously, 9/9.</p> <p>MOTION: Accept the recommendations as presented by the DWR.</p>
21:00:00	<p>The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, and seconded by Kirk Player and passed unanimously, 9/9.</p> <p>MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.</p>
21:00:00	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>

**Northeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
April 15, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Attendance

RAC MEMBERS

Brett Prevedel	Dan Abeyta
Jeff Taniguchi	Brad Horrocks
Mike Smith	Daniel Davis
Natasha Hadden	Conroy Reed
Joe Arnold	Ritchie Anderson
Rebekah Jones	

Division Personnel

Miles Hanberg	Covy Jones
Kent Hersey	Justin Shannon
Clint Sampson	Dax Mangus
Riley Peck	Anthony Chirstianson
Tonya Kieffer-Selby	Rose Fedelleck
Amy Vande Voort	
Randall Thacker	
Torrey Christophersen	
Dax Mangus	
Mike Christensen	

Wildlife Board Members

Randy Dearth	Donny Hunter
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Byron Bateman

00:00:54 1) Welcome

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

00:03:55 2) Approval of Agenda (Action)

The following motion was made by Brad Horrocks, seconded by Jeff Taniguchi.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

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

00:04:48 Approval of Minutes from January meeting. (Action)

The following motion was made by Dan Abeyta, seconded by Natasha Hadden.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes from the January meeting.

00:06:06 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair, Brett Prevedel

Brett Prevedel: I will give a brief update on the last Wildlife Board meeting. The Wildlife Board meeting was on January 5, 2021. It was a fairly short meeting. The action items were the LOA permit recommendations. If you remember we had

adjusted some numbers based on what we felt as a RAC, at least for the three LOA that are in the northeast region. The Wildlife Board chose to approve the actual permit number recommendations presented by the Division prior to our adjustments. A little later we'll talk about where that's heading. I believe that was just for one year number, even though it's a cycle typically. There has been a committee formed, I'll just talk about it right now, a committee formed to look into how to do that consistently and fair across the board. There is a lot of different situations. Right now they went with the DWR recommendation. Then the black bear rule amendments which were basically to get the Divisions rules in line with the legislation that went through the Utah legislature was accepted as presented. I believe that was all the action items that were on that Wildlife Board meeting. Any questions on that? Ok, if now, I will turn it over to Miles Hanberg, the regional supervisor, to give the regional update.

00:08:28 4) Regional Update (Informational)
Miles Hanberg, NERO Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: Thank you Mr. Chair. I have a few things to update the RAC on tonight. In our wildlife section they just completed bear denning events. They visited eight bear dens this year; dens that have sow that has been collared. Last year some of those sows had newborn cubs, and as we visited this year we found none of those bear dens had yearlings with them. So with the extreme drought that happened last year likely those cubs had succumbed or kicked off, and certainly not with the females anymore. There were some dens with newborn cubs, so that is a good sign. But not a good last year for bears. Sage Grouse lek counts are underway. I think we're right at the peak of the lekking season right now. Along with that we're collaring some Sage Grouse with GPS collars on Diamond Mountain right now. There have been some previous collaring efforts up there, but with these GPS collars we'll get a lot more fine scaled data with them. So that's what's going on right now as far as trapping those female Sage Grouse and hopefully have that wrapped up in the next couple of weeks. Right now is the time we start to often times start to lose a number of our fawn deer as deer start to make the transition of winter forage to the spring green up and that is when a lot of mortality is triggered on fawns. It hasn't been a real tough winter on fawns in terms of winter conditions, but a lot of our fawns came into the winter with a lower birth rate or body weight than they have in the past. And I think we've talked before how the lower the body weight of those fawns the less chance that they have to survive. So we have seen some higher mortality rates on fawns than we would have expected with the winter conditions. But again it's the body condition that's led to those mortalities. A couple of weeks ago there was a Wildlife work session that spent most of the day discussing mule deer management and the status of mule deer in the state. There were some regional presentations as well. I know Dax Mangus forwarded around the link to that meeting to the RAC members. If you have any specific questions, that was a really good informational meeting to really research and see what's going on with deer in Utah and you can pass that along to anybody that might have questions as well.

In our habitat section they are busy implementing a few projects before the end of our fiscal year. One of those is a lock and scatter project over in Rabbit Gulch in Duchesne county. It's removing 767 acres of encroaching juniper. A lot of that's in the old

treatment areas that have previously been treated for big game habitat. So that's going on right now. They're also wrapping up nine additional guzzlers in the Book Cliffs on the Range Creek area to help increase water distribution out there and have more water for wildlife. That's going well. In addition they're starting a watershed assessment for the Strawberry River drainage within that Dollar Ridge burn scar. This water shed assessment will help identify the projects and activities that need to be done in the future to fully restore that watershed and put some stability back into that. To help with wildlife but also the Strawberry River and the blue ribbon fishery that it is.

Aquatic section has been pretty busy ramping up into the field season right now. Just finished spawning walleye this week over at Starvation. We're using Starvation as a breed source for walleye in the northeast region waters. Basically they spawn a little bit later than they do in Willard Bay, and the problem is when we stuff larval fish into these northeast region's waters, it's often still a little bit colder than what Willard Bay was. Later fawning effort will more match the conditions we have out here. So that actually went really well and hopefully those fish will be treated to make them triploid walleyes and they will be stocked into Red Fleet reservoir. Pelican Lake has a number of activities that will be continuing on this year. We're looking at putting some artificial reefs in some areas to help with erosion from wind events when the lake is low. That increases turbidity tremendously in Pelican Lake, so hopefully these structures will help. I think those are planned for the fall. In addition I think we actually transplanted a number of tiger muskies in the 20-inch range into Pelican Lake this spring to help us with common carpe and black bullhead control. Some of those species as the fishery has been restored have come along at the same rate as bass and bluegill and these tiger muskies will hopefully help us get those kinds of knock back. Of course tiger muskies are sterile, so as they start to go out of the picture bass and bluegill will be there to help control those larval fish from carpe or bullhead in the future. So that's some good work going there.

In law enforcement, the AIS decontamination station below Steinaker Reservoir is ready to go. We'll be operating that this year. That will interdict boats that are headed not only to Steinaker and Red Fleet, but also Flaming Gorge. It will be a good central location to inspect boats and decontaminate them for AIS as they head north and we can do that in a consolidated area. We reported before at our last meeting that Sean Davis was retiring. He was our regional investigator, and he's actually been replaced by Eric Miller, he's our Roosevelt district CO. So he's now our regional investigator. Law enforcement worked a number of illegal trapping cases throughout the winter, I think with people needing things to do, like it's been all year. We haven't still had a lot of people trapping despite...(inaudible)

Brett Prevedel: Thank you Miles. Any questions? Miles, on the bear cubs, were there new cubs in the dens?

Miles Hanberg: Can you hear me? Just one last thing, the mountain goat viewing event up in Rock Creek went really well. It was held about a week ago and there were nearly 200 participants that showed up to Rock Creek to look at mountain goats, so that went really well this year as well. That's the updates we have for this RAC meeting, and I'll turn the time back over to you Brett.

Brett Prevedel: Sorry, I interrupted you, I had a little sound issue I guess. On the bear cubs, my question was were there young cubs with the bears? You mentioned the yearlings were missing.

Miles Hanberg: Yeah, some of those bears that would have weaned yearlings last year, some of those did have cubs this year. But the cubs from last year didn't survive and become yearlings this year.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Are there any other questions from the audience for Miles? Ok, I see Joe Arnold has joined us, would you introduce yourself please? May have a sound issue, Joe is a RAC member representing the public at large. I would like to recognize Randy Dearth and Donny Hunter from the Wildlife Board who have joined us. Thank you for joining. If there are no other questions for Miles, we'll move on to the next item on the agenda. Which is the buck deer recommendations. Covy Jones is with us tonight, would you be willing to give us a very brief summary, Covy, as we go into this topic?

**00:18:16 5) Buck Deer Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)
Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager**

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Covy Jones: I think Miles will do that, Mr. Chair, if that's ok.

Brett Prevedel: You bet.

**00:18:24 Electronic Public Comment Report (Informational)
Miles Hanberg, NERO Regional Supervisor**

Miles Hanberg: Sure, so I can give you an introduction in terms of what public feedback was. The public feedback, there was 18% of the public that strongly agreed with the Divisions recommendation. 54.5% somewhat agreed. 9% neither agreed nor disagreed. 9% strongly disagreed. 9% somewhat disagreed. So, in general majority of people agreed with the recommendations that the Division brought forward. So, to summarize some of those comments that came in from the public. We didn't have a ton of them in the region that came in. Some of the things were that people actually did agree with our recommendations, they agreed with some of the tag cuts. There were other comments that felt like there should be more severe tag cuts as well. Another specific comment felt as if nonresidents should be cut in half before residents were cut. And another comment was reducing buck permits numbers wouldn't necessarily make the herd grow. So those were comments that were specifically related to this RAC meeting agenda that we're talking about. There were additional comments that were probably more applicable to our fall meeting, where we actually set season dates and hunt structures. Some of those comments ranged from cutting season date lengths, changing some of the dedicate hunter program requirements, as well as changing

some buck/doe ratios for certain units, and expanding hunt units from the smaller units we're managing now back to larger regional management strategy. Then finally there was one comment about implementing a point restriction rule. Those are things that are comments that came in but they really don't apply to this meeting, they'd be more applicable to our fall meeting. That's kind of a summary of what the public comment was and if there are any questions on the public comment, I can try to address those.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. In your RAC packet there is a chart, I guess we can just go through the buck recommendations first and then the antlerless. We don't need to go through each unit, but the general season buck tags were reduced on the Uinta's and South Slope Yellowstone, and SS Vernal slightly, and the recommendations on the west side of the Basin are consistent with prior years. Does anyone have any specific items they'd like to address on the general buck season?

Conroy Reed: I do. When they do the recommendations for the buck permits do they consider any part of the tribe when they get their permits?

Brett Prevedel: Miles, do you want to address that, or do you want to send that to someone else?

Miles Hanberg: I'll have Dax take a stab at that.

Dax Mangus: I'm the regional wildlife program manager; and help me out Conroy if I don't answer your question, or if I misunderstood. When we look at our deer populations and we model our populations and look at the buck to doe ratios, fawn to doe ratios and all of that, we do it for these entire management units and a lot of our management units include big blocks of tribal land. So we get the population demographics looking at the entire unit, we collect the survival data, I know that Randall Thacker who the biologist on the South Slope often coordinates with tribal members and works with Tribal Fish and Game law enforcement to recover collars if we have a mortality, so that survival data that we collect is collected across the entire unit for both tribe lands and non-tribe lands. The hunting that occurs on tribe lands, obviously that's managed by the Tribe and we have coordination meetings annually where we'll meet with Jamie Arrive the tribe biologist and talk about and share harvest data with on another, so all of those things are taken into account. Obviously the focus of most of what we're talking about tonight are the public permits that are distributed throughout the state draw and there are exterior boundary permits for the limited entry permits that are issued by the Tribe, but as far as general season hunting the tribe has its own regulations and stuff on that on Tribal lands, and I think any tribal member can hunt general season deer on exterior boundary lands as well. All that data and landownership is taken into account when we make the recommendations. I don't know if that answered your question or not, if you have a follow up for me, I'm happy to try and answer anything else.

Conroy Reed: No I think you pretty much hit it. I just wanted to know as far as what they're working with, and I wanted to make sure I'm in line because I'm new to this. So really I'm just trying to get a handle on what the agenda is as far as the tribe is concerned.

Dax Mangus: Thank you, we do coordinate on everything and we're always happy to do that. If you've got more follow up questions or anything like that we're always happy to figure it out and make it work. I know talking to Miles the other day we have a meeting coming up here in a couple of weeks where we regularly coordinate, communicate, and share data and stuff. Thanks.

Brett Prevedel: As a statewide summary, 2019 there was approx. 90,000 general buck deer tags, 2020 it took a significant reduction down to about 80,000, and this year the recommendation is to go down approximately another 5,000 to just under 7,500. With these drought cycles the recommendations are going down with it, and we're down considerably, about 20% if I did the math right in my head, then where we were 3-4 years ago when times were better. Does anyone have any other questions or do you want to address any specific units on the general bucks?

Brad Horrocks: On the Manti unit how did their RAC vote on the Manti unit?

Covy Jones: I can answer that Brad. So, there was a request to reduce 600 permits on the Manti, and that request went to all the RACs I believe. They took action on that in the Southern and the Southeastern regions. The central region they chose not to take action, they listened to the request and choose not to take action. In the northern they listened to their request and made a motion that failed to get a second to take action on that. In the southern they took action and went with the recommendation to reduce the Manti permits by 600, with is from 8,100 to 7,500. And the southeastern did as well. I guess a little background on that, the recommendation on the Manti is to stay status quo which is 8,100. The recommendation for 7,600 the fawn survival has been a little lower than what we anticipated when we made the recommendation. It's still a good recommendation. Either recommendation would bring you inside the management plan; one is a little more conservative, and our recommendation is a little more generous. The cut of 600 is a little more conservative. But neither recommendation is outside the management plan. If that is something that your RAC choose to address, we would understand that.

Brad Horrocks: I would like to make the comment that I was in the tractor and the guy called me on my cell phone, I can't remember his name, but he must have been pretty persistent to call people asking for our support to lower that 600 tags on the Manti, so I was just kind of curious. I didn't have pen and paper to write down his name, and stuff like that, but I did keep that much in my mind. He talked a good story and I have to give him credit for. Its sounds to me like he made the rounds, who ever he was.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, any other questions? And we can sure entertain that in a motion a little bit later if you want, Brad. Any other questions on any of the other units?

Dan Abeyta: I have more of a general question, kind of bigger picture question, so I'm not sure if this is the right time to ask this question. Is it ok to ask that kind of a question?

Brett Prevedel: Sure.

Dan Abeyta: It's best directed towards Covy. Covy, I noticed in your presentation that one of the slides showed a statewide deer population objective of just under 405,000 deer statewide. It looks like for the most part that the data went back from 1992 to last year, so like 28 years worth of data there. It looked like that for the most part, the population estimate is right around 300,000 deer statewide. So I'm just wondering, has the state ever considered, it seems like it's come up before, but has the state ever considered bringing that objective down to more of a number that is closer to obtain? It's been almost three decades based on the slide that was in your presentation that it's been far from the objective. What are your thoughts on that question?

Covy Jones: So Dan, when we re-wrote the statewide deer plan in 2019, we went through the statewide deer population objective is just a summary of all the unit plans. So when we re-wrote that in 2019 we went through a lot of the objectives and made those exact recommendations. It actually was quite a bit higher before that. We asked all the biologist and regional managers to take a really hard look at what was obtainable on their units under better conditions. You know if we could get some better conditions and get our habitat work done, what can we obtain? And a lot of these units that's pushing them a little bit, but if we push all of them a little bit we come up with a goal that's pretty lofty and hard to obtain, but at the same time, I think it's appropriate. It's appropriate and we're going to strive to make those gains and the gains we made from 2010 to 2015-16 it was incredible. We were on our way. A lot of that was the habitat work that we've done, all of us all together, with combination with the right climate, right? So we're doing the work and we just need the right climate. We're not ready to back away from that 400,000 number yet.

Dan Abeyta: Ok. Just curious Covy, you said you redid the statewide management deer plan again, what year did you say that was?

Covy Jones: 2019 we re-wrote the plan. And Kent do you remember what the objective was?

Kent Hersey: Yeah, I have those numbers, I was just going to give those to Dan. We were at 453,100 and we dropped that to the current 404 and change, Covy?

Dan Abeyta: Ok.

Kent Hersey: And to clarify on the numbers, you're right when you go back to the early 90's to about 2010 we were hovering about 300,000. But then we hit 2018 we were up to about 385,000. So we were starting to push 400,000 and we maintained that for a few years, unfortunately the droughts through 2018-present aren't helping us one bit, we're in that downturn. But I think we are still confident that 400,000 roughly is appropriate.

Dan Abeyta: Ok thanks, I appreciate that answer.

Brett Prevedel: Any other questions regarding the general buck recommendations? I'd like to roll into the antlerless deer and limited entry buck and try to do just one motion at the end, and if there are certain things we need to break out, we can do that. The antlerless deer recommendations, as we just talked, the population is somewhere around a little over 300,000 and the recommendation is less than 1,000 antlerless permits. As Covy mentioned in his presentation most of them are targeted at either residential problem deer, or agricultural problem deer. The one exception to that is probably the one here in our region where we have 200 tags recommended in that CWD hot spot around Myton, UT. And that is double of last year's permit numbers. So it's not a big number in the scope overall, but it is a recommended doubling of those tags. Is that accurate, the way I portrayed that Covy?

Covy Jones: Yes, that's accurate. If you wanted Dax or someone to speak to the data we got on that, or why we made that recommendation, the biologist wait for this all year. They love to speak at these meetings. So I'd hate to take away an opportunity from them.

Brett Prevedel: Do we have results from last fall on the CWD testing in that area? Randall or Dax or whoever, could you address that?

Randall Thacker: I'll take that one, Brett. I'm the biologist for the South Slope and the majority of that hunt is in the SS, part of it is in the Anthro though. We did get the CWD data back so far we had about 10 CWD positives just this last year in that area. It increased our concern even more. I guess we're worried about that hot spot down there in Pleasant Valley, Bridgeland and Arcadia area right there, the area surrounding Myton. Not a real concern about the level of CWD that is occurring there. The majority of the positives are still in bucks which is a common thing, but we want to reduce the deer density down there. We've got a lot of agricultural deer down there that are high numbers, high density of deer, the antlerless animals don't get harvested hardly at all if we don't have a hunt like this. So we're trying to reduce the deer density down there, the number of deer in those areas to see if we can reduce the likelihood that those positive animals are going to spread that and have it go to surrounding areas in the unit. That's really the intention of that hunt.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. Any questions for Randall while we've got him on the spot? Are there any other comments or questions regarding deer

antlerless recommendations? Ok, if not we will move forward into the limited entry buck deer permits. Has everyone had a chance to look at them? The Book Cliffs is usually one that comes up in our meeting here which is our biggest LE buck tag. The recommendation is a significant reduction overall from 375 in 2020 to 264 this year; so nearly a third. South Slope Diamond Mountain is recommended to stay stable. There are some late season muzzleloader hunts. Do you have any question on that? Or does anyone want to address the Diamond Mountain recommendation? Ok. Any other questions on LE buck recommendation? Pretty quiet bunch tonight. Ok, I would entertain motions. Does anyone have any items that they would want to make a motion to adjust on general deer, antlerless deer, or limited entry?

Brad Horrocks: Quite impressed with that guy that spent time to chase my phone number down. I would like to see us go with the recommendation, he seemed pretty passionate about that on the Manti to cut the 600 tags. It just seemed like he had done his homework on it. Everything else looked real good to me, and I have no problem with anything else. I guess I just felt like the guy had a good approach and was knowledgeable about that. So I'd like to see us make a motion with it and except everything else and go ahead and go with the 600 tag reduction on the Manti.

Brett Prevedel: That would be the Central Mountains/Manti/San Rafael. The recommendation is 8,100 and your motion is to reduce that to 7,500. Correct, Brad?

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, any other individual items that anyone would like to address?

Ritchie Anderson: Brett this is Ritchie, sorry I'm late getting on. I just have a question on the Manti. What's the range trend showing, and what's the body condition of the deer right now?

Covy Jones: Range trend on the Manti, it really depends on where you are. Gordon Creek has struggled for a long time. Truth is the Manti has been more buffered from.. it still has been in drought, I don't want to say it hasn't been in drought, but that central course of the state between the Manti, Nebo, Wasatch portion of the state has all been buffered with it. So it's not as bad as some of the other areas, it's not as bad as the Book Cliffs. That said, fawn survival is down this year. Fawn/doe ratios are good, but fawn survival is lower than we anticipated for sure. Body condition, Kent do you want to speak on body condition on the Manti?

Kent Hersey: Yes, so including the Central and the southeastern portions, we were running 8.97%. So right there at 9 which is the lower end. In 2019 we were at 11% so we're down a couple percent. Which will have an impact. But the

lowest in the state we were down to 5%. So not as low as it could be, but not great.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok, thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, if there are no other specific recommendations, we have a motion from Brad to reduce the recommendation, or to recommend 7,500 tags on the Central Mountains/Manti/San Rafael for general buck deer. Do we have a second?

Ritchie Anderson: I'll second that.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, we have a motion and a second. I guess we'll deal with this one and then deal with the rest of the packed at presented. We're voting on reducing the Manti tags right now.

The following motion was made by Brad Horrocks, seconded by Ritchie Anderson.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones: Yes.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: to reduce the Central Mountain/Manti/San Rafael unit tags from 8,100 to 7,500 for general season buck deer.

Brett Prevedel: Now I would entertain a motion to accept the remainder of the remainder of the deer recommendations, general buck, antlerless, and limited entry recommendations.

Natasha Hadden: I make a motion to accept the rest of the packet as presented by the Division of Wildlife.

Dan Abeyta: I second Natasha's motion.

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Dan Abeyta.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Now what are we actually trying to do here? The deer buck and everything else that was recommended?

Brett Prevedel: This was the remainder of the deer recommendations. The general buck, limited entry buck, and antlerless recommendations. So all of the remaining deer.

Conroy Reed: I abstain from it.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones: Yes.

Motion passed 9 in favor, 1 abstained.

MOTION: to accept the rest of the packet as presented by the Division of Wildlife.

Brett Prevedel: Rebekah, why don't you take a moment to introduce yourself and right after she's done, Ritchie why don't you do the same.

Rebekah Jones: I represent non-consumptive users.

Ritchie Anderson: I represent agriculture.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Rebekah, were you here for the last two votes?

Rebekah Jones: Just that last one and the reduction of 600 on the Manti.

Brett Prevedel: The Manti and then the general packet. Are you a yes on both of them?

Rebekah Jones: Yes, I am.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, we'll move on to the next agenda item, which is the bull elk and buck pronghorn recommendations.

**00:45:43 6) Bull Elk and Buck Pronghorn Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)
Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager**

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Brett Prevedel: Covy, would you mind taking a brief moment and just kind of summarize the four points that you're recommending. Just the general big picture?

Covy Jones: Absolutely. Let me bring this up really quick for myself. So in elk general season the Board added a few permits to the any bull general season hunt. General season any bull, those are set in the plan, and the Board went to 1,750. Other adjustments, overall LE permits increased about 41 permits. The majority of that came from the new HAMS permits and the September archery. And we had an additional 158 of those from some units that we converted through the process in the fall. So there was an overall decrease in the traditional LE units. And some of those decreases I think affect the region that should be noted as a decrease in the roadless. There is a pretty strong sentiment when we evaluated this as a committee and an agency and took the recommendation through to reduce the age objective from the Little Creek Roadless area, it was met with some opposition. The Board recommended to leave that age objective alone. In order to manage to that age objective we're recommending a significant decrease. Also a decrease on the rest of the Book Cliffs to meet the age objective. That's overall in elk. In pronghorn, we're managing that, we have for the last several years to an age objective now. And in most areas for pronghorn what that's meant is a little more opportunity for pronghorn. Individual units have gone up and down, but overall a little more opportunity in pronghorn for the public and hunters.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. It's kind of my perception that the pronghorn are doing pretty well through this drought cycle. Is that true?

Covy Jones: There have been some areas where they're more impacted than others, Brett. So, some areas they've done well. Pronghorn can be really impacted by drought so it's actually kind of surprising that they've weathered it as well as they have in some areas.

Brett Prevedel: If I may add, the youth tags will not count toward the general any bull.. well not youth tags, but youth that buy a general any season bull will not count towards that 1,750 tags.

Covy Jones: That's a good catch, Brett, thank you for adding that.

Brett Prevedel: Miles, will you take a moment and talk about the public comments on this topic?

**00:49:10 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg, NERO
Regional Supervisor**

Miles Hanberg: Yes. So regarding the bull elk and pronghorn recommendations, 12.5% of the public strongly agreed. 12.5% somewhat agreed. 12.5% neither agreed nor disagreed. 50% somewhat disagreed. 12.5% strongly disagreed. As I reviewed those comments, some of the things didn't necessarily completely relate to this recommendation cycle, but in general they were general season concerns. There were three comments that actually wanted to see a reduction in general season bull elk permits, and a couple that wanted to limit the archery tags which are now unlimited. There were a couple of comments along those lines. One other comment on elk was the antlerless control on the South Slope; I think we'll probably talk about that more in a couple of topics when we get to antlerless. That was included in the bull elk comment section. And another comment that talked about getting rid of the multi season. Again, that's not applicable to this recommendation cycle, but those are the comments we received. So anyway not a lot of feedback from the public on this one, but there were a couple of passionate people about cutting general season elk tags.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Does anyone want to start on any specific unit or have anything they want to discuss with the biologist in the region?

00:50:58 Questions from RAC Members

Brad Horrocks: On the roadless area down there, what's going on down there? Is it habitat? It has a history of giving quite a few tags away and now it's down to six. What's happening?

Brett Prevedel: Clint, are you with us tonight?

Clint Sampson: Yes, I am. Can you hear me?

Brett Prevedel: Yes, we can hear you good. Go ahead.

Clint Sampson: Perfect. So Brad, the main issue there is just trying to meet to an age objective. We haven't been able to meet that objective. The last three years we've averaged seven year old bulls in there and the objective we're managing for is much higher than that, it's 7.5-8. So, we're just trying to find a way to increase the overall age of those bulls in that roadless area. We did recommend this last fall that we lower the age in the roadless to match the Bitter Creek side, the roaded area, and that didn't go through. So, to maintain that higher age objective, we've got to cut permits.

Brad Horrocks: It kind of looks like we went from 18... 20 down to six and I don't have the previous past that. That seems like a drastic reduction. Did we really over harvest bulls last year, or has it been going on for 3-4 years? There has been a cycle of gradually the age limit just going down the last 3-4 years.

Dax Mangus: I might speak to that just a little bit. Just the trend there, we've been cutting permits for five, six, seven years, and as we've cut permits the age is not going up. And like Clint mentioned it's really the same elk population. The roadless can feel really big if you're in there on foot or even on horseback, but for an elk it's just a matter of a few hours, they can be on tribal area, in the roadless area and off the roadless; those elk move a lot. Especially those bulls during the rut when we're doing the hunting. The elk move quite a bit and it's really one elk population that's really hard to manage it for a separate age objective in there. Even though we've cut permits, cut permits, cut permits over the last multiple years, the age has not gone up. Like Clint said, we recommended changing the age in the roadless to have it match the rest of the Book Cliffs, and the answer we got from the public process was no, find a way to manage for quality bulls in the roadless area even though it's the same population. So instead of trying more of the same and making a gradual cut and seeing if the age changed; that obviously hasn't worked the past five, six, seven years, we made a pretty aggressive cut and we'll see if that can work. By really reducing those permits we can grow some older bulls, and the handful of folks that are able to draw a tag can be super selective and should be really great hunt if you're one of the individuals lucky enough to draw a permit in there. But we're not getting the results that we've been charged to get with the gradual cuts, so we're making an aggressive one to try to get there.

Brad Horrocks: Thank you. That makes sense, I guess. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: There was also an action last fall by the Wildlife Board to reduce the rifle spike hunt in the Book Cliffs by five days on the season, and I know that isn't going to have any type of immediate impact on this issue, but there was a reduction. Well, I don't know what that will do to harvest, but there was a reduction in the season.

Ritchie Anderson: I'd like to just make a comment on the roadless area. I attended the LOA meeting requested by the landowners a few weeks ago with Dax there. One issue in the roadless is some of the water issues up on top of the ridges are really depleted. Those were established by ranchers' years and year

ago. Where grazing is typically not allowed, there hasn't been any ranchers in there maintain those facilities; the stock ponds and such. But in talking to Dax, I don't know what the availability to improve those water sources were. A lot of that ground is owned by SITLA. I really think if we can get in there, the DWR or SITLA can work together and get some of those water resources on those ridges operating and opened back up, primarily on these dry years. A lot of times there is no water on those ridges anymore, those stock tanks are not holding water. If we could get in there and improve those and make them functional again, I think that would not only help draw elk back in to the roadless a bit, because there are a lot of habitat projects happening outside of the roadless, I think we need habitat projects inside the roadless, get some better distribution and maybe pull some of those elk back in there. That's just my thought. I think it's a possibility, and Dax indicated that people could probably go in there and improve those water features again and help that area. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Thanks, Ritchie. Also, in the Book Cliffs on the roaded area, the Bitter Creek South, the recommendation is to go from 125 last year to 100 tags this year. South Slope Diamond Mountain there is an increase of about 10% from 56 to 61. And I believe the other unit in our region is the North Slope/Three Corners where there is a slight reduction recommended from 28 down to 25. Are there any other questions or comments on the LE bull elk?

00:57:53 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Dan Abeyta: I just want to say, I fully support the move in the Book Cliffs. Not only for the bull elk, but also for the buck deer. I think this is something that is hard to do, but like I said I fully support. Those are pretty significant reductions in tags and I hope that if you don't see the age increase in a year or two, if we stick with those reductions and not raise the tags, I just want to go on record and say I commend those reductions in the Book Cliffs for bull elk and deer.

Brad Horrocks: I like the idea too that they're trying the five day spike hunt there in the Book Cliffs. I think it shows the public that we're trying some things and working forward on that. It'll be interesting to see next year at this time to see what we feel like that did to the harvest.

Joe Arnold: That's one of my questions as well was if we're reducing the limited entry, what are we doing about the spike tags? Is that an unlimited number, but reducing it to five days? Is that correct on the Book Cliffs?

Covy Jones: I guess I'm not sure exactly how to answer that, Joe. It's never really unlimited because there is a cap statewide. So it's the proportion of hunters that hunt there within the reduced number of days. And really there are several issues going on in the Book Cliffs, what we're doing is.. we just dumped resources in to one of the biggest neonate studies that we've ever done in the Book Cliffs over the last three years. What we're learning is under current conditions, we're nutritionally limited. And so the spike hunt is probably the last

thing we want to eliminate in the Book Cliffs if we care about big bulls. If we want to have big bulls and maintain big bulls out there, it just doesn't make sense to pack more males than you need. We're already bull heavy, male heavy on most of our units, which is by design. Our limited entry units have a lot of bulls, and we want that. The problems we're running into on the Book Cliffs are nutritional limitations, which we're working hard to address. We just need the climate to help out as well. And we'll continue working on it, I know Brett you're a part of that working group, right? A lot of folks on here are. We're doing a lot of things in the Book Cliffs.

Brett Prevedel: Yes and Ritchie, water developments are a big part of that process. And SITLA is very active. I'm not exactly sure if the ones you mentioned are on the list, but we can sure look at that because that's one of the major topic in that group is to look into not only water for the wildlife, but to disperse the livestock. I forgot one other former limited entry area that I'll bring up, Nine Mile Anthro. If you'll remember the Wildlife Board switched the hunt strategy to a HAMS hunt. And this is a new hunt and there are 20 archery tags, and 20 archery, muzzleloader, and shotgun. So the number that is being recommended is 40 tags total on the Anthro unit. Any other questions on bull elk? Conroy?

Conroy Reed: I was asking about the nutritional plan as far as the Book Cliffs. Are you contacting the Tribe to see if they can actually help out with some of that stuff? Or is that something you have actually considered because some of the Tribal land is down there? Is that something that you could think about, maybe, so you wouldn't have to bear the burden of that because there is Tribal land down there. It would probably make sense to try and include the Tribe in some of that nutritional/water, you know, and them trying to assist you with that.

Brett Prevedel: The Tribe is represented on the Book Cliffs working group. I know they've been very active on the feral horse issue. It's a major factor on the forage access on the Book Cliffs. So we've had very good support from the Tribe.

Conroy Reed: Ok, I just wanted to see. You know, like I said I'm new here and I'm trying to get all the information that I can on this. But for the most part the Tribe is willing to help as long as there is good communication between the state and the tribe and any other entities that are involved in this.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. And we know all the species move back and forth between the jurisdictions out there, and the tribe has been very active in this initiative up to this point.

Miles Hanberg: Mr. Chair, if I maybe could just for a minute. We actually do have a summary of a lot of the activities that have gone on in the Book Cliff working group. If it's acceptable to this RAC we could probably present an update in one of the next couple of RAC meetings, just to give RAC members here a better idea of what's been done. A lot of pond cleaning and guzzlers in and

out of roadless. There's been quite a few things that have been done, and we need to do more and keep going. There has been some good progress made, so it's something we need to continue to work on. If that's something the RAC would like, we certainly could give an updated presentation here in the next couple of meetings.

Brad Horrocks: Miles, I'd like to have that, just because if you don't toot your own horn and what's going on, some of us don't know about it. So I think it's good as we go along a little bit, and updates and what's going on. I would like to hear Miles, just you know get more educated about it and it helps us give answers to the public and stuff too.

Miles Hanberg: Let's plan on the next RAC meeting, probably during the regional supervisor update we'll give a little more detailed updated on what activities have gone on in the Book Cliff working group and we'll plan on that.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, Miles. Are there any other questions related to bull elk recommendations?

Daniel Davis: I have some questions. Covy, could you share with us the impregnation rate for the cows this year in the Book Cliffs during the collar study?

Covy Jones: Yeah, Daniel. Do you care if I go back the last three years, is that ok?

Daniel Davis: Absolutely, that would be great.

Covy Jones: So three years ago when we sampled the Book Cliffs it was highly concerning. It was just above 53% of the cows that were pregnant that year. And that was a really dry year, came off a drought. We come back out off a really wet year, and we are back up at I believe 86% which is something I think we see consistently across the state. That's a good pregnancy rate for cow elk. We came back off that wet year and to a dry year again and dropped back down into just above the 50% range. One of the interesting things was that none of the cows that packed a calf last year and successfully had a calf, none of those cows are pregnant again this year. It's really multiple problems; one, that population is just struggling because of the environmental conditions and it's aging. So we also took teeth from the harvested animals on the Book Cliffs, and Dax could probably talk about this a little more, I think it's an important part of this story. We drop back down to the 50 percentile and I know the average age of harvest inside the roadless is ten, and the average age of the rest of the Book Cliffs also super high. Our cows are three and four years older on average than they are in any other units that are harvesting cow elk across the state. So, we're seeing a problem where it's one of the only populations that we've studied across the state and we're bumping up against a carrying capacity with elk. Dax and Clint, I want to make sure I don't miss anything. Is there anything else you'd add to that, that may

be important to Daniel as he's asking to pregnancy rates and body conditions there.

Dax Mangus: I think you hit a lot of it. I think just one of the main points is this goes across all species in the Book Cliffs, it's not just elk, it's not just deer. The Book Cliffs working group, Brett helped a lot there, we did a forage analysis and looked especially at the summer range in the Book Cliffs which is a limiting factor, and we basically determined that we don't have enough feed for the animals that are there, both wild and domestic, feral or stray or whatever else. We don't have enough feed for everything that is there unless we have a perfect year with perfect conditions, and it's been a long time since we've had a perfect year with perfect conditions. So stuff is struggling across the board. And all the different data, all the different metrics collected is backing up and validating that. Poor body conditions, poor pregnancy rates, poor survival, poor recruitment of neonates into the population. It's just across the Board. We're up against a resource limitation. We're hitting a carrying capacity that has been diminished because of bad weather patterns, drought conditions and that sort of thing.

Daniel Davis: Thank you. What time of the year are you guys actually ultrasound the cows to determine pregnancy?

Covy Jones: Kent, do you want to talk about the timing of that?

Kent Hersey: It's the last week in February. We had a sample from this year. We wanted to get 30 pregnant cows, that was our goal and it took us 58 animals caught to get that. The other thing, with our veterinarians out there as well it's obvious on the ultrasound at that time, but even if we did think we missed it, we do take blood from the animals, so we run the blood samples and confirm it and also can do some palpation rectally.

Daniel Davis: My question would be, I guess, is understanding animal nutrition and the fact that their body conditions aren't the greatest, there are times that they won't conceive or carry full term on some pregnancy. But at that time, they're diminished a little bit, but the statement was made that we have an abundance of male population out there, but are there areas in the Book Cliffs where the male population isn't present? It's a pretty diverse area, has it been considered that maybe a higher bull to cow ratio is subjective? I know we don't manage to that and it's a lot of age objective information. But more some of these studies start to come out and the information comes about from the landowner perspective and how they're running the livestock in the area as well it seems pretty consistent across the board that it takes a little higher bull to cow ratio.

Kent Hersey: Are you wondering if there are not enough bulls to impregnate all the cows?

Daniel Davis: Well, that was the statement that was made, so I wanted to question that. The statement was made that we have an abundance of males, but our pregnancy rates are so low.

Kent Hersey: So I think it's just the cows aren't coming into distress. And the reason I would point to that is we have three years of data with essentially the same bull data each year, so we can assume the same bull to cow ratio each year as well. We went from 50% to 86% to 50%, so it doesn't appear that the number of bulls have anything to do with it. Additionally on the units that are managed also with spike hunting and actually at a lower age on the Wasatch was consistently in the upper 80's over four years of that study. There is no data to support that. It seems like it is more of a nutritional limitation, an age limitation, but I don't see any data to support that they are not getting pregnant.

Covy Jones: And Daniel, in addition to that there is some research out there on bulls per hundred cows in elk. And It's been a while since I've read this, but I was amazed in wild populations how low your bull count needed to be, it was lower than deer, how low they could be and still have the ability to fertilize all the cows. So don't hold me to this, and I understand we're in a live public meeting, but the number was like two bulls per 100 cows was sufficient in the elk population they were studying.

Daniel Davis: Sure, that's understandable and it seems more consistent as long as being a part of these studies as well and representing some of these organizations in these studies, that it seems to be the Book Cliffs to be a beast of their own. We can look at a lot of studies across the western United States, but consistencies that we see out there and some of the impacts don't seem to always line up. We've seen some of that over time. If anyone can recall, sportsmen came forward and we asked for permit reductions years ago. Due to drought a lot of folks didn't think it was necessary and we needed to take the males off the landscape. Now we're kind of behind the curve ball and we're advocating to remove tags in large numbers. So it's a good move it's finally happening but it sucks to see that much at one time rather than a progressive trend.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you.

Daniel Davis: I have one more question Mr. Chair, are we going to address the youth permits separate from the LE bulls?

Brett Prevedel: The draw statewide youth hunt. Is that the one you're referring to?

Daniel Davis: Yes sir.

Brett Prevedel: I had missed that in the recommendation, it is to stay stable at 500 tags statewide. And I believe that's open to.. is that any bull area or is that all the any bull and spike areas that they can hunt?

Covy Jones: Those are in the general season any bull areas.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, so the recommendation is to stay stable at 500 tags, Daniels. And then as I mentioned earlier the youth do not count against the 1,750 new cap on the general any bull tags. So I guess you could say that there might be some extra youth any bull tags over the counter available. What was your question on that, or do you want the DWR to address anything on that, Daniel?

Daniel Davis: Yes, I do have a question on that. By rule like on any LE we have, percentage ratios on what's allowed the nonresidents. Is it against, and I'm not going to throw any word out there because I don't want it to become legal or anything like that, but is it against any kind of program or policy if we were to add permits and make them resident only, only applicable permits, does that go against any rule, does that have to go to the legislature to be changed? Could somebody answer that for me?

Covy Jones: Yeah, I think I can answer that for you, Daniel. And the answer is we've allocated that 10% to nonresidents, at one time it was a part of a commerce clause I think, and I'm not an attorney so I can't go into that. As far as having to offer nonresident opportunity, I believe that... there is not that concern, it more goes into being a good neighbor I guess. I've been asked this in several RACs, where are we at in terms of what we offer to nonresidents? We're not the highest, we're not the lowest. When I attend meetings with Colorado commissioners, they've let me know how they feel before. They've said, hey Utah step it up. We give your hunters a lot of our permits and we expect you to be fair in return. And we've said, well, we feel pretty good with where we are. We're not the highest, not the lowest, we're about on average about 10% and we're comfortable with that and we feel like we're playing nice. I don't know if our attorney is on here, but Greg or Justin if you want to answer on that, but I don't believe there is any legal implications on that.

Brett Prevedel: And we'd just be making recommendations to the Wildlife Board anyway, so if it was an issue... If you had a recommendation they could address it legally when it got to them. The current recommendation is 450 resident tags for the youth any bull and 50 nonresidents for a total of 500.

Justin Shannon: Mr. Chair could I weigh in on that real quick? I think where the draw has already occurred and we've had non-residents already apply for these permits, we would need to have some type of permit available for the nonresident. We can't have a draw with applicants and not have a permit available for it.

Daniel Davis: Absolutely Justin, I was more seeking clarification if there was an addition of permits, if more had to be allocated. Or an increase of permits if there was any legality issue or a rule that had to be followed by a specific amount to nonresidents is all. Not to take away. Sorry.

Justin Shannon: No, I think that's on me. I think I misunderstood. Appreciate it.

Brett Prevedel: Any other discussion related to bull elk? Ok, does anyone have a desire to deviate from the recommendations and make a motion?

Daniel Davis: I do, Mr. Chair. I'd like to address the youth bull elk tags. So there was a lot of discussion last fall if I may give a little dialog as to why. There was a lot of discussion last fall when a lot of the restructuring was taking place and the new hunt structure for the archery season, and extending that archery season hunt and realizing the same amount of permits the youth are awarded for that same time frame that's now opened up to the public at an unlimited rate. Out of fairness and equality I feel it important to provide some more opportunity for those youth during that time frame as well. I would like to make a motion on the youth limited entry bull elk hunt that the permits be increased by 250 and those be made resident only youth.

Brett Prevedel: From 450 to 700 resident tags is the motion, I believe?

Daniel Davis: with the 50 remaining as nonresident tags, that is correct.

Brett Prevedel: Alright, we have a motion to increase the youth limited entry tags, which is a draw tag for resident youth by 250 tags. Do I have a second? Ok, not hearing any. Are there any other motions regarding bull elk?

Joe Arnold: I'm sorry I was trying to get on there, I'll second Daniels motion, I think we need more opportunity for youth.

Brett Prevedel: That motion is seconded by Joe Arnold, and we will now vote on increasing the youth draw bull elk tags for residents from 450 to 700.

The following motion was made by Daniel Davis, seconded by Joe Arnold.

Dan Abeyta: No.

Jeff Taniguchi: No.

Brad Horrocks: No.

Mike Smith: No.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: No.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Ritchie Anderson: No.

Rebekah Jones: No.

Motion failed 3 in favor, 7 opposed.

MOTION: to increase the amount of youth limited entry any bull resident tags from 450 to 700.

Brett Prevedel: Motion fails, three for, seven against. Thank you. Do we have any other specific motions regarding bull elk?

Daniel Davis: Yes, Mr. Chair. I would like to address the HAMS hunt on the Nine Mile/Anthro.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, go ahead.

Daniel Davis: Those permit numbers for a quick clarification were 40 for the September hunt and 40 for the October hunt. Is that correct?

Brett Prevedel: I don't believe so. I believe it was 20 and 20 for a total of 40.

Joe Arnold: 18+2 in archery for a total of 20, and the HAMS is 18 + 2 for a total of 20. A total of 40 all together it looks like to me.

Brett Prevedel: That's correct.

Daniel Davis: Sorry, that's why 40 stood out so much. It was the combined, I apologize.

Joe Arnold: Also, on there it shows nothing for 2020 permits. Could we understand what the Nine Mile/Anthro was last year? Even though it was a limited entry so there was no archery or HAMS. What were the permit numbers last year on the Nine Mile/Anthro?

Covy Jones: Derrick, do you have that? I believe it was 38 or 36? I can look it up really quick if Derrick doesn't have it.

Dax Mangus: We'll look it up really quick. I think Derrick couldn't make it tonight. We'll look it up really quick.

Joe Arnold: Sorry to jump in Daniel.

Daniel Davis: No, that's ok. I appreciate it.

Brett Prevedel: While they're looking up that number, are there any other specific issues anyone wants to address to deviate from the recommendations for bull elk? Ok. We'll get that number and then we'll proceed.

Daniel Davis: While that number is being brought up the reason I wanted to address that, could somebody also share the success rates on those? I know those, I've looked them up myself to see what the previous hunt structures success rates were. Is that something in the meantime we can share as well? Or is that more to come?

Covy Jones: Yeah, Kent will you get on success rates, is that ok please?

Kent Hersey: I was looking up the other thing that will take a minute for these now.

Dax Mangus: Last year on Nine Mile/Anthro there were nine archery tags, there were eight early rifle tags, there were eight late rifle tags, five muzzleloader tags, and one multi season. Anybody add those up?

Dan Abeyta: 31.

Covy Jones: Yeah, 31. And I think it's important too, Daniel I'll just answer this, when we asked to look at units that weren't working well as LE units; the Divisions recommendation on Nine Mile/Anthro was to go general season. When we looked at the fluctuation of age and just the difficulty managing the unit, but the public sentiment was a little bit different. It felt that it may fit better into this new structure of September archery and October, November HAMS. And the philosophy behind that was to actually be able to provide more opportunity, understanding that it could be more difficult it could be tough, obviously you're restricted on weapon type, and you could draw a tag more frequently.

Kent Hersey: For success rates I'm showing 63% for rifle, 80% for muzzleloader, and 11% for archery. That was 2020 successes.

Daniel Davis: Thank you Kent, I appreciate you guys doing that. With that information I make a motion that we increase those permits by five for the September hunt and for the remainder hunt in October to a total of 50 overall.

Brett Prevedel: Increase five and five or ten for a total of 50?

Daniel Davis: Yes sir.

Brett Prevedel: Ok. We have a motion from Daniel to increase the tags on the Anthro/Nine Mile HAMS hunt by ten tags, for a total of 50. Do we have a second?

Joe Arnold: Let me clarify, it was at five for archery and five for HAMS?

Brett Prevedel: That's correct.

Dan Abeyta: I'll second that motion.

Brett Prevedel: We have a motion and a second. Let's take a vote.

The following motion was made by Daniel Davis, seconded by Dan Abeyta.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: No.

Brad Horrocks: No.

Mike Smith: No.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: No.

Conroy Reed: No.

Joe Arnold: No.

Ritchie Anderson: No.

Rebekah Jones: No.

Motion failed 2 in favor, 8 opposed.

MOTION: to increase the tags on the Nine Mile/Anthro hunt for five tags on archery and five tags on HAMS for a new total of 50 tags.

Brett Prevedel: Motion fails 2-8. Any other specific motions regarding bull elk? If there are none I would entertain a motion for the remainder of the packet on bull elk.

Natasha Hadden: I would like to make a motion to accept the remainder of the elk packet as presented by the DWR.

Brad Horrocks: I'd second that.

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Brad Horrocks.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: No.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Joe Arnold: No.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones: Yes.

Motion passed 8 in favor, 2 opposed.

MOTION: to approve the remainder of the Divisions presentation as presented.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, motion passes 8-2.

01:31:50 8) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)
Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator and Regional Administrator

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Brett Prevedel: We'll move on to elk antlerless and the general recommendations statewide are fairly stable from about 9,200 last year to about 8,900 this year. If anyone has any units they want to discuss or out of the area, I'll briefly go through our units. North Slope/Summit is recommended to be reduced from 150 to 100. West Daggett is recommended to stay stable at 40. North Slope/Three Corners does not have any cow tags. South Slope Yellowstone, the big change there is the recommendation is to eliminate the control tags, and with that increase the draw tags. So it looks like there is a significant increase on draw tags from 150 to 625, but at the same time the control tags were eliminated, and there are private lands tags on that unit also. South Slope Diamond Mountain/Bonanza/Vernal slightly down on antlerless permits from 750 to 630, and in increase on private lands tags from 450 to 650; though I believe there was a smaller boundary on those private lands tags to exclude the Diamond Mountain portion.

Dax Mangus: Hey Brett, can I just pipe in on that one to make sure we're all on the same page here? So the 450 is how many of the private lands tags that have been being issued for the Vernal/Bonanza, those two subunits combined and then we're recommending adding 200 more that will just be for Diamond

Mountain. So there would be a quota of 200 more permits that would only be valid on Diamond Mountain, and then that existing 450 that's been on the Bonanza/Vernal would continue on the same level. Just to clarify.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you for correcting me on that, because I was confused, obviously. The Book Cliffs last year there were 150 tags, this year they're recommending 255. I don't believe the recommendation was changed; it was just reduced at the Wildlife Board based on a motion last year. So the recommendation is to increase tags but I think it was consistent with last years recommendation. And then Nine Mile/Anthro 500 last year and 500 again this year and 200 private lands tags consistent. Wasatch Mountains/Avintaquin they're recommending a 50 tag increase from 100 to 150. And I believe that takes care of all of them in our region, but you are welcome to look at the chart and ask questions about any others. Are there any comments on this recommendation?

Dan Abeyta: I just want to get a little clarification here. Was it 600 control tags on the Yellowstone unit, they've been shifted to what Dax? Are they private lands only, are they draw tags? What are they?

Brett Prevedel: Randall is on, let's let Randall address that. There was not a limit on the control tags though, Dan.

Randall Thacker: Yes, the control tags were unlimited essentially, but that's for multiple units. There were six units at least last year in the state that had antlerless control permits so you could buy that permit and use it in any of those units if you already had a bull elk tag for that same unit, or a buck deer tag for that unit you could then harvest an antlerless elk while you were there with your other hunt, during your hunt. There have been quite a few of those, we've been up to 17,000 at times being utilized on SS Yellowstone, some years of course less than that. But the success rates on that are not near as high either, the success rates are in the teens usually. But there was a lot of concern on that one that we were having so much pressure on the cow elk on the unit even prior to the rifle hunt that even more of the animals are pushing down to the tribal lands south and were being unavailable to our general public. There is much less general hunting pressure on the Tribe lands at that time of year, so hitting them hard on the Forest that time of year, we think was helping contribute to why so many of the elk left before the rifle hunt. So this is an attempt to back off on some of that pressure in the archery hunt and the muzzleloader deer hunt where some of that was happening before that was helping push the elk down even earlier on the Tribal lands. And they go down there eventually for the winter, but we want to keep as many as possible on the Forest for opportunities. So what we've done is switch that, the recommendation is to put more, we'll still have some limited entry permits during that rifle hunt, and then during the muzzleloader elk hunt which is later, the last hunt we really have out there during general season hunts with some hunting pressure there later to still get the hunting pressure we need. That unit is over objective and has been for years, but also it has been maintaining now for six years at about that steady level. We do need to get antlerless harvest so that's where we shifted it is to those limited entry hunts hoping that in the past when

we've had those hunts they've had double the success rate of the antlerless control permits. Does that answer your question?

Dan Abeyta: Yes it does, Thank you Randall. I do have a follow up question, on the 200 private lands only cow elk tags for Diamond Mountain. Are those a new thing like over above last years quota? Or is that a shift from something else?

Amy Vande Voort: I'm the biologist for Diamond. In the past we've been issuing depredation vouchers to the LOA, this is an attempt to streamline the process so they're still getting the pressure of the private land without going through all the steps of the depredation program.

Dax Mangus: Basically these private lands only permits will take the place of those depredation permits that have been issued to the LOA in the past. They'll continue to have the proclamation draw permits like we've had in the past. The majority or a lot of folks that draw those end up hunting them on private lands. I think most of our antlerless pressure on the private lands used to come from those private lands depredation permits and these private lands only permits will kind of take the place of those depredation permits.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, so it really just sounds like this is making it easier administratively. Is that what I'm hearing?

Dax Mangus: It gives a little more flexibility to the landowners on Diamond Mountain to address if certain landowners are really overwhelmed with antlerless elk on their individual properties it gives them a little more flexibility. In the past the organization would distribute those antlerless permits and some landowners would end up with a lot of elk on them and not enough permits and other landowners would end up with not as many elk and extra permits. So I think it maybe just streamlines that process. So in a way you could say helps with administration. I think it doesn't just help the Division; it also helps Diamond Mountain landowners a little as well. I hope it does at least.

Brad Horrocks: I haven't heard of anything but support in doing it this way from LOA. I think it's a good deal, I spoke to three of them and I think this is a good deal.

Brett Prevedel: I will add that the private lands tags all across the SS have been very successful. They're getting the numbers they want as far as keeping the herd objective stable. And the success rate is significantly better than the control tags. Initially I was one that had a lot of concern about the private lands tags, but as I've watched it evolve I think the Division has done really well with these private lands tags with addressing depredation issues in a fairly simple way.

Dan Abeyta: I do have one more follow up question. So the private landowners on Diamond Mountain can set the fee for accessing that private land as they see fit, correct?

Amy Vande Voort: Yes they can. Just like they used to be able to sell the vouchers for what they wanted for a trespass fees.

Dan Abeyta: Ok. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Are there any other questions regarding antlerless elk? Are there any motions regarding any deviations from the recommendations?

Daniel Davis: I have one question Mr. Chair. So on the Nine Mile/Anthro consistently we have a harvest objective of 500 and the 200 private land. Why such a high number on those cow permits?

Dax Mangus: Maybe I can answer this, Derrick isn't available tonight. So the population objective, the goal on the Nine Mile/Anthro is 700 elk. We're consistently over that number, so we issue quite a few antlerless permits to try to manage towards that objective. Success rate varies year to year, but a lot of years it's fairly low. We did some collar study on elk in Anthro a few years back and it was really interesting to see that in summer months when access was good to the top, they spent a lot of time in low elevations on Tribal lands in the thick pinion, Juniper woodlands. Then in the winter as we got snow and kind of started blocking off access to the roads to the higher elevations a lot of those elk moved. So they kind of did the opposite of what you'd think. They spent the summer in the desert and the winter at the top of the mountain. But it really had to do with avoiding people and going where the access wasn't. So success rate on the Anthro late cow hunts isn't great. We've documented a lot of movement between the Avintaquin unit and the Anthro unit, those elk move back and forth. So it's kind of tricky and that's why a lot of those elk hunts are set for later in the year, because we're managing for a wintering population objective, and we get a lot of animals that come into the unit later in the year from Anthro, but it depends sometimes on the year. Permit numbers on Anthro have stayed about the same the last few years, success rate is a little low, but it seems to be working. That's kind of the basis behind that recommendation. It's trying to manage to objective and try to take into account that we typically have fairly low success, that's why we issue so many.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Randall, would you like to comment on that?

Randall Thacker: Yes, just to make one additional point on that, Daniel, if you notice those permits, 250 of them in the late hunt are actually the West Anthro/Avintaquin. That's both units and the Avintaquin subunit of the Wasatch is included in that hunt with it. It really is kind of a technicality that we put them all into the unit with the Anthro unit. We could have just as easily put them in the Avintaquin and say there was 250 more there and that would make it look like there was only 250 on the Anthro. It's just kind of how the naming and trying to

be consistent with how we name those permits, but half of those tags can hunt the Avintaquin too which is actually larger than the West Anthro portion. So it's actually not as much hunting pressure there as you would think, assuming that they're all on Anthro.

Brett Prevedel: Miles, you mentioned earlier that there were some comments specific to antlerless elk. Do you have that available?

**01:46:45 Electronic Public Comment Report (Informational)
Miles Hanberg, NERO Regional Supervisor**

Miles Hanberg: There were just two comments. The one comment was pretty close to what Daniel just brought up. They were commenting and thinking it was a lot of permits for Anthro. Then the other comment was questioning the cow elk permits in the Book Cliffs. So that was the two. But no other feedback, other than there was one comment about the antlerless control permits, and I think their concern was they had applied for a deer tag or something on the Yellowstone unit and then this process is coming after that and the if the Board approves the antlerless control recommendation the antlerless control will be eliminated. So that was their concern.

Brett Prevedel: Yes, that's accurate, I spoke to... they were dedicated hunters that were taking advantage of being able to hunt elk during dedicated hunter seasons, and had already put into those tags and they felt like the timing wasn't fair to them.

Ritchie Anderson: Just for the Book Cliff cow elk tags, could you just clarify your reasoning behind that? I've had a few people hit me up about that and I'm ok with the recommendation, but could you just clarify why you recommended the antlerless tags you did in the Book Cliffs?

Brett Prevedel: Clint, could you address that please?

Clint Sampson: You bet. Like we've talked about already, the overall age of the elk in the Book Cliffs that we found out from these last seasons of harvest is higher than what we usually see, especially in the Roadless. If you look at our overall population and how many cow elk we're harvesting on the unit, it's not going to drive the population into the ground. The idea behind it is to maybe jump start the population, maybe lower and kill some of these older cows that are competing potentially with younger cows that have the potential for production. And you can come back and say that most hunters don't want to kill gummars out there on the landscape, they're after some nice plump yearling/two year old cow, but in all reality a lot of hunters are just willing to shoot what is in front of them and are opportunistic when it comes to cow hunting. So that's kind of the reasoning behind it, we're not trying to drive the population lower, just curious to see if we can lower that age and try to make the herd more productive, more healthy.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok, thank you. I appreciate it.

Brett Prevedel: I think it's kind of ironic that we have a lot of debate, and it's good to debate, about the Book Cliffs. But recommending 255 tags for a herd of 5,500 elk, I don't know what the percentage is there, but very low. Whereas on the SS Yellowstone we were just having this discussion, there are approx. 3,000 tags on a herd of 7,400. And I understand they have the Tribal land issue to hide on. But that herd stays stable with like a 40% of the population out in antlerless tags. So it just kind of highlights the difference in the Book Cliffs where it struggles and maybe where they have a little better condition. Just my two cents worth. Are there any motions that would deviate from the Divisions recommendations for antlerless cow elk? Ok, if not I would take a motion for the packet as presented.

Dan Abeyta: I will make a motion that we accept the packed as it's been presented for antlerless elk.

Natasha Hadden: I'll second that.

The following motion was made by Dan Abeyta, seconded by Natasha Hadden.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: No.

Joe Arnold: No.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones: Yes.

Motion passed 8 in favor, 2 opposed.

MOTION: to approve the presentation as presented by the Division.

Brett Prevedel: Motion passes 8-2.

01:52:13 **7) Once-In-A-Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2021 (Action)**
Riley Peck, OIAL Species Coordinator and Regional Wildlife
Manager

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Brett Prevedel: Ok, next on the agenda, will be the OIAL permit recommendations for 2021. Who from the Division... Let's see.

Covy Jones: Brett, we're going in a little bit of a different order tonight, I want to make sure we don't miss anything. You're right we still need to address OIAL. I don't feel like we had a vote on doe pronghorn recommendations. That was with the rest of the antlerless recommendations. And I'm trying to understand it, did the RAC intend to include the antlerless deer recommendations when we talked about deer? And if we did then that's fine.

Brett Prevedel: The antlerless antelope when we did deer, was that was it was?

Dan Abeyta: I thought that we covered the antlerless deer a couple of agenda items back. We talked about the chronic wasting, and how there were a couple 200 tags extra for that on the Nine Mile/Anthro with the Myton CWD hot spot.

Covy Jones: Ok, and if the RAC feels like that motion vote covered it, I just want to document that that was what that vote was. And we still haven't addressed antlerless pronghorn permits, and we do need to address those.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you Covy, I forgot the antlerless pronghorn. Where is that table in the packet? Is it in right with the deer?

Covy Jones: Yes, it was in with the antlerless.

Daniel Davis: Would it be more appropriate at this point where we lumped deer and elk with each motion item to maybe continue based on that realm with each species?

Brett Prevedel: Yes, I think that would be... especially now that I've kind of got in a problem that we should do that. We should address the antelope separately.

Covy Jones: And we need to address, I'm sorry, so in the antlerless animals that we haven't addressed are antlerless moose, doe pronghorn, and ewe big horn sheep. We need to make sure we address all of those with antlerless.

Dan Abeyta: Brett, that doe pronghorn is bookmarked as 5D if that helps, over on the left side of the agenda.

Brett Prevedel: Ok.

Rebekah Jones: It's also on page 24 of the packet.

Brett Prevedel: Ok.

Dax Mangus: Ok, I can give a quick summary of the recommendations from our Region if you want. I don't have all the ones from the rest of the state on memory, but I can give you a run down of our regional pronghorn recs if you want it.

Brett Prevedel: Or I can just read it here, I finally found it. This is limited entry pronghorn permits, which we didn't address any of the pronghorn. LE pronghorn permits there is an increase from 24-34 in the Book Cliffs Bitter Creek. Book Cliffs South is stable at 29. The Nine Mile/Anthro there is an increase of 74 to 90. Nine Mile Range Creek, which is out of our unit, but it's stable at 12. North Slope/Summit an increase of two from eight to ten. North Slope/Three Corners had an increase of 35 to 40. SS/Bonanza/Diamond Mountain an increase from 51-60. SS Vernal an increase also from 40-57. And that's the LE antelope. Are there any questions? It looks like there is pretty much an increase across the board. Are there any questions?

Brad Horrocks: The SS Vernal unit and the Bonanza and those that they're increasing them on, is that because of the drought, or has the herd objective growing, or what's the reasoning for such a large increase?

Dax Mangus: So, we manage our buck pronghorn based on average age of harvested bucks and that is 2-3, so 2.5 year old age of harvested bucks and all of our units are quite a bit above that. And also all of our units have really high documented buck/doe ratios. On a unit like Vernal the buck/doe ratio is higher than 1:1. In that change where we manage to the age of 2.5 year old bucks, that's just changed in the last few years when we updated the pronghorn plan just a few years back. A lot of research and data have shown that pronghorn have achieved basically maximum antler growth, not antlers I'm sorry, their horn growth is about as big as it's going to be by the time they're 2-3 years old. They don't grow a whole lot more if they live much longer than that, so that's why we changed that to allow for more opportunity for more folks to harvest and we can still have good trophy quality on pronghorn from our unit as well. So that's where the increases are coming from in our region, we're well above that age objective, we have high success rates, very high hunter satisfaction from our pronghorn hunts, so there is opportunity to give more tags based on those ages because of buck/doe ratios.

Brad Horrocks: Good. Thank you. It seems like to me the good years are going on around here with the trophy quality, the success and I hear a lot of positive about it.

Brett Prevedel: Are there any other questions about the LE antelope? Ok, since we have no side motions, doe pronghorn hunts, there is a new hunt on Nine Mile/Anthro/Pleasant Valley with 70 recommended tags. NS/Summit, five tags. NS/Three Corners, five tags. NS/West Daggett, four tags. I believe that's the recommended ones. Is the new hunt new tags, or is it just a new boundary?

Dax Mangus: It's a new hunt, new tags. Pronghorn, it's kind of interesting, things are looking pretty good for bucks, as far as mature bucks and like I mentioned harvest success and hunter satisfaction. As far as overall pronghorn numbers we have seen some little dips on fawn recruitment because of the drought. But they're pretty adaptive so what we've had happen in a few areas like Pleasant Valley, and Ouray Valley are a couple of them, we've had a ton of the pronghorn that have sucked into the irrigated alfalfa fields. They're doing great, they're having twins, they're having triplets when they're having irrigated alfalfa. But some of those landowners are getting pretty tired of seeing literally hundred of pronghorn in their alfalfa fields. Last year we called a couple of emergency depredation doe hunts and harvested some does in those areas, and we also issued some landowner vouchers, but we had a lot of landowners that were willing to let the public on to harvest the doe so we could address some of this change in distribution of a lot of pronghorn showing up in irrigated fields and being really productive. So, rather than issuing as many landowner vouchers, or calling those emergency depredation hunter pool hunts, we're going to issue these public draw doe pronghorn permits. There seems to be quite a bit of demand to draw out doe pronghorn hunts, and we have a lot of landowners that are willing to let the public on. So that's a new hunt, new permits but it's kind of replacing the permits that we issued through the depredation hunter pool last year or vouchers that we've been issuing to landowners, and we're still trying to navigate this and figure it out in Ouray Valley, but in Pleasant Valley we're recommending this doe hunt this year and we're hoping this can work towards addressing the over abundance of pronghorn in those irrigated fields.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, are there any questions or any other questions or anything that would deviate from the recommendation for doe pronghorn? Ok, Covy's suggestion is a good one, while we're dealing with these we'll just group them into one motion. Antlerless moose hunt, there aren't any in the northeastern region that I can see. There just the two in East Canyon, one in Morgan and one in Ogden. If anyone has any questions or any concern with that, please speak up. Then there is one bighorn ewe hunt to harvest ten animals on the Newfoundland Mountains. Does anyone have any comments on that? Ok, if not, I would take a motion to approve the Divisions recommendations for buck antelope, antlerless antelope, pronghorn excuse me, antlerless moose, and ewe bighorn.

Dan Abeyta: I'll make a motion that we accept the Divisions proposal for those that you just mentioned, Mr. Chairman.

Brad Horrocks: I would second that motion.

The following motion was made by Dan Abeyta, seconded by Brad Horrocks.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Joe Arnold: n/a.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones:

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: to accept the Divisions proposals on buck and antlerless pronghorn, antlerless moose, and ewe bighorn sheep as presented by the Division.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you Covy, keeping us in line.

Covy Jones: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Brett Prevedel: We'll move on to OIAL permit recommendations. Riley would you give us a very brief overview. A summary like your summary page?

Riley Peck: I can, I thought Miles was going to do that? Is that accurate Miles?

02:05:45 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg, NERO Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: I can give the public input or the comments from the public, which we received no comments or anything at all on the OIAL. No responses from our region at all on that. In terms of the permit numbers and those kinds of changes, I don't have those right in front of me.

Riley Peck: I'm sorry Mr. Chair, I thought you were asking about the public comment and information that way. Were you asking about the permit summaries?

Brett Prevedel: Yes, just a brief summary of your recommendation just like what you have on your memorandum.

Riley Peck: Alright, in summary I'll start with bison on the Book Cliffs, there is not a large change in that. Generally speaking we're leaving bison on the Book Cliffs very similar to what it was in 2020. Maybe a couple of exceptions to that would be the Little Creek Roadless area and the Bitter Creek South hunt. On bison on the Henry Mountains, to address drought, range conditions and some of the factors that are surrounded by that, there is a pretty aggressive increase in bison on the Henry's. And when looking at bighorn sheep for Desert Bighorn, we're looking at an increase of three permits overall on Desert Bighorn. For Rocky Mountain Bighorn we're looking at an increase of three permits overall. On mountain goat we're recommending a decrease of two permits overall. Then I think that leaves me with moose, is that the only one I left off? I did, with moose we're recommending an increase of five permits overall. I don't know if there are questions on the specific units or animals, but that is a brief overview of the recommendations.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, I appreciate that. Any questions from the RAC?

02:08:11 Questions from RAC Members

Brett Prevedel: Ok, I hear none, if everyone is good with the recommendations, I would entertain a motion.

Jeff Taniguchi: I would like to recommend that we accept the Divisions recommendation on once in a lifetime animals.

Natasha Hadden: I'll second that.

The following motion was made by Jeff Taniguchi, seconded by Natasha Hadden.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Joe Arnold: n/a.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones:

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: to accept the Divisions proposals on Once in a Lifetime species as presented.

02:09:50 **9) 2021 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**
Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Brett Prevedel: Chad, are you with us?

Chad Wilson: Yes, I'm here. Were you wanting a review like Riley gave?

Brett Prevedel: Yes, just a brief summary would be great.

Chad Wilson: So, overall this is where the public gets a lot of tags, so where there are 42 renewal applications, two change applications, and three new application for a total of 66 CWMU's with antlerless permits. 160 private permits and 1,105 public permits. I can break it down per species how many private and public if you'd like.

Brett Prevedel: No, I think we're pretty familiar with it. Does anyone have any specific questions related to the CWMU recommendations?

02:11:27 **Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg, NERO**
Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: I'll jump in real quick with the public feedback. Not many comments, 50% strongly agreed and 50% neither agreed or disagreed. There was really only 1 comment and that comment was supporting more cow tags on CWMU in an effort to help distribute elk from CWMUs on to some of the adjacent public lands. In

some cases, I think the comment indicated that the elk can stack up on CWMUs and not be available to the public on public lands. So their support was to get more tags to help distribute tags further out on the landscape.

Brett Prevedel: I believe that same comment was brining up that they would not hunt CWMUs during the general hunts on the surrounding lands, Chad, as a way to give the animals refuge from the public hunters. There were some comments... (inaudible).

Chad Wilson: You kind of fell off there at the end, but I think I understand the question. Yeah, I guess there is just concern. We have the private lands only tags that we give to make it so there is pressure on the elk on private lands, so the concept is that the CWMUs potentially we need to do the same thing. They have tags so sometimes I don't know if it's just wanting more tags, but maybe targeting of when they hunt. So the concept was more having the CWMUs hunt their elk at the same time we have antlerless elk seasons. So when we have our general season it doesn't just push them on to CWMUs and give them a safe haven that we can have higher success both on the CWMU and off the CWMU.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. So, does anybody on the RAC have any questions or any input on the CWMU recommendations? If not I would entertain a motion on that subject.

Natasha Hadden: I'll make a motion to accept the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations as presented by the Division of Wildlife.

Jeff Taniguchi: Second.

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Jeff Taniguchi.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: No.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones:

Motion passed 9 in favor, 1 opposed.

MOTION: to approve the Divisions recommendations on CWMU antlerless permits as presented by the Division.

**02:15:08 10) Conservation Permit Rule Amendments
Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief**

Presentations could be viewed at
<http://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Brett Prevedel: Justin, would you just briefly summarize this?

Justin Shannon: Sorry, I was on mute there Brett. Apologize. I'll summarize this briefly. What we're doing is recommending updates the conservation permit rule. In a nutshell it's to simplify, strength, and clarify portions of the rule. That's what we're doing tonight.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. It looks like it's fairly complex with the graphs and the trades, and all that.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, when you look at it a lot of what we were doing was cutting portions of the rule. And there were changes throughout. But if this passes, the rule will be much more simple and shorter. Miles, did you have a summary?

02:16:26 Electronic Public Comment Report by Miles Hanberg, Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: Yes. So basically the feedback was that 20% strongly agreed, 20% somewhat agreed, then 60% neither agreed nor disagreed. And we didn't have any public comment submitted on this topic.

02:16:46 Questions from RAC Members

Brett Prevedel: Does the RAC have any questions or comments?

Daniel Davis: I've got a couple of questions, Mr. Chair. So on the profit share, could you provide us a little more clarification on the profit shared portion of that and how it applies to new organizations getting in?

Justin Shannon: Yes, let me make sure I understand the question. Is your question what is market share, or is it, if a new organization joins how do they get market share?

Daniel Davis: Yes, that correct I'm sorry. Market not profit.

Justin Shannon: Ok, I'll start with the latter then. If a new organization joins the conservation permit program, they'll get .5% market share. Which is higher than what it was previously with a one year group starting. What we wanted to do was start new groups off on the right foot and get them integrated in to the three year program. Let them have tags available that they can market during that three year time frame and raise the money for wildlife conservation. Does that help?

Daniel Davis: It does. Now do these conservation organizations supplement more than that .5% if they get choose.

Justin Shannon: I'm sorry, I don't understand the question. What do you mean by supplement the .5%?

Daniel Davis: So that .5%, if I understand correctly, goes towards the bidding process for conservation permits. Are they capped at that value, or can they add additional funds if you will for additional permits?

Justin Shannon: Oh I see. For the first three years it would be set at .5%, but then based on how the conservation organization preforms during that period, for example if they double their market share, or they sell those permits for quite a bit more than it was the previous three years, and they're able to increase their market share, then yes the next time we do a three year cycle they'd have more money to bid on permits and get more permits for their conservation organization.

Daniel Davis: And that's on growth, correct? So what happens in an instance when some units decrease, what happens to some of their conservation permits don't hold a public perceived value that grows and they're unable to obtain that growth. Is that a penalty towards those organizations?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, that's why it's so important to draft wisely. So when the conservation organization is looking to spend their market share and what to obtain the right permits, they'll have to choose wisely on what they think members of their organization would be willing to bid on. So we constantly have units that improve or decrease over the life of the three year span, so there's no certainty with it. But again, the groups are able to submit their permits up front, so the more research a group does, the better off they'll be.

Daniel Davis: One more quick clarification, I glanced over the rule. The conservation permits are auction only, is that correct? These organizations couldn't do a raffle of sorts, or any other additional fund-raising attempts to generate funds. Is that correct?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so what it needs to be is an online on in person auction with the assistance of a live auctioneer that is well advertised. As part of the rule that's the way they should be auctioned.

Daniel Davis: I just want to say thanks to Justin. I wanted to get some of that information out there. I've been asked a lot about how that process works directly in line with the questions that I asked. So I appreciate you answering those for me tonight.

Justin Shannon: No problem, thanks Daniel.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Any other questions from the RAC? If not, I will entertain a motion on this topic to accept it as presented. Sorry, I had to relocate, I've had some Wi-Fi problems. That's why I'm running around my house carrying my computer. You guys just quit talking. You're right there on the screen and you're not moving and I realized it's not you, it's me.

Daniel Davis: I'll make the motion, Mr. Chair, to accept the amendments as presented.

Brad Horrocks: I'll second that, Mr. Chair.

The following motion was made by Daniel Davis, seconded by Brad Horrocks.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Abstain.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones:

Motion passed 9 in favor, 1 abstained.

MOTION: to approve the Division presentation as presented.

Brett Prevedel: Thanks for bearing with me. I had some technical issues the whole meeting. Are there any other topics anyone wants to discuss tonight?

Dan Abeyta: I've got a question, I kind of missed my opportunity. I lost connection here earlier in our meeting. But I wanted to ask the question to the Division of Wildlife about the safety of human consumption of deer that have CWD. What's the latest on that because I hear it's safe to eat deer that are infected with CWD; but I hear there is also information out there that suggest that maybe it's not so safe. I'm thinking in terms of that SS/Myton 200 doe deer permit. Could somebody address that question?

Covy Jones: I can take that one if you'd like. First of all, I'm not a veterinarian, and I'm not a medical professional, I'm a biologist. So I'm going to address it as a biologist and the understanding I have, which is pretty limited. What I would say is, we'll test the animal. So I wouldn't recommend that anyone ate meat from a deer that has CWD, I know that they've done studies, and you find studies on... You can research that out on your own and make the decision out for yourself. But I will say that we're willing to test the animal, we're willing to come and get to dispose of the meat. I wouldn't recommend that anybody ate the meat of a positive animal. Is there anything I missed or anything you'd like to add to that?

Justin Shannon: I would just say that we'll air on the side of caution, and we'd recommend against it.

Daniel Davis: The point is the protected to discard that meat through a dumpster, dump station or what have you, without the potential for waste of wildlife. Or how does that process work?

Covy Jones: Call us Daniel, we'll come get it.

Randall Thacker: We send out a letter to each of those permittees that they identify where they can get that animal tested so they have the opportunity to get it tested. We encourage them strongly to get them tested and make sure if they do have an animal that tests positive, we have someone who literally will go pick up the meat from them and take it so we make sure it gets destroyed and doesn't end up in a dumpster or end up on a mountain. We make sure it goes in the right place and then they have the opportunity if there is a positive animal we give them a permit for the next year so they don't lose the opportunity gain the meat.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, that's kind of where I was going Randall. Thank you.

Ritchie Anderson: I just had another quick comment on the Book Cliffs. I think there is a lot of effort and it's a good effort but it's a combined effort between a lot of agencies and individuals. I think the Book Cliffs is a touchy area

and it's sensitive right now, but I think the management adjustments that's been made out there, a lot of the efforts that are made out there, I think we're going to see results. I think we get some moisture and things are headed in the right direction out there in the Book Cliffs. With some added moisture I think we're going to see some big changes. And my comment on the roadless area wasn't meant to mean the DWR hasn't done any habitat in there, it just meant we have additional opportunity on some of those ridges to help out. But I really like a lot of the direction that the way things are going in the Book Cliffs. Thank you.

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair, would it be possible to ask that with those Book Cliffs updates that are going to be provided throughout the next few upcoming RACs, if it would be possible to identify some of the funded projects from the conservation organizations that are helping out and kind of what that value accounts for? We talk about it; we're all committed to help. We've had the meeting recently where the money has been dedicated to some of those specific improvements. Could those be included as well in those updates?

Miles Hanberg: Yeah, we can do that Daniel. We have some spreadsheet with total amounts of contributions from partners. We can do that specifically on the Book Cliffs. That's totally possible.

Daniel Davis: Thank you, Miles.

Brett Prevedel: Thanks, Miles. Do you have anything else you want to add this evening, Miles?

Miles Hanberg: Nothing really specific, but Brad made a comment that maybe we need to toot our own horn more, and I think this Book Cliffs working group is a lot of success and a lot of progress made and we definitely need to toot the horn of the collective group and the things that have been accomplished out there. We provide updates here and there but it's time to update the RAC and hopefully the public can see the magnitude of efforts that have been applied out there. And it's something that I think is good commitment of our partners to continue to move forward with that in the future. It's an important area for a lot of people, the sportsmen, the state, so we're taking it seriously.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Have we addressed everything on your list, Miles? After I got it out of order, do you think we got it all captured?

Miles Hanberg: Yes, as I look at it, I think we did. Unless anybody else sees a place that we missed, I think we got everything covered.

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.

Dan Abeyta: I second that.

The following motion was made by Daniel Davis, seconded by Dan Abeyta.

Dan Abeyta: Yes.

Jeff Taniguchi: Yes.

Brad Horrocks: Yes.

Mike Smith: Yes.

Daniel Davis: Yes.

Natasha Hadden: Yes.

Conroy Reed: Yes.

Joe Arnold: Yes.

Ritchie Anderson: Yes.

Rebekah Jones:

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: to adjourn.

02:31:10 Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

BRIAN C. STEED
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. RORY REYNOLDS
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: April, 20 2021

To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members

From: Chad Wilson, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

Subject: Weber Florence Creek CWMU Tag Numbers

Weber Florence Creek CWMU renewed their CWMU last year, and it was approved by the Wildlife Board in December 2020. Last year, DWR switched to an online database for all CWMU applications, and permit numbers were converted over to the new database. Unfortunately, DWR inadvertently recommended 10 less bull elk permits for Weber Florence Creek CWMU during this process, and the error was not caught by DWR or Weber Florence Creek which resulted in the Wildlife Board approving fewer permits than desired for this CWMU. In fall 2020, the Weber Florence Creek received 72 private vouchers and 8 public hunters were able to hunt the CWMU. DWR is recommending 9 additional private vouchers and 1 additional public draw permit for the Weber Florence Creek CWMU (see table below).

Year	Species	Private	Public
2020	Bull elk	72	8
2021	Bull elk	63	7
Asking	Bull elk	72	8





State of Utah

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Division of Wildlife Resources

J. RORY REYNOLDS
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 14, 2021
To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members
From: Nathan Owens, AIS Coordinator
Subject: Proposed rule change to R657-60 (Aquatic invasive species interdiction rule)

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) has helped protect Utah's lakes and reservoirs from invasive quagga and zebra mussels for over a decade through its implementation of the Aquatic invasive species interdiction rule (R657-60). Since the inception of UDWR's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program, watercraft decontamination has played a pivotal role in preventing the spread of invasive mussels from reservoirs like Lake Powell, Lake Mead, and Lake Havasu.

Watercraft decontamination is required prior to the launching of any boat in Utah that has been used in an infested water or in any other water subject to closure order under Section R657-60-8 or control plan under Section R657-60-9 within the last 30 days. These decontamination requirements can be met in three different ways:

1. through the clean, drain, and dry process by which a boat is kept dry for a defined period of time depending on the time of year and type of boat;
2. through a professional hot water decontamination by a Division-approved provider. This professional decontamination includes the application of a combination of 120° and 140°F water to different areas and systems of the watercraft in order to kill any mussels onboard; or
3. by complying with the decontamination protocols identified in a certificate of registration issued by the Division.

With a goal of always providing the quickest and most effective watercraft decontamination services to the public, UDWR has used the maximum water temperatures possible without risking damage to the watercraft or any of its systems. These decontamination standards are science-based and shared and recognized by all western states.

UDWR and its partners have developed a new revolutionary method for decontaminating complex watercraft like wakeboards using a hot water dip tank. This new method will involve



the boater backing their boat down into a tank full of water maintained at a temperature of 110°F and activating the motor, ballast and bilge pumps, and other raw water systems simultaneously. The exposure to hot water will allow for the complete decontamination of the boat exterior and all raw water systems onboard in under five minutes. The same decontamination performed without the dip tank would take between 30-60 minutes. As a result, the use of the dip tank at Lake Powell will allow UDWR to more effectively and efficiently decontaminate watercraft departing the infested reservoir and protect other waters in Utah.

UDWR is proposing a rule change to the Aquatic invasive species interdiction rule that adds needed flexibility to the temperature requirements for hot water decontaminations and more expansively reflect scientific findings on mussel mortality when exposed to hot water. This change would accommodate UDWR's new dip tank technology at Lake Powell, which utilizes water at lower temperatures but with longer exposure times, to decontaminate departing watercraft and address the mussel threat as close to the source as possible.

This rule change was not presented to the Regional Advisory Councils because of the compressed timeline associated with this project. UDWR was uncertain as to when the dip tank would be finished and transported to and installed onsite at Stateline Launch Ramp at Lake Powell. With the boating season at Lake Powell already beginning to pick up, and the low water levels at the reservoir resulting in hydrostatic mussels on several retrieved boats each day, there is an urgent need to deploy this tool as soon as possible to ensure Utah's lakes and reservoirs are protected and that mussels are not being transported on boats out of the Lake Powell area.

Fabrication and testing of the hot water decontamination dip tank was recently conducted and proved successful. The dip tank has been transported down to Stateline Launch Ramp at Lake Powell and installed at the site. Based on the best scientific research available, this proposed rule change would allow UDWR to employ the dip tank in the fight against invasive mussels on May 1st.



R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-60. Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction.

R657-60-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) The purpose of this rule is to define procedures and regulations designed to prevent and control the spread of aquatic invasive species within Utah.

(2) This rule is promulgated pursuant to authority granted to the Wildlife Board in Sections 23-27-401, 23-14-18, and 23-14-19.

R657-60-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Sections 23-13-2 and 23-27-102.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Conveyance" means a terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including a vessel, or a vehicle part that may carry or contain a Dreissena mussel.

(b) "Decontaminate" or "Decontaminated" means to comply with one of the following methods:

(i) if no adult mussels are attached to the conveyance after exiting the water body, an owner or operator may self-decontaminate equipment or a conveyance that has been in an infested water in the previous 30 days by:

(A) removing all plants, fish, and mud from the equipment or conveyance;

(B) draining all water from the equipment or conveyance, including water held in ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, and motors; and

(C) drying the equipment or conveyance for no less than seven days in June, July and August; 18 days in September, October, November, March, April and May; 30 days in December, January and February; or expose the equipment or conveyance to sub-freezing temperatures for 72 consecutive hours; or

(D) if all water cannot be drained from the conveyance, or the conveyance has a complex water or mechanical system that the division determines poses a significant risk that Dreissena mussels could remain on the conveyance after the dry time identified in Subsection (C), fulfilling the requirements of Subsection (A) and (B) to the extent practicable and drying the conveyance for no less than 30 days;

(ii) professionally decontaminate equipment or a conveyance that has been in an infested water in the previous 30 days by:

(A) using a professional decontamination service approved by the division to [~~apply scalding water, 140 degrees Fahrenheit, to completely wash the equipment or conveyance and~~] flush any areas where water is held, including ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, and motors, and to apply scalding water to all conveyance and equipment surfaces at the temperature and immersion time necessary for 100 percent mussel mortality as provided in the Uniform Minimum Protocols and Standards for Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Programs for Dreissenid Mussels in the Western United States; and

(B) complete a mandatory 30 day dry time after the scalding water wash is completed if the division determines that, due to the complexity of water or mechanical systems on the conveyance, a significant risk that Dreissena mussels remain present on the conveyance regardless of receiving a scalding water wash described in Subsection (A); or

(iii) complying with all protocols identified in a certificate of registration.

(c) "Detected Water" or "Detected" means a water body, facility, or water supply system where the presence of a Dreissena mussel is indicated in two consecutive sampling events using visual identification or microscopy and the results of each sampling event is confirmed in two polymerase chain reaction tests, each conducted at independent laboratories.

(d) "Dreissena mussel" means a mussel of the genus Dreissena at any life stage, including a zebra mussel, a quagga mussel and a Conrad's false mussel.

(e) "Controlling entity" means the owner, operator, or manager of a water body, facility, or a water supply system.

(f) "Equipment" means an article, tool, implement, or device capable of carrying or containing water or Dreissena mussel.

(g) "Facility" means a structure that is located within or adjacent to a water body.

(h) "Highway" has the same meaning as Subsection 72-1-102(7).

(i) "Infested Water" or "Infested" means a water body, facility, water supply system, or geographic region where the presence of multiple age classes of attached Dreissena mussels is indicated in two or more consecutive sampling events using visual detection or microscopy and the result of each sampling event is confirmed in two polymerase chain reaction tests, each conducted at independent laboratories.

(j) "Juvenile or adult Dreissena mussel" means a macroscopic Dreissena mussel that is not a veliger.

(k) "Quarantine" means imposing a required minimum period of time where a conveyance must stay at a predetermined location in order to minimize the risk that Dreissena mussels are spread.

(l) "Suspected Water" or "Suspected" means a water body, facility, or water supply system where the presence of a Dreissena mussel is indicated through a single sampling event using visual identification or microscopy and the result of that sampling event is confirmed in two independent polymerase chain reaction tests, each conducted at independent laboratories.

(m) "Veliger" means a microscopic, planktonic larva of Dreissena mussel.

(n) "Vessel" has the same meaning as Subsection 73-18-2(19).

(o) "Water body" means natural or impounded surface water, including a stream, river, spring, lake, reservoir, pond, wetland, tank, and fountain.

(p) "Water supply system" means a system that treats, conveys, or distributes water for irrigation, industrial, wastewater treatment, or culinary use, including a pump, canal, ditch or, pipeline.

(q) "Water supply system" does not include a water body.

KEY: fish, wildlife, wildlife law

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: September 8, 2020

Notice of Continuation: July 31, 2018

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-27-401; 23-14-18; 23-14-19



State of Utah

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Department of Natural Resources

BRIAN C. STEED
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. RORY REYNOLDS
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 20, 2021

TO: Wildlife Board Members

FROM: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

SUBJECT: Appeal of denial of a variance request – Mr. Clint Heiber

On November 3, 2020 Mr. Clint Heiber submitted an application for a variance request on his 2020 Statewide Limited-Entry Deer conservation permit. His reason for the variance request was due to COVID-19, claiming he was “unable to travel out of State due to COVID-19 risk”.

While considering Mr. Heiber’s variance application, the Division of Wildlife Resources (“DWR”) received a tip from a member of the public claiming that Mr. Heiber traveled to Utah during the season dates of his permit. DWR staff investigated, and determined that Mr. Heiber stayed with a guide service in Utah during his hunt dates, and thus likely had multiple opportunities to go into the field and hunt. DWR staff also collected information, via Mr. Heiber’s own social media, that he also traveled out of the country to hunt shortly after he submitted his variance application. Based on this information, the Division Error Committee determined that Mr. Heiber did not qualify for a variance and denied his application. Mr. Heiber filed a timely appeal of the Division Error Committee’s decision, thus bringing it before the Wildlife Board for review.





March 5, 2021

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Attn: Utah Wildlife Board
1594 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Re: Wildlife Board Appeal - Clint Heiber (Statewide Hunt # DB0007)

Dear Sir/Madame:

This letter appeals the Division Variance Committee's (the "Committee") February 11, 2021 denial of a variance application request that was submitted by Clint Heiber on November 3, 2020, in relation to Statewide Hunt #DB0007. This was a very valuable tag to Mr. Heiber, obtained following a successful bid in a competitive and sizeable auction for the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. In addition to his Utah tag, Mr. Heiber also obtained a California tag for the 2020 season.

Mr. Heiber resides in California, and he intended to participate in Statewide Hunt #DB0007 in the late fall. He met with a guide in Utah early on in the season, to discuss the potential hunt. However, Mr. Heiber has a respiratory condition, and was advised by his doctor that he should care for his well-being and do his best to avoid placing himself in COVID-19 risk situations. Mr. Heiber abided by his doctor's recommendations, and following his meeting with the guide, decided that a 2020 hunt would pose too much of a COVID-19 risk for him. He took the reasonable health precaution to not hunt his Utah and California deer tags in the 2020 season and elected to instead seek to postpone the hunt to the following season. California, Mr. Heiber's home state, readily accepted his request and provided the requested relief. For some unknown and unexpected reason, Utah denied Mr. Heiber's timely request for a variance and postponement of the hunt to the next season.

As a result of the COVID-19 risk, Mr. Heiber requested that his hunting guide, Kalan Lemon, reach out to Wildlife Licensing Coordinator, Lindy Varney, at the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Mr. Lemon contacted Ms. Varney several times in September and October 2020 to discuss a variance request and to clarify the rules for a variance. Mr. Lemon has prepared a declaration, which is attached to this appeal as Exhibit "1." Ms. Varney advised that COVID-19 related personal health concerns constituted an appropriate qualification for variance and recommended that Mr. Heiber surrender his tag "sooner than later is better;" and that if he delayed in surrendering the tag, he would have more paperwork to accomplish. Ms. Varney attached a

Variance Application to her email, which Mr. Heiber subsequently filled out and submitted. Ms. Varney's email communication is attached to this appeal as Exhibit "2."

Mr. Heiber did not hunt at all in Utah during the period that the subject tag was valid. He decided instead to consult with his doctor and receive a confirming note of his condition, as required by the Variance Application, and surrender his valuable State-wide deer tag early and seek a variance for the next season, as advised by Ms. Varney. Mr. Heiber's paperwork was submitted on November 3, 2020, and is attached to this appeal as Exhibit "3."

After submitting his variance application request, Mr. Heiber heard nothing back from the Division of Wildlife Resources until February 9, 2021, at which time he received a telephone call from an investigator with the Division of Wildlife Resources questioning him on his variance application. Mr. Heiber was quite surprised by this phone call since it was over three months after he submitted his Variance Application and surrendered his tag. Indeed, after not hearing anything for three months, Mr. Heiber presumed that the Variance Application had already been granted and that nothing further was required of him. The investigator was very aggressive and argumentative. Mr. Heiber made it clear that he did not hunt his tag in Utah due to COVID-19 concerns and his own at-risk status. The investigator told him that, since he had come to Utah in early September, he could have hunted and, therefore, his variance should be denied. Mr. Heiber's position is that he could not hunt because he did not know who he may come in contact with and could not be sure of proper masking, social distancing or other risks to his health. The investigator's attitude and accusatory approach was uncalled for, unprofessional and, quite frankly, suspicious. Why would the Division of Wildlife Resources investigator attempt to harass and bully a valued hunter? Why would he ignore and doubt the reason for the variance request? Attached hereto as Exhibit "4" is a declaration, provided by Clint Heiber, documenting his actual reasons for seeking the variance, and his uncomfortable conversation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources investigator.

Following his telephone conversation with the Utah Wildlife Resources investigator, Mr. Heiber met with his attorney, Steve McCarthy, McCarthy & Rubright, LLP, in Red Bluff, California to try to figure out the status of his variance application, and to determine why he was being treated in a hostile fashion by the Division of Wildlife Resources investigator. On February 11, 2021, Mr. McCarthy telephoned Lindy Varney. The call went to voicemail and Mr. McCarthy left a message requesting a return call. Having not received a return call, Mr. McCarthy again telephoned Ms. Varney and again the call went to voicemail; he left another message requesting a return call. Hearing nothing from Ms. Varney and concerned for Mr. Heiber's welfare, Mr. McCarthy, at approximately 3:14 p.m. (4:14 p.m. Mountain Time), sent correspondence to Ms. Varney advising of the situation and attaching Mr. Heiber's declaration of the events. Attached hereto as Exhibit "5" is Mr. McCarthy's correspondence. Mr. McCarthy heard nothing in response from Ms. Varney. On Friday morning, February 12, 2021, Mr. McCarthy received a telephone call from Greg Hanson, from the Attorney General's office, regarding his correspondence to Ms. Varney. Mr. Hanson said he would look into the matter.

Thereafter, on February 12, 2021 at approximately 4:00 p.m., Mr. Heiber received an email communication from Ms. Varney stating that the Committee had met on February 11, 2021 and

denied Mr. Heiber's variance application. Attached hereto as Exhibit "5" is a copy of that email communication. No information is provided in the email as to when or where the Committee met. Mr. Heiber had never been given notice that the Committee was even meeting, and no explanation was provided in the email for why the variance application was denied. Moreover, no indication was provided in Ms. Varney's email as to whether any of the information provided by Mr. Heiber and his attorney at 4:14 p.m. had been received or considered by the Committee at their unnoticed February 11, 2021 meeting. The timing of these communications and the Committee's unnoticed meeting raises even more questions as to what is going on behind the scenes surrounding Statewide Hunt #DB0007.

Mr. Heiber is a valued hunter and large donor to the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. The actions of the Division of Wildlife Resources in accosting him and rushing through a denial of his variance application after taking no action on it for three months have not only violated Mr. Heiber's due process rights, but have also put a chilling effect on future auctions benefitting the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. For these reasons, Mr. Heiber submits the following appeal in accordance with R657-57-10:

(a) Name, address, and telephone number of the Petitioner:

Clint Heiber
P.O. Box 297
Red Bluff, California 96080
(530) 524-8090

(b) A statement of the variance relief sought and justification for the relief:

A season extension variance is sought in accordance with R657-57-4, extending the hunting season on Statewide Hunt #DB0007 to the 2021 year. The applicant in this case was substantially precluded during the prescribed hunting season from using his tag (i.e. he did not hunt in Utah at all) because of a qualifying event or condition, namely personal health risks relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. This substantial preclusion was not the result of the applicant's willful misconduct, gross negligent acts, or omissions; and the substantial preclusion resulted in the applicant being unsuccessful in harvesting an animal for which his tag was issued. Mr. Heiber, likewise, sought to postpone a statewide deer tag issued by the State of California, which request was granted. Mr. Heiber's Utah tag was surrendered, and his variance application was submitted in a timely fashion on November 3, 2020, well before the 120-day deadline after the last day of the hunting season.

(c) A description of the wildlife document application for which the variance is sought, including the document number, species and sex, season dates and weapon type:

Statewide Hunt #DB0007: Limited-entry buck deer, 2020 season

(d) The original wildlife document for which the variance is sought:

The tag has already been surrendered to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and should be in the Utah Division of Wildlife Resource's possession.

(e) A statement describing the degree of lost opportunity because of an event or condition:

The applicant is not a Utah resident, and as such lost out on the meaningful experience of a hunt within the State of Utah. Moreover, the applicant is a large-scale donor and supporter of the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. The actions of the Division of Wildlife Resources in accosting him and denying his variance application have put a chilling effect on Mr. Heiber's participation in future auctions benefitting the Utah Mule Deer Foundation.

(f) Corroborating documentation of the event or condition listed in Subsection R657-57(3)(d) and (4)(d), which may include a physician's written statement and a photocopy of relevant COVID-19 laws, orders, or directives.

See the enclosed exhibits, including Mr. Heiber's enclosed affidavit and doctor's note documenting his condition and need to take precautions and avoid situations that could expose him to COVID-19.

We appreciate the Board's consideration of this appeal. It is sincerely requested that the Committee's denial be reversed and a variance be provided to Mr. Heiber in relation to Statewide Hunt #DB0007. Further, if the Board desires any additional information in support of the variance requested in this appeal, Mr. Heiber (provided that certain virtual participation options could be provided) and his legal counsel can provide such information in a hearing on this appeal.

Best regards,

STYLER-DANIELS, P.C.



By: Stephen M. Styler

SMS

cc: Clint Heiber

Encl.

**DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF CLINT HEIBER'S APPEAL OF DENIAL OF
VARIANCE FOR STATEWIDE HUNT #0007**

I, KALAN LEMON, of P.O. Box 360002, Holden, UT 84636 declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah, that the foregoing is true and correct:

1. I am over the age of 18 years and competent to testify to the facts set forth in this Declaration.

2. I am a licensed hunting guide and outfitter in the State of Utah.

3. I have personal knowledge regarding the facts involved with 2020 Statewide Hunt #0007 (the "Tag") and the buyer of said tag, Mr. Clint Heiber (Mr. Heiber).

4. Mr. Heiber purchased the Tag at an event sponsored by the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. Upon purchasing the Tag, Mr. Heiber contacted me to request that I provide professional guide services to Mr. Heiber during 2020 in pursuit of a mule deer under the Tag.

5. Shortly after purchasing the Tag, the COVID-19 pandemic began across the United States and Utah, and the State of Utah declared a state of emergency.

6. After the declaration of a state of emergency, Mr. Heiber contacted me to discuss what options he had in regards to the Tag and he advised me of his pre-existing medical conditions and the health concerns he had regarding participating in the hunt during the 2020 season.

7. After consulting with his physician, Mr. Heiber informed me that his physician had advised him against participating in any hunt during the 2020 season due to his increased health risks and successability to COVID-19.

8. After working as a guide for many years, I, Kalan Lemon, have established a very productive and positive working relationship with the Utah Division of Wildlife Services and its staff. Among these positive relationships, I have frequently worked with the Division, primarily with Lindy Varney, who serves as the Wildlife Licensing Coordinator.

9. After Mr. Heiber elected to not pursue the Tag because of his COVID-19 health risks, I volunteered to contact the Division to discuss the requirements for a variance for Mr. Heiber's Tag and a deferral until the 2021 hunting season.

10. I first contacted the Division in the summer of 2020 to notify the Division that Mr. Heiber was likely to seek a variance due to COVID-19 and was informed that Mr. Heiber's tag could be returned to the Division at any time prior to completion of the hunting period (January 15, 2021) and that a variance process would be available to him if he elected to seek a variance.

11. I personally contacted the Division on multiple occasions to discuss the steps that needed to be taken in order for Mr. Heiber to receive a variance. In each of these discussions I was advised that a variance would be granted so long as Mr. Heiber did not hunt or pursue an animal.

12. On October 9, 2020 Ms. Varney delivered an email to me with all of the requirements needed in order for Mr. Heiber to receive a variance.

13. Mr. Heiber began to prepare the application for a variance and received written documentation from his physician regarding his pre-existing health conditions that would preclude him from hunting during the 2020 hunting season.

14. It is my understanding that upon receipt of the written note from Mr. Heiber's physician, Mr. Heiber prepared and submitted his variance request with supporting documents to Ms. Varney on or about November 3, 2020.

15. I have personal knowledge that Mr. Heiber did not hunt a single day, but rather followed the advice of his physician and pursued the variance in accordance with the steps outlined by the Division and in accordance with the written directions in Ms. Varney's October 9, 2020 email.

16. To the best of my knowledge, neither I nor Mr. Heiber were contacted by anyone from the Division to request any additional documentation to support the variance application.

17. Despite providing all information requested by the state of Utah and meeting all the standards and requirements provided to Mr. Heiber in order to receive a variance until

the 2021 season, I have been informed by Mr. Heiber that the Division Variance Committee denied the variance request.

I, therefore, declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the preceding is true and correct.

DATED this 5th day of March, 2021.

/s/ Kalan Lemon (Signed by Permission)
KALAN LEMON

10/9/2020

Yahoo Mail - Re: Utah statewide tag variance

Re: Utah statewide tag variance

From: Lindy Varney (lindyvarney@utah.gov)
To: kalan@wlhunting.com
Cc: wade@wlhunting.com; irgrentals@yahoo.com
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020, 06:33 AM PDT

Good morning,

Attached is the application for a variance. On the application it shows what documents need to be turned in for consideration.

Here are the following qualifications for a variance:

Illness or injury of the permit holder
Military deployment or mobilization
Illness, injury or death of immediate family member
COVID-19 related personal health concern or general public health restriction imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government.

The hunter has 120 days after the season ends to get all the documents into me. However, surrendering the permit sooner than later is better. That way, there's a better chance of getting approved.

The hunter can not hunt more than one day to be considered.

I understand that there's time to turn the permit in to be considered for a variance, but the longer you wait the more paperwork you might have to submit explaining why you held off.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,

Lindy Varney
Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
801-538-4851

On Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 6:47 PM kalan@wlhunting.com <kalan@wlhunting.com> wrote:

Lindy
Hope all is well.
Can you please reply with guidelines and time lines to submit the Utah statewide deer tag for the variance.

Thanks

Kalan lemon
(435)864-7540
Kalan@WlHunting.com
www.WlHunting.com

 Variance App 8-20.pdf
105.5kB

EXHIBIT 2
Page 1 of 1

1/1

APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE



Customer Identification # _____ Date of Birth 5/29/48
Name KENNETH CLINT HEIBER Phone Number 530-524-8090
Address PO Box 297 City REDBLUFF State CA Zip 96080
STATE WIDE DEER TAG -

I am submitting this variance request due to: (check one box only)

C-19

- Illness or injury of the permit holder (general season and LE eligible for point restoration only)
- Military deployment or mobilization
- Illness, injury or death of immediate family member
- COVID-19 related personal health concerns or general public health restrictions imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government.
- Other

Brief statement explaining Variance Request:

VULNERABILITY to CONTRACT C-19
RECENT SURGE IN CASES - PRIOR RESPIRATORY ISSUES
TRAVEL, INTERACTION W/ OTHERS NOT RECOMMENDED -

Include attachment if more room needed.....

Request for a Variance - Attach one of the following documents:

- Doctor Documentation on official letterhead (for permit holder or immediate family member); or
- Military orders or letter from an employment supervisor on official public health or public safety organization letterhead; or
- Copy of death certificate of immediate family member.

Also, you must:

- Go to: wildlife.utah.gov/dwr/hunting and report your harvest survey (if applicable); and
- Mail in original permit with this form; and
- Sign and date this form.



I hereby certify under oath that the above information is true and correct, that I am eligible to obtain a variance for the attached license, certificate, or permit in accordance with Utah Code Ann., Sec. 23-19-38, and R657-57-7 and, that I have not and am unable to participate in the noted activity due to illness/injury, military deployment/mobilization or other as noted on application. Application is subject to verification.

Signature of Applicant Kent Heiber

Date 11-3-20

EXHIBIT 3
Page 1 of 2

Mail to:
Division of Wildlife Resources
Attn: Licensing
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
PO Box 146301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:
Signature: _____ Date: _____
(DWR personnel accepting application) (Region Office)

REVISED 8/20

RICHARD A. RAGSDALE, M.D.
PULMONARY MEDICINE

2510 AIRPARK DRIVE, SUITE 205
REDDING, CALIFORNIA 96001

244-0243

Date 10/20/2020 Dx Pleurisy
Patient Kenneth C. Helser

Rx

I recommend NO TRAVEL
OUT OF STATE AT THIS
TIME, DUE TO
COVID 19 RISK

Refill X
BNDD #BR0398063
License #G-56937


M.D.

**DECLARATION OF CLINT HEIBER
IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR VARIANCE
OF STATE-WIDE DEER TAG**

I, Clint Heiber, declare as follows:

1. This Declaration is made of my own personal knowledge and belief and if called to testify as to these matters I could and would competently and truthfully do so.
2. I was issued a state-wide deer tag by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources following my successful bid at a benefit auction for the Utah Mule Deer Foundation.
3. Due to the restrictions related to COVID-19 and my doctor's advice that I am at high risk for COVID due to my preexisting respiratory condition I was unable to utilize the subject deer tag and surrendered the tag to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. My Application for Variance was submitted on November 3, 2020.
4. I also was unable to hunt a similar state-wide deer tag in the State of California due to COVID-related issues.
5. Following my submission of my Application for Variance and the surrender of my Utah state-wide deer tag I heard nothing from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources or anyone else and assumed that the variance had been granted. I assumed the Application for Variance had been granted because I followed the qualifications for a variance provided by Lindy Varney of the Wildlife Licensing Coordinator as set forth in her email dated October 9, 2020, a copy of which is attached to this Declaration.
6. Although I did spend a few days in the State of Utah, I did not hunt in any way, shape or form in Utah during the period the subject tag was valid.
7. The first I heard anything from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources regarding my Application for Variance was when I received a telephone call from an investigator questioning me on my variance application. I was quite surprised to be contacted since over three months had gone by since I submitted my Application for Variance and surrendered my tag. The investigator was very aggressive and argumentative. I advised him that I did not hunt the subject tag, or at all, due to COVID-19 concerns and my own risk status. The investigator insisted since I had been in Utah that I, therefore, could have hunted and, therefore, the variance should be denied.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 11th day of February, 2021, at Red Bluff, California.


CLINT HEIBER

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

A Notary Public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of the document.

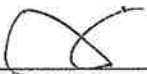
STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF TEHAMA) ss.

On February 11, 2021, before me, Diane M. Graham, Notary Public, personally appeared Clint Heiber, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized capacity, and that by his/her/their signature on the instrument the person(s), or the entity(ies) upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed the instrument.

I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.





NOTARY PUBLIC
Commission expires: May 3, 2022

Lisa Dixon

From: MRLAW
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2021 3:14 PM
To: lindyvarney@utah.gov
Cc: Steve McCarthy; Lisa Dixon
Subject: Application for Variance of State-Wide Deer Tag issued to Clint Heiber
Attachments: 2021 02 11 LTR Varney re Application for Variance - Utah Deer Tag.pdf; 2021 02 11 Declaration of Clint Heiber in Support of Application for Variance of State-Wide Deer Tag.pdf

Good afternoon Ms. Varney,

Attached please find correspondence from Attorney McCarthy and related attachments, including the Declaration of Clint Heiber in Support of Application for Variance of State-Wide Deer Tag.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Diane Graham
Legal Assistant



McCarthy & Rubright, LLP

P.O. Box 190 | 100 Rio Street | Red Bluff, CA 96080
www.mccarthyrubright.com
(530) 527-0213 (O) | (530) 527-7641 (F)
dgraham@mccarthyrubright.com

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STEVEN B. McCARTHY
SCOTT E. RUBRIGHT*
THOMAS PATRICK, JR.
ROB J. TAYLOR
JACOB R. WRIGHT

*ALSO ADMITTED IN
COLORADO AND WYOMING

McCARTHY & RUBRIGHT, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
100 RIO STREET, P.O. BOX 190
RED BLUFF, CALIFORNIA 96080-0190
TEL (530) 527-0213
FAX (530) 527-7641
AIRLAW@MCCARTHYRUBRIGHT.COM

WWW.MCCARTHYRUBRIGHT.COM

ROBERT E. McCARTHY
1920-2005

February 11, 2021

*Via US Mail and
Email to lindyvarney@utah.gov*

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Attn: Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
P.O. Box 146301
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6301

Re: Application for Variance of State-Wide Deer Tag issued to Clint Heiber

Dear Ms. Varney,

I put in a telephone call to you but have not heard back so am sending this letter in hopes of learning more about the status of the above-captioned Variance Application for my client, Clint Heiber. I am an attorney in Red Bluff, California and have represented Mr. Heiber for many years. Mr. Heiber was awarded a State-wide deer tag for the State of Utah after being the successful bidder at a benefit auction for the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. Due to the restrictions relating to COVID-19 and his doctor's advice that he was a high-risk for COVID due to his respiratory condition, Mr. Heiber surrendered this valuable State-wide deer tag. His Application for Variance was submitted November 3, 2020. Mr. Heiber also chose not to hunt in California, where he had a similar State-wide deer tag. Mr. Heiber heard nothing from your office after his November 3rd filing of his Application. He conformed with the requirements for the Application of Variance, which were spelled out in your email to his guide, Kalan Lemon. I attach a copy of that e-mail for easy reference. Of interest is the fact that one of the qualifications for Variance is "The Hunter cannot hunt more than one day to be considered." The fact of the matter is Mr. Heiber did not hunt at all in Utah during the period the subject tag was valid.

Mr. Heiber, on February 9, 2021, received a telephone call from an investigator with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources questioning him on his Variance application. He was quite surprised at this since it was over three months after he submitted his request for Variance and surrendered his tag. The investigator was very aggressive and argumentative. Mr. Heiber made it clear that he did not hunt his tag in Utah due to COVID-19 concerns and his own at-risk status. The investigator told him that since he had come to Utah that he could have hunted and, therefore, his Variance should be denied. Mr. Heiber's position is that he could not hunt because he did not know who he may come in contact with and could not be sure of proper masking, social distancing

EXHIBIT 5
Page 2 of 4

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Attn: Lindy Varney
February 11, 2021
Page | 2

or other risks to his health. The investigator's attitude and accusatory approach was uncalled for, unprofessional and, quite frankly, suspicious. Why would your investigator harass and bully a valued hunter? We are very concerned now that there is something improper taking place behind the scenes that needs to be exposed.

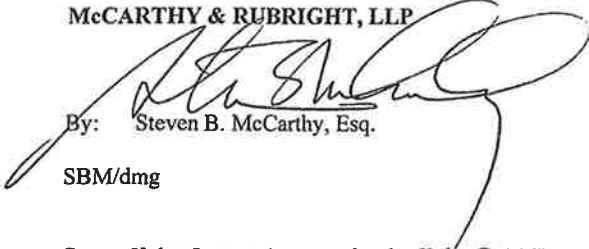
If, in fact, your office in good faith, intended to reject the Variance request, it should have given Mr. Heiber notice immediately so that he could have made a decision whether or not to risk COVID and its consequences in order to utilize the tag. Again, this was a very valuable tag to him and a very valuable auction item for the Utah Mule Deer Foundation. Your actions and those of your investigator put a chilling effect on future auctions benefitting the Utah Mile Deer Foundation.

If, at this point, the State Division of Wildlife Resources refuses Mr. Heiber's timely application for a Variance, he will be required to pursue his rights to the fullest extent of the law including possible recourse against the Foundation.

Attached hereto is Mr. Heiber's Declaration under penalty of perjury supporting his request for variance.

Sincerely,

McCARTHY & RUBRIGHT, LLP


By: Steven B. McCarthy, Esq.

SBM/dmg

Cc: Kalen Lemon (via email only: Kalen@WLHunting.com)
Clint Heiber (via email only: clint@irrigationrentals.com)

EXHIBIT 5
Page 3 of 4

10/9/2020

Yahoo Mail - Re: Utah statewide tag varian-

Re: Utah statewide tag variance

From: Lindy Varney (lindyvarney@utah.gov)
To: kalan@whunting.com
Cc: wade@whunting.com; irgrentals@yahoo.com
Date: Friday, October 9, 2020, 06:33 AM PDT

Good morning,

Attached is the application for a variance. On the application it shows what documents need to be turned in for consideration.

Here are the following qualifications for a variance:

Illness or injury of the permit holder
Military deployment or mobilization
Illness, injury or death of immediate family member
COVID-19 related personal health concern or general public health restriction imposed by the federal government, a state, or a local government.

The hunter has 120 days after the season ends to get all the documents into me. However, surrendering the permit sooner than later is better. That way, there's a better chance of getting approved.

The hunter can not hunt more than one day to be considered.

I understand that there's time to turn the permit in to be considered for a variance, but the longer you wait the more paperwork you might have to submit explaining why you held off.

Let me know if you have any other questions.

Thanks,

Lindy Varney
Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
801-538-4851

On Thu, Oct 8, 2020 at 6:47 PM kalan@whunting.com <kalan@whunting.com> wrote:

Lindy
Hope all is well.
Can you please reply with guidelines and time lines to submit the Utah statewide deer tag for the variance.

Thanks

Kalan Lemon
(435)864-7540
Kalan@WlHunting.com
www.WlHunting.com

 Variance App 8-20.pdf
105.5kB

EXHIBIT 5
Page 4 of 4

1/1

Steve McCarthy

From: Clint Heiber <clint@irrigationrentals.com>
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:05 AM
To: Steve McCarthy
Subject: Fwd: Variance application - decision

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lindy Varney <lindyvarney@utah.gov>
Date: Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM
Subject: Variance application - decision
To: Clint Heiber <clint@irrigationrentals.com>

Dear Mr. Heiber:

The Division Variance Committee met on February 11, 2021 to review your variance application request. After reviewing your application and other relevant materials, the Committee determined that the application did not satisfy the elements necessary to receive a variance pursuant to R657-57. Therefore, your request to extend your Limited-entry buck deer – Statewide Hunt # DB0007 to the following hunt season has been **denied**. This decision was reviewed and approved by the Division director/designee.

You have the right to appeal this decision to the Wildlife Board provided by rule R657-57-10. The appeal request must be in writing and received by the Division within 30 calendar days of the issuance date on the Division's decision.

The appeal shall contain:

- Name, address and telephone
- A statement of the variance relief sought and justification for the relief.
- A description of the wildlife document application for which the variance is sought, including the document number, species and sex, season dates and weapon type
- The original wildlife document for which the variance is sought
- A statement describing the degree of lost opportunity because of an event of condition
- Corroborating documentation of the event or condition listed in Subsection R657-57(3)(d) and (4)(d), which may include:
 - o A physician's written statement
 - o A photocopy of relevant COVID-19 laws, orders, or directives.

A hard copy of this letter has been mailed out as well.

Thank you,
Lindy Varney
Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
801-538-4851

GREGORY B. HANSEN # 13731
Assistant Attorney General
UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE
1594 West North Temple, Suite 2110
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
Telephone: (801) 538-4744
Email: greghansen@agutah.gov

BEFORE THE UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE : **STIPULATION AND ORDER**
PRIVILEGES OF :
Eric E. Richins : Case No. 2017-001986
TO HUNT IN THE STATE OF UTAH :

The DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES (“Division”) and ERIC E. RICHINS (“Petitioner”) as evidenced by their signatures to this Stipulation agree as follows:

1. Petitioner admits the jurisdiction of the Division over him and over the subject matter of this action.
2. Petitioner acknowledges that he enters into this Stipulation voluntarily and other than that which is contained in this Stipulation, no promise or threat whatsoever has been made by the Division, or any member, officer, agent or representative of the Division to induce him to enter into this Stipulation.
3. Petitioner is represented by legal counsel Aaron W. Owens, Esq., has reviewed this Stipulation with his counsel, and knowingly executes this Stipulation fully understanding its terms, conditions and consequences.

5. Petitioner acknowledges and understands that any suspension of big game hunting privileges imposed in this Stipulation is given reciprocal recognition in other states participating in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.

6. Petitioner understands that he is entitled to a formal hearing before the Utah Wildlife Board, at which time he may present to the Board evidence on his behalf, present his own witnesses, and confront adverse witnesses. Petitioner acknowledges that by executing this document he waives his right to: (1) a hearing before the Board; (2) present evidence on his behalf; (3) present his own witnesses; and (4) confront adverse witnesses, together with such other rights as to which he may be entitled in connection with said hearing.

7. Petitioner understands and agrees that by executing this Stipulation he waives his rights to further administrative and judicial review.

8. Petitioner does not contest the following allegations of the Division:

- a. On or around September 10, 2016, Petitioner went elk hunting on a property he owns in northern Utah.
- b. At the time of his September 10th hunt, Petitioner held an unfilled and valid 2016 antlerless elk control permit. Petitioner had already harvested a bull elk and filled his 2016 Hunter's Choice elk permit.
- c. Petitioner invited an acquaintance of his, Mr. Wright, to hunt on Petitioner's property. Mr. Wright held a valid 2016 elk permit.
- d. Petitioner shot an arrow at a 6 x 6 bull elk and the elk died. Petitioner requested that Mr. Wright tag the elk with his permit and Mr. Wright did so.
- e. On November 21, 2018, Petitioner entered into a no contest Plea in Abeyance to Wanton Destruction of Protected Wildlife, a Class A Misdemeanor, in Second District Court of Utah (Case No. 18500048), in violation of Utah Code Section 23-20-4.
- f. An informal administrative hearing was completed on May 7, 2019 to consider suspension of Petitioner's hunting privileges. Petitioner

participated in the hearing and was provided the opportunity to present evidence on the issue of suspension. Petitioner was represented in the hearing by Mr. Aaron Owens, Esq.

- g. The Division issued a Decision and Order on May 31, 2019, ordering, among other things, the suspension of Petitioner's big game hunting privileges for a period of eight (8) years, effective from June 3, 2019 to June 3, 2022.
- h. Petitioner appealed the Division's Decision and Order to the Wildlife Board on June 18, 2019.

9. Petitioner acknowledges that circumstances exist surrounding the allegations in paragraph 8 that may support a finding that the Petitioner's acts were committed knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly and they constitute violations of the Wildlife Code to which he was pleaded no-contest to through a Plea in Abeyance agreement. Accordingly, a basis exists under Utah Code § 23-19-9 for the Division to suspend Petitioner's hunting privileges in Utah.

10. Petitioner asserts on appeal that the hearing officer's order was overly harsh and excessive.

11. Based upon the on the allegations he is not contesting in paragraphs 8 and 9 and the additional considerations presented in paragraph 10, the Parties enter into this Stipulation as final resolution of Petitioner's pending appeal.

12. Petitioner accepts and agrees to the following terms and conditions:

- a. **Petitioner's big game hunting privileges are suspended for 4 years, 8 months, and 27 days, beginning June 3, 2019 and ending March 1, 2024.** The remaining time period of suspension imposed in the Division's May 2019 Decision and Order are set aside and vacated. The Small Game and Turkey suspension issued in the Division's May 2019 Decision and Order are also set aside and vacated.
- b. During the period of suspension, Petitioner may not obtain or attempt to obtain any big game hunting permit. Any big game permit, or bonus or preference point for big game, obtained by Petitioner in violation of this Stipulation and Order is invalid. Petitioner may obtain a restricted hunting

or combination license from the Division that does not allow use for big game purposes while this Stipulation and Order remains effective.

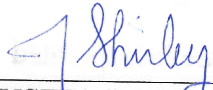
- c. Petitioner shall immediately surrender to the Division of Wildlife Resources any license or permit held in his possession that is suspended by virtue of this Stipulation and Order.
- d. Any subsequent violation that occurs within the period of suspension may result in a doubled suspension period imposed consecutively with any existing unexpired suspension period, and may further result in the suspension of all hunting and fishing privileges.
- e. The suspension imposed in this Stipulation and Order are reciprocally recognized in all states participating in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (“IWVC”). At the time of this Stipulation, 49 states are members of the IWVC.

13. This agreement, upon approval by the Wildlife Board, shall be the final compromise and settlement of this matter. Petitioner acknowledges the Wildlife Board is not required to accept the terms of this Stipulation, and if the Wildlife Board does not do so, this Stipulation and the representations contained herein shall be null and void, except that the Division and Petitioner waive any claim of bias or prejudgment they might have regarding the Wildlife Board by virtue of it having reviewed this Stipulation.

14. Petitioner acknowledges that this Stipulation, once accepted by the Wildlife Board, will be classified by the Division as a “public” record under the Utah Governmental Records Access Management Act.

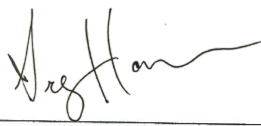
15. This document constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes and cancels any and all prior negotiations, representations, understandings or agreements between the parties. There are no verbal agreements which modify, interpret, construe or affect this Stipulation and Order.

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES:



JUSTIN SHIRLEY
DWR Chief of Law Enforcement

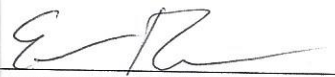
07/13/2020
DATE



GREGORY B. HANSEN
Assistant Attorney General
Counsel for the Division

7/13/2020
DATE

PETITIONER:



ERIC E. RICHINS
Petitioner

7/13/20
DATE

Aaron W. Owens
AARON OWENS
Counsel for Petitioner

7/13/20
DATE

ORDER

The above Stipulation in the matter of ERIC E. RICHINS, which is approved by the Division of Wildlife Resources, constitutes the Wildlife Board's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in this matter. The terms and conditions of the Stipulation are incorporated herein and constitute the Wildlife Board's final Order in this case.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Byron Bateman, Chairman
Utah Wildlife Board