

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 2, 2021, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtu.be/V7d0dHAZJNg>

Thursday, December 2, 2021 – 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
– Kevin Albrecht, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
– Kevin Albrecht, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
– Randy Dearth, Vice-Chairman
4. DWR Update **INFORMATIONAL**
– J. Shirley, DWR Director
5. Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 Rule R657-9 **ACTION**
– Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
6. Big Game Application Timeline **INFORMATIONAL**
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
7. Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62 **ACTION**
– Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
8. 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates **ACTION**
– Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator
9. CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator
10. Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Season Date Corrections **ACTION**
– Riley Peck, OIAL Program Coordinator
11. Prohibited Species Request – Samantha Nelson **ACTION**
– Staci Coons, Wildlife Board Coordinator
12. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
– Kevin Albrecht, 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 updated December 2, 2021
Placed on Action Log: December 3, 2020

Fall 2021 – Target Date – Bonus Point Application

MOTION: I move that we direct the division to investigate the playing field between Non-Residents and Residents on picking species bonus points. This is to be placed on the action log.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: To be updated December 2, 2021
Placed on Action Log: August 26, 2021

Spring 2022 – Target Date – Progress on changes to the 2023 Draw Application Dates

MOTION: I move that we track the division’s progress of the 2023 draw application date changes with an update to the Wildlife Board in 1 year. This is to be placed on the action log.

Motion made by: Kevin Albrecht
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented December 2, 2021
Placed on Action Log: April 29, 2021

Spring 2022 – Target Date – List of allocated permits by unit to be published on the division website

MOTION: I move that we direct the division to place a list of allocated permits by unit on the division’s website. This is to be placed on the action log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Justin Shannon
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented April/May 2022
Placed on Action Log: April 29, 2021

Action Log Assignment

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

September 30, 2021, DNR Auditorium

The meeting can be viewed live at: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=S5VYGrxlq4c>

AGENDA

Thursday, September 30, 2021, Board Meeting 9:00 am

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Kevin Albrecht, Chairman | | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Kevin Albrecht, Chairman | | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Randy Dearth, Vice-Chairman | | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– J. Shirley, DWR Director |  | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Recommendations
– Riley Peck, OIAL Program Coordinator | | ACTION |
| 6. 2022 Fishing Recommendations – Northern Region
– Chris Penne, NR Aquatics Manager | | ACTION |
| 7. Roundtail Chub
– Craig Walker, Aquatic Section Assistant Chief | | ACTION |
| 8. Conservation Permit Audit
– Kenny Johnson, Administration Services Section Chief | | ACTION |
| 9. Conservation Permit Annual Report
– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief | | ACTION |
| 10. Conservation Permit Allocation
– Justin Shannon, Wildlife Section Chief | | ACTION |
| 11. 2021 RAC/Board Dates
– Staci Coons, Wildlife Board Coordinator | | ACTION |
| 12. 1:00 p.m. Time Certain – Board Hearing (TENTATIVE) POSTPONED
– Eskelsen Orchards LLC | | ACTION |
| 13. Other Business
– Kevin Albrecht, Chairman | | CONTINGENT |

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

Wildlife Board Motions

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

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

Fall 2021 – Target Date – Bonus Point Application

MOTION: I move that we direct the Division to investigate the playing field between Non-Residents and Residents on picking species bonus points. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented November/December 2021
Placed on Action Log: August 26, 2021

Spring 2022 – Target Date – Progress on changes to the 2023 Draw Application Dates

MOTION: I move that we track the Division's progress of the 3023 draw application date changes with an update to the Wildlife Board in 1 year. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Kevin Albrecht
Assigned to: Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented April/May 2022
Placed on Action Log: April 29, 2021

Spring 2022 – Target Date – List of allocated permits by unit to be published on the Division website

MOTION: I move that we direct the Division to place a list of allocated permits by unit on the Division's website. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Justin Shannon
Action: Under Study
Status: To be presented April/May 2022
Placed on Action Log: April 29, 2021

Action Log Assignment

December 3, 2020 Chad Wilson –DWR and the CWMU Committee to put together a presentation educating the public on the benefits of the CWMU program.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
September 30, 2021, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021 Wildlife Board Meeting.

3) Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and failed 3-2, with Bryce Thurgood, Karl Hirst and Gary Nielson opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the season dates on the Pone Valley Virgin River and Pine Valley Beaver Dam desert bighorn sheep hunts to begin after the rifle deer hunt ends.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

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

4) 2022 Fishing Recommendations – Northern Region (**Action**)

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

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

5) Conservation Permit Audit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Conservation Permit Audit.

6) Conservation Permit Annual Report (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Conservation Permit Annual Report as presented.

7) Conservation Permit Allocation (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Allocation as presented.

8) 2022 RAC/Board Meeting Dates (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2022 RAC/Board meeting dates as presented.

DRAFT

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
September 30, 2021, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Attendance, In-Person and Virtual

Wildlife Board

Kevin Albrecht – Chairman
Randy Dearth – Vice-Chairman
J. Shirley – Exec Secretary

Karl Hirst
Bryce Thurgood
Gary Nielson
Wade Heaton

RAC Chairs

Central – Ben Lowder
Southern – Brayden Richmond
Southeastern – Kent Johnson
Northeastern – Dan Abeyta
Northern – Justin Oliver

Division Personnel

Mike Canning
Robin Goodman
Ashley Green
Greg Hansen
Riley Peck
Chris Wood
Miles Hanberg
Jason Vernon
Kenny Johnson
Justin Shannon
Ben Nadolski
Covy Jones
Sarah Scott

Drew Cushing
Craig Walker
Randy Oplinger
Chris Penne
Lindy Varney
Roger Mellenthin
Staci Coons
Paige Wiren
Paul Gedge
Mike Christensen

Public Present

Troy Justensen

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
September 30, 2021, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=S5VYGrxlg4c>

- 00:00:00** Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order, and took a roll call. Wildlife board member Bret Selman was not present, and Dan Abeyta sat in for Brett Prevedel as the Northeastern RAC chair.
- 00:01:17** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.
- 00:02:05** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Randy Dearth and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the August 26, 2021 Wildlife Board Meeting.
- 00:02:41** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
Items that will be addressed at the next Wildlife Board meeting were mentioned.
- 00:03:40** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Director J. Shirley gave Division of Wildlife section updates.
- 00:09:03** **Board Questions**
The Board asked how current and predicted extreme drought conditions might affect statewide hatchery operations.
- 00:10:49** Chairman Albrecht asked the RAC Chairs to introduce themselves.
- 00:12:32** **5) Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Recommendations (Action)**
Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator Riley Peck gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website, and also clarified in person some of the content of the online presentation.
- 00:16:34** **Board/RAC Questions**
The Board ask for clarification about the southern region bison hunt terrain and boundaries, and asked the Division to explain the reason why two September, 2022 bighorn sheep hunts will begin on a Monday.
- 00:19:42** **Public Comments**
Director Shirley summarized public comments on the Once-in-a-Lifetime Species

Recommendations.

00:20:05 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the recommendations with varying stipulations.

00:24:40 Board Questions

The Board asked for clarification of the reason for one of the Northeastern RAC's motions.

00:26:04 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. No clarification was given at this time.

00:27:55 Board Discussion

The Board discussed overlapping hunt season dates in the Pine Valley unit.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Wade Heaton and failed 3:2. Karl Hirst, Bryce Thurgood and Gary Nielson opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reduce the season dates on the Pine Valley Virgin River and Pine Valley Beaver Dam desert bighorn sheep hunts to begin after the rifle deer hunt ends.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the recommendations as presented, with additions presented today.

00:36:18 6) 2022 Fishing Recommendations – Northern Region (Action)

Northern Region Aquatics Program Manager Chris Penne gave a prerecorded presentation that was posted on the Division website. He had no further agenda item material to add during the meeting.

00:36:40 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

00:36:48 Public Comments

Director Shirley summarized public comments received from the online presentation.

00:37:12 RAC Recommendations

All RACs unanimously passed motions to accept the fishing recommendations as presented.

00:38:14 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. No clarification was given at this time.

00:38:32 Board Discussion

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

unanimously.

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

00:39:32 7) Roundtail Chub (Informational)

Assistant Sportfish Chief Craig Walker gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

00:40:03 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked the Division to clarify what the outcome of the reclassification will be.

00:41:16 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. No clarification was given at this time.

00:41:32 8) Conservation Permit Audit (Action)

Administrative Services Section Chief Kenny Johnson gave a pre-recorded online presentation that was posted on the Division of Wildlife Resources website.

00:41:58 Board/RAC Comments

The Board voiced appreciation for how many projects funded by conservation permit dollars were completed or in progress.

00:43:19 Division Updates

Kenny Johnson gave a presentation showing the findings of the conservation permit audit.

00:50:55 Board/RAC Discussion

The Board commended the Division on the thoroughness and transparency of the audit, and for directing funds into valuable projects. The Board and RAC praised the Division for its management of program funds accountability.

The following motion was made by Randy Dearth, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Conservation Permit Audit as presented.

00:53:56 9) Conservation Permit Annual Report (Action)

Wildlife Section Chief Justin Shannon gave a presentation titled, "Utah's Conservation Permit Program – Annual Report Fiscal Year 2021."

Public Comments

There were no public comments received on this agenda item.

01:00:52 Board/RAC Questions

The RAC asked a question about the number that was cited in the presentation as the number of animals captured.

01:01:51 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. No clarification was given at this time.

01:03:37 Board/RAC Discussion

The Board discussed matching funds, and noted the value of collecting data from collared wildlife, as well as the value of the public as partners in the Conservation Permit Program.

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Conservation Permit Annual Report as presented.

01:08:20 10) Conservation Permit Allocation (Action)

Wildlife Section Chief Justin Shannon gave a presentation titled, "2022-2024 Conservation Permits, Recommended Permit Allocation."

01:12:50 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked the Division to briefly explain the permit allocation process.

01:13:57 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. No clarification was given at this time.

01:15:51 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Karl Hirst, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Conservation Permit Allocation as presented.

01:16:59 11) 2022 RAC/Board Meeting Dates (Action)

2022 RAC tour and Wildlife Board meeting dates were published in the materials distributed to both the RAC Chairs and the Board Members prior to the meeting. These meeting materials were also posted on the Division website.

Public Comments

There were no public comments received on this agenda item.

01:18:08 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked clarification questions about specific proposed meeting dates.

01:19:43 Board Discussion

The Board expressed concern regarding the length of two annual meetings in particular, and the Board discussed the value of working sessions.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Karl Hirst and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the 2022 RAC/Board Meeting Dates as presented.

~~12) 1:00 p.m. Time Certain—Board Hearing POSTPONED (Action)~~

01:30:20 13) Other Business (Contingent)

There was no other business to discuss.

01:31:46 Meeting adjourned.

DRAFT

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

- 1) Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9 (**Action**)

CR, SR, SER, NER

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

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

NR

MOTION: I move that we accept Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024- Rule R657-9 as presented, but have the Division look into limiting the number of trumpeter swans being taken.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

- 2) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations (**Action**)
– Rule R657-62

CR

MOTION: To oppose the Division’s recommendations to convert to a draw and recommend unlimited any bull elk permits to collect real data for the elk committee.

MOTION PASSES: 9 to 1

MOTION: To keep the 50/50 split.

MOTION PASSES: 9 to 1

NR

MOTION: I move that we reject the Division’s recommendation to allocate general season bull elk permits through a draw, and instead allocate unlimited over the counter any bull elk permits with no change to spike elk permits, and do this for a period of one year.

MOTION PASSES: 7 to 1

MOTION: I move the 4 units that were proposed last year, Oquirrh Stansbury, Nine Mile Anthro, Southwest Desert North and Box Elder Sawtooth, be included in the General Any Bull Elk Units instead of the H.A.M.S. Hunt.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

MOTION: I move that we reject the Divisions proposal of a 60/40 split and have it remain at 50/50.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

SR

MOTION: Move that we reject the recommendation to go to 60/40 split and remain at the 50/50 split.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

MOTION: Move to deny the recommendation for the general season any bull and spike elk permits to go through a draw and instead sell unlimited any bull permits and 15,000 spike permits over the counter.
MOTION PASSES: 8 to 3

SER **MOTION:** To reject the proposal to put the general season elk tags to a draw
MOTION PASSES: 6 to 5

MOTION: To keep the 50/50 split on limited entry and once in a lifetime, and ask the DWR and the Board to look into other options to address point creep. A list of options should then be run through a public polling process to get input from hunters.
MOTION PASSES: 9 to 2

NER **MOTION:** To leave bonus point system as 50/50 split
MOTION PASSES: 7 to 2

MOTION: To not accept proposal to go to a general season elk draw and the division does more surveys.
MOTION PASSES: 7 to 2

3) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates (**Action**)

CR **MOTION:** To accept the Division's recommendation as presented with the exception that the youth any bull elk hunt end on the Tuesday before the general season muzzleloader hunt begins (add two days to the hunt).
MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

MOTION: To recommend the Wildlife Board direct the DWR to bring a recommendation next year for a multi-year season structure.
MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

NR **MOTION:** I move that we accept 2022 Big Game Hunting Season and Key Dates as presented with the exception of adding an additional 2 days to the youth hunt.
MOTION PASSES: 7 to 1

SR **MOTION:** Move to accept the 2022 season dates but extend the youth any bull draw hunts two days ending September 27, 2022
MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

SER **MOTION:** For the DWR to consider setting season dates out two to three years in advance instead of one year at a time.
MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented by the DWR, with SFW's suggestion to add two days to the Youth Any Bull Hunt.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

NER **MOTION:** To approve division recommendations with condition that within the next 120 days the division does outreach to landowners in the CWD area to get them educated with the seriousness of the situation.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

4) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

CR **MOTION:** Any existing CWMU that contains accessible public lands be reviewed by the CWMU advisory committee one year prior to their COR renewal for assessment of those accessible public lands.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

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

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

NR **MOTION:** I move that we accept the Division's recommendation, with the caveat of receiving information one-year prior to renewal for CWMU's that include public lands within its boundaries.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

SR, SER **MOTION:** To accept as presented.

MOTION PASSES: Unanimous

NER **MOTION:** To accept as presented.

MOTION PASSES: 5 to 2

Central Region RAC Meeting

Video Conference

November 09, 2021

The meeting streamed live at <https://youtu.be/uk3X-Chnvzk>

Tuesday November 09, 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. Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9
- Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Big Game Application Timeline
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | INFORMATIONAL |
| 7. Max Point Permits & OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations
- Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |

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

Central Region RAC Meeting
November 9, 2021
Springville, Utah
Summary of Motions

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve to approve the agenda as presented.

2) Approval of August 31st Minutes

The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 31st Central Region RAC meeting as transcribed.

3) Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously.

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

4) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62

The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Danny Potts and passed 9 to 1.

MOTION: To oppose the Division's recommendations to convert to a draw and recommend unlimited any bull elk permits to collect real data for the elk committee.

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Eric Reid and failed 6 to 5.

MOTION: To recommend suspending the multi-season elk tags sales for a period of one year to gather data for the elk committee.

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart, seconded by Ben Lowder and passes 9 to 1

MOTION: To keep the 50/50 split

5) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasonal and Key Dates

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

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendation as presented with the exception that the youth any bull elk hunt end on the Tuesday before the general season muzzleloader hunt begins (add two days to the hunt).

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

MOTION: To recommend the Wildlife Board direct the DWR to bring a recommendation next year for a multi-year season structure.

6) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Josh Lenart, seconded by Eric Reid and fails 5 to 6.

MOTION: To not approve CWMUs with assessible or periphery public land without a more thorough evaluation.

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Jim Shuler and passes unanimously.

MOTION: Any existing CWMU that contains accessible public lands be reviewed by the CWMU advisory committee one year prior to their COR renewal for assessment of those accessible public lands.

The following motion was made by Chase Crandall, seconded by Scott Jensen and passes unanimously.

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

Central Region RAC Meeting
November 9, 2021
Online Attendance

RAC Members

Brock McMillan – RAC Chair	Absent
Chase Crandall	Amos Murphy
Eric Reid	Steve Lund
Ken Strong	
AJ Mower (online)	
Scott Jensen	
Jim Shuler	
Michael Christensen	
Josh Lenart	
Ben Lowder	
Luke Decker	
Danny Potts	

Wildlife Board

Karl Hirst
Gary Nielsen

DWR Personnel

Jason Vernon	Jenny Zickgraf-Fausett
Riley Peck	Scott Root
Covy Jones	Robin Goodman
Lindy Varney	Dale Liechty
Blair Stringham	Wes Alexander
Rusty Robinson	Matt Briggs
Mike Christensen	

Total public: 5

Public invited to join online: <https://youtu.be/uk3X-Chnvzk>

Central Region RAC Meeting
November 9, 2021
Springville, Utah
<https://youtu.be/uk3X-Chnvzk>

06:05:00	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 and public comments will be taken during the meeting.
06:06:00	<p>1) Approval of Agenda (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda as presented.</p>
06:06:00	<p>2) Approval of Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ken Strong, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the August 31st minutes as transcribed.</p>
06:09:00	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</p> <p>RAC Chair Brock McMillan updated the RAC.</p>
06:11:00	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Jason Vernon updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
06:19:00	<p>5) Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9 (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>
06:20:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked about dark goose limit.</p>
06:21:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <p>There were no public comments from public in attendance.</p>
06:22:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members discussed five bag limit, trumpeter swan education, possibly of closing a heavily harvested trumpeter swan area, WMAs, waiting period if trumpeter</p>

	swan is harvested, possible confiscation if a trumpeter swan is harvested in lieu of a waiting period.
06:32:00	<p>Waterfowl Recommendations 2022 – 2024 Rule R657-9</p> <p>MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by Ben Lowder and passes unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented by the Division.</p>
06:40:00	6) Big Game Application Timeline (Informational)
06:42:00	<p>7) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62 (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>
06:43:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>RAC members asked about max points permits will be going to max permit holders, the 50/50 split for points for 28 years, 20,000 more applicants, how to stop point creep, 60/40 max points split proposal.</p> <p>Public Questions</p> <p>None</p>
06:53:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <p>Mike Scott – Fixed the flawed server rather than going to a draw. Nonresidents are reaping benefits of the draw. Why is Utah so accommodating to nonresidents? Strongly disagree to move general season elk permits to a drawing. Supports of keeping the 50/50 split.</p> <p>Kevin Norman/SFW – Reluctantly supports the general season elk permits on a draw system for the one-year trial. Opposed to the 60/40 split, lead to minimizing youth to draw tags.</p> <p>Terry Hendricks – Happy with hunting grounds and put in a lot of effort to find out where the elk are. Putting the general season elk permits on a draw system limits where her family can hunt, for meat, in the areas they are accustomed to hunting. Making them choose spike or any bull. Go back to the old way.</p>
07:02:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members discussed increasing elk tags, youth any bull became unlimited numbers, supply and demand, any bull selling out in 11 hours and spike bull selling out</p>

	<p>in five days, elimination of multi-season tags, one-year trail period putting all elk tags on the draw, elimination of application fee, 82% public opposition to this recommendation, possible drawing for multi-season tags, draw system flaws, possible one-year trial period of unlimited any bull elk tags, suspension of multi-season elk tags for one year.</p>
<p>07:30:00</p>	<p>Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Danny Potts and passed 9 to 1</p> <p>In favor: Jim, Scott, Eric, Chase, Ben, Danny, Mike, Josh, AJ</p> <p>Opposed: Ken Strong (agrees with Division recommendation)</p> <p>MOTION: To oppose the Division’s recommendation to convert to a draw and recommend unlimited any bull elk permits to collect real data for the elk committee.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Eric Reid and failed 6 to 5.</p> <p>In favor: Luke, Eric, Chase, Ken, Mike</p> <p>Opposed: Ben, Scott, Jim, Danny, Josh (tie broken by chair in opposition)</p> <p>Abstained: A J (had to step away during this motion)</p> <p>MOTION: To recommendation to suspend the multi-season elk tag sales for a period of one year to gather data for the elk committee.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Josh Lenart, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed 9 to 1</p> <p>In favor: Jim, Scott, Eric, Chase, Danny, Ken, Mike, Josh, AJ</p> <p>Opposed: Luke Decker</p> <p>MOTION: To keep the split at 50/50</p>
<p>08:02:00</p>	<p>8) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates</p> <p>A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html</p>
<p>08:04:00</p>	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>RAC members asked premium hunt migration, youth elk hunt ending date.</p>
<p>08:12:00</p>	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <p>Kevin Norman/SFW – Supporting the recommendation.</p>

	Jeremy Anderson/MDF – Supports the recommendation.
08:15:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members discussed the dates are set each year instead of for the next five years, closing dates on premium hunts, feedback from archers and overlap on hunts, elk committee meets in 2022 and then brought to RAC next fall.</p>
08:20:00	<p>2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Ben Lowder and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the Division’s recommendation as presented with the exception that the youth any bull elk hunt end on the Tuesday before the general season muzzleloader hunt begins (add two days to the hunt).</p> <p>The following motion was made by Ben Lowder, seconded by Danny Potts. Motion was withdrawn by Ben and restated as shown and seconded again by Danny Potts and passes unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: (restated) To recommend the Wildlife Board direct the DWR to bring a recommendation next year for a multi-year season structure.</p>
08:26:00	<p>9) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations</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>
08:32:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>The RAC members asked minimum acreage, variances, enforceable boundary definition, CWMU tag ratios.</p>
08:44:00	<p>Public Comment</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comment</p> <p>Kevin Norman – Does not agree with the term “enforceable boundary” with the technology of today. We need to stop using including so much public land in CWMUs.</p>
08:47:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members discussed enforceable boundary definition, CWMU tags are limited entry with higher buck:doe ratio, minimum acreage, exceptions, concerns with public land parcels on the perimeters of any CWMUs-do the CWMUs meet minimum acreage</p>

	requirements, grandfathered CWMUs meeting today's rule, grazing allotments.
09:30:00	<p>CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Josh Lenart, seconded by Eric Reid and fails 5 to 6.</p> <p>In favor: Scott, Eric, Luke, Ken, AJ</p> <p>Opposed: Chase, Jim, Ben, Danny, Mike (tie broken by chair voting in opposition)</p> <p>MOTION: To not approve CWMU's with accessible or periphery public land without a more thorough evaluation.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by Jim Shuler and passes unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: Any existing CWMU that contains accessible public lands be reviewed by the CWMU advisory committee one year prior to their COR renewal for assessment of those accessible public lands.</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chase Crandall, seconded by Scott Jensen and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented.</p>
09:40:00	Meeting adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

November 10, 2021

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/Sw2VaRv5Dj4>

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. Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9 **ACTION**
- Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
6. Big Game Application Timeline **INFORMATIONAL**
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
7. Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62 **ACTION**
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator
8. 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates **ACTION**
- Covey Jones, Big Game Coordinator
9. CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations **ACTION**
- Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

Meeting Locations

CR RAC – Nov 9th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conf. Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
<https://youtu.be/uk3X-Chnvzk>

SER RAC – Nov 17th, 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtu.be/YZXvsjcRJcl>

NR RAC – Nov 10th, 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
<https://youtu.be/Sw2VaRv5Dj4>

NER RAC – Nov 18th, 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtu.be/jvuN2vyhfyc>

SR RAC – Nov 16th, 6:00 PM
Southern Utah University
Hunter Conf.Center, Charles R Hunter
Room
<https://youtu.be/eC15FyA3RWM>

Board Meeting – Dec 2, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
<https://youtu.be/V7d0dHAZJNg>

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 as presented.

2) Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024- Rule R657-9 as presented, but have the Division look into limiting the number of trumpeter swans being taken.

3) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations (**Action**)
– Rule R657-62

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed For: 7
Against: 1 . Kevin McLeod

MOTION: I move that we reject the Division's recommendation to allocate general season bull elk permits through a draw, and instead allocate unlimited over the counter any bull elk permits with no change to spike elk permits, and do this for a period of one year.

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

MOTION: I move the 4 units that were proposed last year, Oquirrh Stansbury, Nine Mile Anthro, Southwest Desert North, Box Elder Sawtooth, be included in the General Any Bull Elk Units instead of the H.A.M.S. Hunt.

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

MOTION: I move that we reject the Divisions proposal of a 60/40 split and have it remain at 50/50.

4) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Brad Buchanan and passed For: 7
Against: 1. Randy Hutchison

MOTION: I move that we accept 2022 Big Game Hunting Season and Key Dates as presented with the exception of adding an additional 2 days to the youth hunt.

5) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation, with the caveat of receiving information one-year prior to renewal for CWMU's that include public lands within its boundaries.

DRAFT

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Weber County Commission Chamber Nov 10, 2021
Attendance

RAC Members

Justin Oliver – Chair	Brad Buchanan	Emily Jensco
Kevin McLeod – Vice-Chair	Jaimi Butler	Matt Klar
Ben Nadolski – Exec Secretary	Paul Chase	Mike Laughter
	Randy Hutchison	Nikki Wayment

RAC Excused

Ryan Brown
David Earl
Junior Goring
Darren Parry
Casey Snider

Division Personnel and Wildlife Board Members

Jodie Anderson	Paul Gedge	Bryce Thurgood
Hayley Pace	Mike Christensen	
Covey Jones	Dave Rich	
Lindy Varney	David Beveridge	
Chad Wilson	Sydney Lamb	
Jim Christensen	Mike Kinghorn	
Randall McBride	David Smedley	
Kent Hersey	Kyle Maynard	

DRAFT

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

November 10, 2021

Attendance

<https://youtu.be/Sw2VaRv5Dj4>

- 00:02:03** 1) Chairman Oliver called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience, reviewed the meeting procedures, and had the RAC members introduce themselves.
- 00:07:28** 2) **Approval of Agenda and the Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Matt Klar seconded by Randy Hutchison and passed unanimous
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda and minutes as presented.
- 00:06:15** 3) **Wildlife Board Update(Action)**
OIAL species recommendations, conflicts with bighorn sheep and rifle deer hunters. Motion to reduce season dates to begin after rifle deer hunt ends, motion failed 3-2. Motion to approve recommendations as presented passed unanimously. Fishing recommendation changes at Bear Lake, passed unanimously. Motions to accept the conservation permit audit, annual report and permit allocations which all passed unanimously. RAC and board meeting dates for 2022.
- 00:10:39** 4) **Regional Update (Informational)**
Aquatics- Bear Lake fishing is great.
Law enforcement- K9 helping with poaching and public safety.
GSL- Historic low, brine shrimp harvest, exposed microbiolites.
Habitat- Upcoming retirements, Henefer-Echo fire rehab ongoing, scalping projects across WMA's.
Deer hunt opener- double on Box Elder check stations, mix of young and mature bucks, encouraging hunter reports.
Capture season- Cache deer, November 29th.
Swan hunt update.
- 00:21:50** 5) **Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9 (Action)**
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>
- 00:24:05** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**
Possibility of a waiting period for people who take trumpeter swans. Quota on number of trumpeter swans taken. Process of raising numbers and suggestion to the state to look into increasing quota. Targeting trumpeter swans and locations of hunting. Season dates and impact on tundra swan populations. Canada geese number increase. Action or system to penalize for targeting trumpeter swans.

00:37:12 Electronic Public/Public Comment

4 strongly agree, 1 somewhat agreed, 3 neither agree or disagree, 1 somewhat disagree and 0 disagreed or strongly disagreed.

00:38:03 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

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

MOTION: I move that we accept Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024- Rule R657-9 as presented, but have the Division look into limiting the number of trumpeter swans taken.

00:41:05 6) Big Game Application Timeline (Informational)

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

00:41:23 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Addressing concerning issues. Tag draw and data with surrender permits. Consistency to indicate a certain area. Analyzing information to receive 2 years data.

00:45:14 Electronic/Public Comment

No comments

00:45:34 7) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657- 9 (Action)

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

00:45:40 Questions from RAC Members/Public

*Jaimi Butler left the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Data to collect as part of moving to a draw. Supply and demand. Multi-season permits and data. Application fee explanation. Problems with computer system. Data prior to 2018 being valuable. Change in numbers with archery tags sold with the multi-season put in place. Desirable permit is multi-season. Putting multi-season into a draw and leaving the rest OTC. System updating and cost involved. Projected increase in permits from year to year. Trial period or a step to go to draw for elk. Youth permits unlimited for any bull. Spike tag trends. Multi-season and supply demand issue. Survey hunter days. Concern about non-resident tags. Proposal to add those 5 units that went to hams into general season. Limiting tags and panic buying. Biological impact on tags unlimited for one year.

01:21:14 Electronic Public/Public Comment

Draw system and population. Support going to the draw and shared tags. Survey to find out what seasons they hunt. Draw point change. Elk tags and computer system. Elk committee needs data to provide recommendations. Remove cap on bull and spike tags. Extend youth any bull elk season by 2 more days. Changing hunt for any bull will take away opportunity. Opposed to the lottery and takes away advantage for families to hunt together. Continued management process. Disappointed to see comments on social media. Limit people going to buy tags for everyone. Residents in this state are getting less opportunity. Missed opportunity last year to expand permits and open additional areas. Supports divisions recommendation as long as it is one year. Change to unlimited. Do not support 60/40.

7 strongly agree, 6 somewhat agree, 5 neither agree nor disagree, 4 somewhat disagree, 62 strongly disagreed. Limit non-resident and multi season permit. Multi-season draw. Panic purchasing. Concerns about becoming and staying a draw.

01:37:05 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Acquiring data and concerns about panic buying and applying. Shift with consistent increase in multi-season tags. Better data and being biologically safe. Try unlimited for one year and then present that to the elk committee. Consider public input. The elk committee made the decisions to make the plan and it was accepted and put in place. Needs to be controlled so it can be a quality hunt. Effect on limited entry. Data accuracy.

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Randy Hutchison passed For: 7 Against: 1. Kevin McLeod-Division has done what they need to do to come up with a system to gather that data and make changes down the road.

MOTION: I move that we reject the Division's recommendation to allocate general season bull elk permits through a draw, and instead allocate unlimited over the counter any bull elk permits with no change to spike elk permits, and do this for a period of one year.

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

MOTION: I move the 4 units that were proposed last year, Oquirrh Stansbury West, Nine Mile Anthro, Southwest Desert North and Box Elder Sawtooth, be included in the General Any Bull Elk Units instead of the H.A.M.S. Hunt.

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

MOTION: I move that we reject the Divisions proposal of a 60/40 split and have it remain at 50/50.

02:18:36 8) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates (Action)

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

02:14:21 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Extending youth hunt conflicts. Wearing hunter orange, exemptions and confusion. State code and exceptions. Extension of bow hunt and overlap with youth elk hunt. Consequences of overlap and adjustment. Complaints from archery community. Option of making a multi-year plan.

02:27:19 Electronic Public/Public Comment

9 strongly agree, 7 somewhat agree, 2 neither agree nor disagree, 1 somewhat disagree and 3 strongly disagree.

Overlapping hunts and effects on each other. Late general season archery hunt to spread hunting pressure. Changes with dates around archery in the youth, any bow hunt. Like the late season youth hunt. Support the divisions recommendations.

02:32:45 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Would like to see the youth have time without pressure. Support extending youth season.

The following motion was made by Matt Klar, seconded by Brad Buchanan and passed For: 7 Against: 1. Randy Hutchison- Don't like changing dates, we can go more than one year to see what effects are.

MOTION: I move that we accept 2022 Big Game Hunting Season and Key Dates as presented with the exception of adding an additional 2 days to the youth hunt.

02:35:45 9) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations (Action)

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

02:39:19 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Enforceable boundary explanation on CWMU's. Regulations or criteria used with public land inside a CWMU. Renewal or notifications that have public land in them.

Private/public land boundaries and tradeout land. Managing problems with depredation. Tighter oversight in public land. Reviewing a year before renewal. More time to benefit public and CWMU operators. Flexibility to “grandfather in”. Which people make up committee. Change to CWMU tag allocation.

02:57:45 Electronic Public/Public Comment

0 strongly agreed, 0 somewhat agreed, 6 neither agree nor disagree, 3 somewhat disagree and 1 strongly disagree.

Public lands incorporated inside CWMU boundaries and changing public permit allocations.

02:58:53 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

CWMU and LOA statute. Public land being included is a common concern. Committee looking at issues and changes. Access is more important than permit. Time to reevaluate tag allocations. Taking away access for specific hunts. Fair trade out of renewal. Difficult to restrict people from entering CWMU lands. Permits are set for 3 years. Change application would go back through the board process. Stipulation to revisit next year will give flexibility. 18 CWMU’s renewing this year, 30 CWMU’s with public land in them. CWMU operator mandatory training. Riverview CWMU history and consequences to elk.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s recommendation, with the caveat of receiving information one-year prior to renewal for CWMU’s that include public lands within its boundaries.

03:27:51 Meeting Adjourned. Kevin McLeod

DRAFT

Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
November 16, 2021
6:00 p.m.
Southern Utah University
Hunter Conference Center/Charles R. Hunter Room
351 W. Center Street
Cedar City, UT

Attendance

RAC MEMBERS

Brayden Richmond	Verland King
Austin Atkinson	Tammy Pearson
Chad Utley (virtual)	Nick Jorgensen
Gene Boardman	Dan Fletcher
Chuck Chamberlain	Riley Roberts
Bart Battista	

Division Personnel

Kevin Bunnell	Phil Tuttle
Jason Nicholes	Teresa Griffin
Alyssa Jackson	Denise Gilgen
Lindy Varney	Levi Watkins
Mike Wardle	Mike Christensen
Chad Wilson	Blair Stringham
Kent Hersey (virtual)	Vance Mumford (virtual)
Cody Evans (virtual)	Covy Jones
Paul Washburn	

Wildlife Board Members

00:00:00 1) Welcome (Informational)

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

00:04:25 2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

00:05:00 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair (Informational)
- Chairman Brayden Richmond

Brayden Richmond: Quite a bit of discussion on the once in a lifetime species recommendations. There was a motion that they would reduce the season dates on Pine Valley, Virgin River and Pine Valley, Beaver Dam desert sheep hunts to begin after the rifle deer hunts. Ultimately that failed with a vote of 3-2. There was a motion to approve the recommendations as presented and that passed unanimously.

There was a motion to approve the recommendations on the fishing recommendations. That passed unanimously.

The conservation permit audit a motion to accept as presented and that passed unanimously.

A motion to accept the conservation permit allocation and that passed unanimously.

And the RAC and Board meeting dates, and that passed unanimously.
I think that covers everything.

00:06:18 4) Regional Update (Informational)
-Kevin Bunnell, SRO Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Thank you. Carmen, can I have the presentation pulled up please? While she's finding that, we've been asked to be a little more formal in our RAC updates. So I'll have a short presentation at the beginning of the RACs, if we can make the technology work. Which I know it was up a few minutes ago.

We'll start with the wildlife section. That's an amazing picture to me. That was taken during our flights on the Zion just last week. Look at that one ewe, she's got to be 12 feet in the air trying to get up on that cliff. If I'm reading that picture right. I don't know I didn't have the next picture, but they're amazing to watch.

We just finished our big horn sheep flights on the Kaparowitz, the Kaparowitz West and the Zion units. We don't know that we have the data compiled yet, but that data will be available when we're ready to make recommendations.

The picture you have here, this is a bear that was in a tree in downtown Richfield or somewhere in Richfield yesterday. It caused a bit of a stir. We were able to successfully dart and move her. But there were a couple hundred of people there gathered around. Levi darted her and went up and climbed the tree and put a rope around it and lowered it down. He was kind of a hero yesterday.

Deer captures will be conducted the first part of December. We'll be conducting deer captures on the Monroe, the Beaver, and the Pine Valley. I think we're back in a scenario where we can have some people join us, which we would like to do. We have done those without any help the last couple of years. So, RAC members, before you leave

here tonight, if you have any interest come and visit with me so I can get your names down. We'll also be able to invite some sportsmen to come and help us there as well.

Teresa is in mourning right now, because we have a deer that she has watched very closely that would go all the way from the Buckskin down by the Arizona Strip and come clear back up by Summit. She was hit on Hwy 89 this last week. A pretty amazing example of the migration initiative and the things we're learning there.

We're in the process of rehiring one of our Utah Prairie dog positions to replace Adam Kavalunas.

We'll also be doing Christmas bird counts in the next month. If anyone has any interest in doing those you can reach out to Teresa and she can put you in touch with Keith Day. If you really want to spend some time with somebody who really knows birds in southern Utah, it's a pretty interesting experience to go spend some time with Keith.

Aquatics section, I put this picture up, this is a picture of the reconstruction of Fish Lake. This is the Bowery Marina. This marina is probably 4-5 times bigger than it was before. We've completed the reconstruction on the lake side and the lodge marinas. All of which will now accommodate larger boats. They're deeper. The marinas we had up at Fish Lake had been there since the 40's or the 50's. Within the next six months they'll all be completely rebuilt with a lot of partners. With the county and the Forest Service and everyone else. That's going to be a good thing for our fishermen up on Fish Lake.

I just mentioned the Fish Lake marina 1.7-million-dollar project. It's about 65% complete and we're more than doubling the size of all those marinas.

We completed a treatment up at Navajo last month to reset the fish populations in that lake. We feel like we got a good treatment. We will be putting together a group to rewrite a management plan for that water here shortly, to determine what fish species to put back in there. We'll probably go with a little bit different mix, to see if we can find predators that will keep the chub population down. There is no way to remove them completely out of the system, the chubs will come back. They are great forage fish, if we've got the right fish in there to take advantage of them.

This picture is from our camp out at Lake Powell up at the San Juan arm, you can see how low Lake Powell is if you haven't been down there this year. It's a different place than it normally is, and we really need good snow pack on the west slope of Colorado and in southern Wyoming is really what feeds Lake Powell. I'm hoping for it to be really deep this year so we can get water back in Lake Powell. Our nets were a little bit lighter than we expected, but with the water conditions it's not unexpected. But they were a little lighter than normal. The fishing right now on Lake Powell is really good.

We stocked fish in Redmond and Jackson Flat Reservoirs with which crappy. Southern region is the only place in Utah where you can find that species of fish. In addition to those two lakes you can also find them in Gunnison Bend and DMAD Reservoir near Delta.

Then we had a victory with our efforts of trying to keep species from being enlisted on the Endangered Species act. There was a petition to list the Virgin Spinedace which is a species that is endemic to the Virgin River down in the St George area and beyond. That was found not warranted due to the implementation of a cooperative agreement that we've been working on down there. That was a good example of when

different groups come together we can do good things and keep animals off the Endangered Species list.

Our Habitat section. This is a new crossing structure that is in Baker Canyon just there between I-70 and Fillmore. As you come down the canyon with the construction that has been going on there. UDOT has been a great partner with us and this is an example of another crossing to make I-15 more permeable and allow animals to get out to winter range that they really haven't had access to for the past 30 years or more.

Lots of restoration projects ongoing. We're working on some additional fencing at Bicknell Bottoms and a big project up around Fillmore to improve the road conditions on the Pioneer Road. Monitoring the recently completed crossings in Baker Canyon as I mentioned. And we're nearing completion of a new conservation easement that will be specifically for Condors on the edge of Zion. We've had some landowners there come forward and offer a conservation easement and that's been a really good project as well.

Our Outreach section, this is a picture of one of our new hunter pheasant hunts out on Pahvant WMA just this last Saturday.

So Adam Kavalunas, who was one of our Prairie dog biologists has been hired as our new Outreach Manager, replacing Phil Tuttle who took a position that is supervised out of Salt Lake. I mentioned the youth pheasant hunts, and we will be continuing pheasant releases until the first weekend in December and you can find the information on when and where those releases will take place online.

Our Law Enforcement section, this is a decoy project that they set up during the elk hunt. It ended up issuing at least one citation using this decoy that you're seeing them set up right here. You can see they don't set those up until it's way after dark. There's no question that you are way beyond shooting hours with those.

Wyatt Mecham has been hired as a new officer in Garfield County. Wyatt was with us in the past then went to a different agency for a little while. We're happy to have him back.

Our canine officer Carlo, Carlo is the four-legged officer in this picture not Josh. He has been medically retired so Josh is working at getting a new dog and will be training him. That program has been phenomenally successful. Our dogs, we have a canine in each of our five regions and the number of requests we get from other agencies for search and rescue, and anything else you can think of and they've had some huge successes, and it's been beyond what any of us expected.

Just some highlights from the fall hunting season. There were several search warrants that were conducted. We have the decoy project. Lots of investigations on big animals that have been poached. We're down about half our officers in the region right now and despite that the officers were able to respond to all calls and cases while still getting out on patrol. So they put in a lot of hours. We should have two new officers hitting Washington County. Is Paul here? I think in about December and then about two more hitting the region, so we'll be back to close to full staff in about a year from now. (inaudible question) I'm going to have to count those in my head. I think about 12 and we were down six. That's just in our region. Now that doesn't include the sergeants and the

investigators and the lieutenant, but just the district officers I think there is 12. When Paul gets here he can correct me on that.

That's all I have. I'd be happy to answer any questions if there are any.

Bart Battista: Why does he have a sling?

Kevin Bunnell: Phil had some.. Phil they're asking why you're wearing a sling. He had some shoulder surgery.

Gene Boardman: I got a question. What does the region think the deer are looking like at this time?

Kevin Bunnell: Well, our deer herds are down, as everyone knows. Largely a result of three really bad drought years. The rains we got in July and August I think really helped. We'll find out for sure when we do our captures early in December and we get the weights on our does. That's the next big piece of data that's going to come in, Gene, to get us know if we're going to start a rebound or not. If the does aren't healthy in December they're not going to have healthy fawns and fawn survival is going to be low. If our does come in in December, which we anticipate, in good shape and good fat reserves that bodes well for our fawn crop for next year. But it can't be just one summer of good rain. We're going to have to have things change for a couple of years to get back to where we want to be. But there is no doubt that our fawn survival is low again this year. Largely due to lack of nutrition. We're doing everything else we can from predators and habitat. We just need to catch a break from mother nature. Teresa, anything else you'd like to add to that? Ok.

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions from the RAC?

00:19:29 **5) Waterfowl Recommendation 2022-2024 – Rule R657- 9 (Action)**
-Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator

Kevin Bunnell: There wasn't a lot of comments on this particular agenda item. We had four people with comments specifically in our region. They were split. We had two that somewhat agreed and two that neither agreed nor disagreed. So not a lot of public comment on this one.

Brayden Richmond: A really strong feedback to form our opinions on. Great, thank you. So, questions from the RAC on waterfowl recommendations? Blair is here to answer any question we have, the Waterfowl coordinator.

Blair Stringham: I am here to answer questions.

00:20:53 **Questions from RAC Members**

Austin Atkinson: I do have a question for Blair. As far as shooting trumpeter swans, I understand that's the problem and why we need the orientation course and all that. Is there anything that could be done with a waiting period? If you did shoot a trumpeter obviously the quota could shut the hunt down, but can that put you in a 5-10 year wait to get another swan permit? What is being done at the Division level to discourage people from shooting those trumpeters? Besides the orientation course?

Blair Stringham: Yes, that's a great question. So we talked about all kinds of options, some were a waiting period, some were not allowing people to keep the swans if they shoot them, the trumpeter swans. Ultimately, we decided to err on the side of education first. A lot of people that we talked to last year were not aware of the swan season closing... or those that shot trumpeter swans were not aware that we were trying to discourage people from doing that. So what we were doing in the past was we required people to take that course before they could apply. But after they had taken it once, they didn't have to take it again. So we thought the first step would be to require people to take it on an annual basis, every time they apply. We'll see if the education through that course will help people not pursue trumpeters. If it doesn't then we'll likely start considering other options like waiting periods, or something else like that.

Brayden Richmond: Blair, I have a question on that same subject. I have heard that there are people that are targeting the trumpeter swans because they know there is a quota. On the trumpeter swans that were taken, do you have any idea the percentage of targeted vs uneducated? Do you have any feedback on the why's of who is harvesting those?

Blair Stringham: We don't have any data on that. We did know that in the past generally people who have shot trumpeters didn't know they had shot a trumpeter until they had brought it in. And that was largely because we had very, very few in the state. So to actually go out and shoot a trumpeter on purpose was almost impossible. But we have seen a few the last couple of years a lot more trumpeters moving through the state. So people will isolate where those swans are at. And you can if you want, to go out to one of those areas and potentially shoot one, you have a lot higher of a chance than you did five years ago. So, I would suspect that the number of people targeting has increased, but we still get quite a few people that when they bring their swans in to get checked they didn't know it was a trumpeter, so there are the accident people as well.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you. Chuck?

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes, I have a question about the geese bag limits. You separated the white fern from the Canada geese's this year. So you can get five Canadian and get six white ferns, so you can get essentially 11 geese now?

Blair Stringham: Yes.

Chuck Chamberlain: Okay, I just wanted to check.

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions from the RAC?

00:23:54 Questions from the Public

00:24:01 Comments from the Public

00:24:07 RAC Discussion and Vote

Brayden Richmond: Alright, let's move into the motion. Would anyone make a motion on this item?

The following motion was made by Austin Atkinson, seconded by Nick Jorgensen.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

00:25:02 6) Big Game Application Timeline (Informational)
-Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

00:25:10 Feedback from the public

Kevin Bunnell: Well if you've been watching or reading the comments that came in, you know this was the one that generated the most feedback. We had 66 people comment on this. 80% of them strongly agreed with the presentation or the recommendation, and the other 20% are kind of evenly split between the other categories. I think this is the one where we will earn our keep tonight, is working through this issue.

Brayden Richmond: Like Kevin said, this is probably one of the more comments we've seen in quite a while in a RAC meeting. I was kind of surprised it got that much feedback, but it has, so that's good. But let's muddle through it and try to come up with a good decision. Let's go to questions from the RAC.

00:26:03 Questions from RAC Members

Kevin Bunnell: Lindy Varney is also here.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, thank you. Lindy's here to answer all your tough questions.

Chuck Chamberlain: I have a question about the multi-season tags. So we've got a lot of comments about multi seasons, some for a quite a few saying we should drop the multi season. I want to make sure I understand how those tags are given out. If we have 100

multisession tags and we put those back into the pot, we don't get 300 tags back, isn't it? We get 100 tags spread across three hunts. Isn't that right?

Lindy Varney: Correct, yeah. The multi-seasons just come off the top of the overall quota.

Chuck Chamberlain: Okay, so that's not going to increase hunter opportunity?

Lindy Varney: No, it will not.

Craig Laub: The only thing it would increase is the number of hunters that can have hunts, is that right?

Lindy Varney: No, only the multi-season allows you to go out on all three seasons, but it wouldn't increase the permit quota.

Austin Atkinson: Hey Chair, question that would be directed to Lindy. I have a question for item number five which is strictly informational. Can we ask questions about that informational item?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, we kind of jumped over that one.

Austin Atkinson: Lindy, question. Why can't we not push the draw deadline back even one more week to be beyond the Board meeting in 2023?

Lindy Varney: Because I need time to clean up all the data. It takes time to run a draw, so we need that time to start going through all the applications. When you have almost 600,000 apps, it does take time to review it. We have a machine that does it and compare apps, but it does take human eyes to review everything too. Once we're doing that the week before the Board meeting and once the Board meeting happens, that's when we put all the numbers in, create everything and then run the draw. Then charge credit cards. It just takes time when you have that much volume.

Austin Atkinson: Understood, would it be possible to say, if we pushed it back one week later behind the Board meeting that we could get results back one week later in the first week in June? And if everyone is happy with that, then go?

Lindy Varney: Uhm, it will push back the antlerless draw, which will then affect the hunts, and a lot of them start August 1st. So we do that we just keep pushing everything back and it's a domino effect. For my feedback from what people called me on this, May 31st is still too late for them to get their results. They want it sooner than later.

Austin Atkinson: Next question, can we have the edit your application option for 2022?

Lindy Varney: We are in the programming right now. It will be ready this summer, but not for the big game. It will need some rule changes that I will be bringing out this spring to make it happen. But it is in the works to go into place this summer.

Austin Atkinson: And last question on this item, why do we still need the two extra weeks for people to apply for points only? Isn't five weeks enough? Why do we still try to preserve those two extra weeks for points only?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, that's definitely something that if the public sentiment is to get rid of that, it's something the Division can look at. We've always just had seven weeks and it seems like that's enough time for everyone to apply throughout people's life. If you do a two-week application, people tend to forget. But like I said, if public sentiment is something we can do away with, but we would prefer not to, because life happens and people do need that extra two weeks to apply for just points.

Brayden Richmond: Kevin, let me make a recommendation here and you guide me if I'm wrong. We missed that informational item on the agenda, I wonder if we want to pause just a minute and hit that informational item as Austin brought it up. So we don't confuse the two, where it's not on the agenda Lindy, could I get you to just quickly bring us up to speed on what that item is so we're all on board and we can ask any additional questions on that? We won't have a motion on that, we won't vote on it because it is informational, but let's hit it real quick.

Lindy Varney: Yeah, no problem.

Kevin Bunnell: There was a presentation available, I hope that everyone saw the presentation.

Lindy Varney: So, back in June the Wildlife Board asked the Division to look at pushing the big game application period back so people could have the proposed or some type of idea of what the quota would be when they're applying for big game species. We worked with our wildlife section, or contractor to push back the application date. So in 2023 we would open up in mid-March and close the end of April, then results would be posted by May 31st. During that time you'd have the permit numbers, but they're only proposed permit numbers.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Lindy. I saw the presentation online, and you did a very good job of explaining it. Again, we should have all watched that, but I didn't want to confuse that item and number five. If there are any other question on that, even though it's informational, let's hit that and then we can move on to agenda item six, the big game application timeline. So any other questions on that informational item?

Austin Atkinson: I guess I'll ask a follow up on that. I apologize, I've kind of lost my voice here. This document that they provided, if everyone hasn't seen it we've asked for it for a while, but it's a summary of big game permits. So it included a conservation section, a landowner section, an expo section, and a public draw section. So

my question is, when we go to approve numbers this spring, will we be able to see it in a format similar to this as a supplement when we approve tag numbers? Or will it be back to the old way?

Lindy Varney: I am going to ask Covy to come answer that since he will be the one overseeing that.

Covy Jones: Alright Austin, I want to make sure I understand your questions. The public permits which we recommend through the process in the spring, there are also other permits, conservation permits, expo permits recommended in different cycles in different meetings. In the southern region, that was a concern when it was brought up last year. We came to some middle ground, we said we will publish this on the website so everyone knows and has an accounting. I don't know that we would add those numbers to the RAC packet, but we would make sure they were up to date. And the reason why is because, it starts to confuse. It's already confusing when you get into big game numbers, so presenting public permits and passing public permits, I feel very comfortable with that. But when you start to add in everything else it start to get confusing. But for those that are interested in that, we'd make sure they were up to date and for Gene we'd make sure they were up to date and available. Yeah, Gene pointed out that we had some errors in those so we went back in and fixed them.

Austin Atkinson: Thanks.

Gene Boardman: And yes Covy, you did make a start on that, but there is still a wase to go with it in the summary that you started to build. General season units are not shown, like the Beaver unit is shown as five tags, and the rest of the units are the same. It's still needs to go further down the line. You did get the limited entry elk and pronghorn straightened out, but we'd like to know it on all units and all hunts.

Covy Jones: And Gene I guess what I would say is not all limited entry units and hunts offer those types of permits. So the late season limited entry muzzleloader doesn't have any conservation permits, and it may have some expo permits on a few of those. If we're missing something, absolutely we'll go back and fix it.

Gene Boardman: Well, there's a big whack out of land owner permits that we'd like to know about. Let's just take for instance the 2019 annual report. On the Mt Dutton there were 155 buck deer taken. There was 76 does taken on that unit. Now, I think that people would be concerned about that number of does if they could see that laid out. I think there are some other areas. We'd like to talk about landowner permits, and we won't do it right now, but it may come up again tonight.

Covy Jones: Okay, thanks Gene.

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions? Thank you Austin for pointing that out, I would have totally missed number five, so I appreciate it. Ok, back to number six.

We already talked about the online results there and we started questions there. Let's go back to question from the RAC on the big game application timeline.

00:36:39 Questions from the RAC

Craig Laub: Oh yeah, I just, in your file here you have the any bull how fast they sold out. Do you know how fast the spike have for the past few days?

Lindy Varney: So spike this year in 2021 sold out in 5 days.

Craig Laub: 5?

Lindy Varney: Yep and in 2020 it sold out in 6 days.

Craig Laub: 6?

Lindy Varney: Yep.

Craig Laub: Okay, and then in 2021 you got two more hours out of 2,500 more tags, correct?

Lindy Varney: Correct, correct.

Craig Laub: Thanks.

Chuck Chamberlain: So Brayden, I still feel like we're talking about two different agenda items here. We're talking about six and seven at the same time.

Brayden Richmond: That was just my side huddle going on here with Kevin was. Hold on just a second, but I think you're exactly right. So item number six, just to keep everyone on track here. Now we're talking about three questions on item number six and we're done with question 5.5 which wasn't on the agenda. Now we're on agenda item six, and next we'll be on agenda item seven which is the max permits and the over-the-counter elk permits. On agenda item six it's the big game application timeline. So we want to follow this one through and then then we'll jump to agenda seven.

Kevin Bunnell: The application timeline is the one that we just did. It's on the agenda, but it's mislabeled as an action item where it's an information. That's our problem on the agenda.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, so we are on to seven. So we are on the correct one now, item number seven. Agenda item seven, max point permits and over the counter elk recommendations. Questions?

Gene Boardman: Could we do this as two separate things? Let's talk about the draw as one item and talk about the points as another item.

Brayden Richmond: I think as we come to motions we'll definitely want to approach those as separate items, but I think on questions let's just go forward with all questions. But maybe in the discussion and the motions we can separate those out. Questions from the RAC on agenda item seven?

7) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations (Action)
- Rule R657-62
-Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

00:40:05 Questions from RAC Members

Austin Atkinson: Okay Chair, I have some questions. So I know it's been said that we need the data. I understand we want the data that will show us how many people will actually apply for these tags, then we'll know how many people are out there because we don't seem to know. I would say anytime we're changing this many variables, we've screwed up the data anyway. So my question is, how many unique license holders have bought any bull tags in the last two years?

Lindy Varney: I don't have the last two years, but over the last five years it's been about 40,000 unique hunters. I can get the last two years...

Austin Atkinson: 40,000 and that wouldn't be counting say the 12,000 archery hunters. Not including them, right?

Lindy Varney: No, not including, this would be for just the any bull permits.

Austin Atkinson: Okay, so to me that's the number we're looking for. So I would say what other data do we need? By asking someone who is planning to elk hunt in July and making that decision in July to now apply in February, what data are we looking for?

Lindy Varney: So some other things we're looking for and working with the elk committee is how many people are any bull hunters and just spike hunters. Or how many are any bull hunters and if they can't get the permit, can they get a spike bull? We don't have those kinds of answers. This proposal isn't just about the data though either. It's bigger than that. It's the supply and demand of these permits. Going in to the draw it's a plus side because we would be able to get that data. But the main reason for this proposal is supply and demand. We have so much demand for these permits, we don't have enough supply. That's what's causing these permits to sell out in ten hours. Yeah we added two extra hours in 2021, but we also added 2,500 permits. If we had just the 15,000 we may have sold out in less than eight hours. So, getting the data is important, and we always like analyzing the data and it will show us different things when we work with the elk committee and we can answer more questions, but it's also about the supply and demand.

Kevin Bunnell: Lindy, can I add to that? I know this is controversial, but there is also a fairness issue there, Austin, in terms of if somebody is at work and they don't have access to a computer on that day, they've just missed their opportunity completely. So it's people's individual circumstances may, if they're selling out in one day, you might not have even had a chance. So there is a fairness question here that makes sure everyone who wants a chance, has a chance, rather than I happen to have a job where I can sit online and watch all day, and the other guy doesn't, so I win and he doesn't I think there is some aspect to that to this.

Lindy Varney: Thank you Kevin.

Austin Atkinson: Lindy, can you tell us how many surveys are sent out general season any bull hunters, and how many surveys are returned? Do we even know how many people hunt?

Lindy Varney: I'm actually going to have to turn this over to Covy. They're the ones who do the surveys on this kind of information.

Kevin Bunnell: Covy, you're going to need to come sit closer to the mike, buddy.

Covy Jones: I have Kent looking up data for us tonight. So Austin, again you want to know the percent of any bull hunters who actually go out and hunt?

Austin Atkinson: And how small the sample size is we're looking at.

Kent Hersey: Can you all hear me? So just looking at the any bull hunters for any weapon, we had 7,912 licenses we sample 2,016. So we aim for about a quarter of all general season hunts. Of that 90.4% went to field.

Austin Atkinson: Lindy, can you tell us where the \$10 application fee goes? I know you brought that up in another RAC and I think it was beneficial.

Lindy Varney: Yeah, so \$2.50 roughly, it can be off by a penny or two, but about \$2.50 goes towards our contractor, that's what it costs to run a business with them. Then the \$7.50 comes back to the Division. We use that \$7.50 for various things such as salary, protecting wildlife projects, and also goes toward paying the credit card fees. We don't put that on to the hunter when they apply or purchase a permit. We pay those credit card fees for you guys. So some of that money goes towards that as well.

Verland King: Uh, this is Verland, so is this \$10 on top of having to buy your small game license or whatever?

Lindy Varney: Yeah.

Verland King: We used to put in for cow tag and put in \$10. Now if you put in for a cow tag you've got to buy a combination license or something like that. Is this on top of that?

Lindy Varney: It is, yes. It would just be a \$10 application fee like if you're applying for general season deer, you've got to have your hunting or combination license in order to be eligible to apply. Then you still have to pay the permit fee.

Verland King: Another question, what would be wrong with soaking up some more any bull units and making more opportunity that way?

Lindy Varney: I'm going to turn that over to the biologist.

Brayden Richmond: Verland, I thought we beat that up a whole bunch this spring? Do you want to resurface those old wounds?

Covy Jones: Verland where were you last year? So last year, we had a mid-plan review with the elk committee. Out of that mid plan review, the Division came back and made a couple of recommendations. One of the recommendations was to add four new general season any bull units, because we saw this demand. People want to hunt. Hunters want an opportunity to get out and a chance at harvesting a bull. So working with the committee, the committee made that recommendation through the public process. There was push back, controversy, there always is. It seems like whatever group feels like they're going to have the loss at the time will show up and oppose the recommendation. And there was some opposition to that and unfortunately, it didn't make it through the public process. So, great idea Verland.

Brayden Richmond: The committee voted with you Verland, but we voted it down.

Tammy Pearson: Before we get off that topic if I remember right and you guys can correct me. Our recommendation from the southern region was to add an any bull unit on the southwest desert. Is anybody going to have a different memory?

Covy Jones: If I remember correctly, the southern region actually voted to pass all four additional units.

Tammy Pearson: We did, but specifically for our own region. But when it went to the Wildlife Board they changed it.

Kevin Bunnell: And the Southwest Desert was one of the ones that was proposed through the committee. I think this RAC was largely in support of the proposal, but we're only one of five, plus the Wildlife Board and through that process it didn't make it through. There were additional HAMS hunts added was the compromised position that happened. It's just the portion of the Southwest Desert near the highway.

Brayden Richmond: It was new units.

Covy Jones: And just to be fair, I think that some of the other regions I've seen this turn into a little bit of a discussion and frustration with the Board, and I don't know that that's fair. So I just want to make sure that as a RAC we don't go there. The Board has their own pressures. I think it was John Baird who said it's a really easy decision until it's your decision. I think we can all feel that, right. If the RAC feels that and wants that it's one thing, but I wanted to make sure we didn't get into the placing blame.

Brayden Richmond: Covy, I just want to say I think that's a really good comment. I watched one of the other RACs and heard some things from the northern RAC but I think we do want to be careful. The roll here is to sort through the comments, to sort through the recommendation, why the recommendation was made, and make the best decision we can. But ours is a recommendation. The Board is the one who passes the rules. So, thank you Covy. That's a good comment.

Verland King: I have another question, there are a couple of comments about the hunting in states around us. How different is our program or draw or whatever it is? I don't hunt out of state, and I don't hunt too much in state anymore.

Brayden Richmond: Austin, would you like to answer that?

Lindy Varney: I was about to say the same thing. Each state is different, each state has their own program and draw system and unlimited tags. It can get really deep real quick. Each state is unique. Colorado has unlimited bull elk. Idaho not anymore for non-resident.

Kevin Bunnell: Austin, you're kind of a subject expert, do you want to just give a quick summary?

Austin Atkinson: Yeah, and I'll address some of that in my comments for sure if that helps. I'll ask you another question Lindy. It's been brought up in other RACs and some of us have said just keep it over the counter, but fix your computer system, right? And I think it's important to understand, we use Utah.gov services. This is a state service, right? You call it the Department of tech services?

Lindy Varney: Department of Technology Services (DTS). All of government agencies use them. It's a contract through them.

Austin Atkinson: So my question is, are they are partner, or a contractor? Because you mentioned in another RAC that we have to fork out \$100,000 to fix their system. But in my world of contractors they fix their system and increase their price to me.

Lindy Varney: So, I get why you're confused. So we're fixing the database, and we own the database. That's one of the weak links that we noticed is this part of the data base that DTS and us partner with. The contractor is the interface that runs .gov type of systems.

Sot it's kind of a mixture of both of us. So the \$100,000 is to update the data base to increase the capacity. So when someone does hit out website, when we're checking the demographics all that will run a bit quicker.

Austin Atkinson: And do we have any complaints from license vendors, as far as sales last year? Or is it strictly from online users?

Lindy Varney: It's from online users, and they're the same contractor, it's the same system. It's the volume the pressure that our website is hitting because we have 40-50-60,000 people hitting our website, and when I say people it's actually IP addresses. That's with any system. Even if we had the best system possible and we spend millions and millions of dollars to get the best, it's still goes back to the supply and demand. We would sell out in a few hours' vs ten hours. And then it goes back to what Kevin said, the fairness. Our system sells 500,000 licenses a year and even on our big sells day for any bull we still sold 35,000 licenses that day. So our system works, it just takes a little bit longer because of the other components.

Brayden Richmond: Lindy, can I ask a follow up question, and you just answered it, but I want to ask the question anyways to kind of restate it. A lot of the discussion has been that if they would fix the system right? They is whoever that refers to. If they would fix the system we wouldn't have this issue. But the reality is, if you could log on and instantly buy the permit the timeline of selling them out would increase drastically. So what we talked about earlier is part of the problem is the fairness that Kevin illuded to, we would actually decrease that window that you could be online to buy your permits. Is that accurate?

Lindy Varney: Correct, yes. We'd sell out a lot quicker.

Riley Roberts: I have a question, Lindy. You talk about supply and demand. Aren't we actually taking about two different supply and demands? One, it's the supply and demand at that specific morning that these are going on sale. Aren't we potentially creating with allowing this longer time, a higher demand for the tag itself?

Lindy Varney: It might. So what I hear you're saying, if we put it in the draw we may create more people wanting this permit?

Riley Roberts: Correct.

Lindy Varney: I just want to make sure I understand.

Riley Roberts: Yeah, when you're speaking of supply, this is more of clarification for me, when you're speaking of supply and demand, you're talking supply and demand in those six hours, correct?

Lindy Varney: Correct

Riley Roberts: Not necessarily for the tag itself.

Lindy Varney: Well they want the tag, so it sells out.

Riley Roberts: Right but the supply and demand is in that time frame because it's overloading the system. But potentially we're increasing the demand...

Lindy Varney: It's a potential, yeah. It's possible if we put it in the draw, we might have people apply for it just because it's in the draw. That is a possibility.

Kevin Bunnell: So Riley, I guess I would rephrase that and say, we're finding out what the actual demand is. We're finding out who is available to try and do it in the six straight hours right now, but we don't know how many are out there that because of job circumstances or have an interest but haven't had a chance to play the game, right?

Tammy Pearson: Well you know how many people bought tags, but you don't know how many got dropped off the other end who were waiting in line or trying to get on. Where you do it like this where it's an application then you would know.

Brayden Richmond: So Lindy, while we're on this subject with questions still, not comments. Can you address at least in the central RAC had this discussion, we're trying to figure out how many people really want these tags, there was at least a discussion but maybe a motion was passed in the central on going to unlimited vs putting them in a draw. Because the draw perhaps creates some artificial demand that wouldn't be there if it were unlimited. What's the draw back to... because again this is a one-year trial... next year is the elk committee as I understand it. So this really is a one-year window where we try to figure all this out and then the elk committee gets the really good task of making us all happy. What is the drawback of going with the unlimited instead of making them a draw?

Lindy Varney: I'm going to let Covy answer this one, because he knows more about the elk plan. But it would give us an accurate number just as well as the draw, but there are some other aspects to it.

Covy Jones: Yeah, so I think I hear what the RAC is saying about putting it into a draw. Because anytime something is in a draw it's better, right? And when it's better there is a possibility that more people will apply and it will give us some skewed data there as well. Austin mentioned that you change a lot of variables and it's hard to get your thumb on the number. That idea of going unlimited which came before the RAC again last year was proposed. The sentiment at the time, there were a lot concerned that that's not what we want to do as a state. Biologically, we didn't have concerns and that's because of the typography of where these units are, the land ownership of where the any bull units are, it's wouldn't have had a negative impact biologically because we're talking about males, we're harvesting males. There was still concern with crowding issues and whatever else on the landscape and that recommendation didn't get passed. Now elk permit numbers are one of the numbers that is set in the management plan. General season any bull and spike permit numbers are set in the elk plan. The central region and the north... not that we want to get into how the other

RACs work... but they both felt like it was important to voice that they would rather have that than have it go into a draw. So that was the sentiment there. Brayden, does that answer the question?

Brayden Richmond: I think it was a good answer, but the question is what's the drawback?

Covy Jones: I don't know that there is one. The drawback would be what I mentioned before, crowding.

Brayden Richmond: So, the Division isn't opposed to that idea. It would be a social issue, but biologically, it's fine?

Covy Jones: Biologically I don't have concerns. Socially, I have some concerns and as I mentioned before, the Division doesn't make recommendations that are outside of the plan. We work really hard to make sure that our recommendations are in accordance with the plans that we've all agreed to. And since those numbers are set, it's not going to be a Division recommendation this round.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you.

Kevin Bunnell: Covy, just to clarify what Brayden is asking, if the elk committee came back, they recommended going unlimited and it was in the plan as an option, we would have no issue with it?

Covy Jones: No, we would not have an issue with it. And there are other states that do this. As we mentioned before Colorado does this with both residents and non-residents. And Wyoming does this for residents. So it's not something that is crazy or unprecedented.

Kevin Bunnell: So our opposition at this point is process oriented. We have a plan and we're going to manage to the plan. If the plan changed, our opposition would go away.

Covy Jones: That's correct.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Bart.

Bart Battista: Who are the losers here? Nobody has really talked about that. No, we're moving it from over the counter to draw. I understand biologically it's fine for the species. But for the people, who's going to be hurt by it?

Lindy Varney: Well, there's always people hurt when they are unsuccessful in a draw. But there is also those people not getting it over the counter as well. So when you have a set quota, someone is not going to obtain a permit that wanted one. Does that answer your question?

Bart Battista: In an abstract way.

Brayden Richmond: An abstract answer for an abstract question.

Bart Battista: Well I mean, let me just finish. I mean it sounds great and all that. I'm not a hunter, obviously I'm a non-consumptive rep, but we've had a program and people use it, so people must like it. There seems to be some consternation with change to this, so I don't think it's just a bunch of keyboard warriors that are buying it over the counter. So are we truly addressing, is it fair? I understand the fairness in a draw and all that, but just changing it just because our computer system doesn't work, doesn't seem to be an answer.

Lindy Varney: We aren't just changing it because the system doesn't work. It's because there is so much demand for these permits that we're selling out and it becomes essentially an over-the-counter draw. Whoever can get in line first will get the permit.

Bart Battista: And so the demand is a different way. The supply is the same, the demand is met, so there really is no change.

Kevin Bunnell: So Bart, I think another part of the loss that's here, and I'll use myself as an example, some people are having a hard time with the \$10 application fee. If I'm applying for myself and my two sons, that's an extra \$30. Right now if I'm able to get online and buy those I can buy those three permits and it costs me \$30 less than if I apply for those three permits and I draw all three of them. That's part of the opposition that we're hearing that \$10 application fee that comes with a draw. That's a number, that's a cost that's set through the legislature. So we're in a tight spot, that's not something that we can reduce or take away because it's part of our fee schedule that we have to follow and can only be adjusted by the legislature. So there is some lack of flexibility there, which I think is part of that whole argument as well. Lindy, would you agree with that as well?

Lindy Varney: Yes, I would. I hear a lot of people talk about the \$10 app fee.

Bart Battista: Thanks.

Gene Boardman: On the 60/40 or 40/60 thing. How will this change point creep?

Lindy Varney: So, I've been given the initiative to try to help reduce point creep. As we all know it's never going away. We definitely have more applicants who want to hunt in Utah than we have permits. So we're always going to have it. The only way to get rid of point creep is to issue a permit to every one of them and get them out of the draw. So I've been giving the initiative through the Wildlife Board and through the Directors office to look at ways to help get people a permit through the draw system. And this is what it is, to try and take some of those max point holders out of the pool a little bit sooner. So we can lower that max point level just by a year or two. The 60/40 won't take into effect on hunts that are less than ten permits. The 60/40 doesn't really kick in until you have ten permits and that's when we'll do the six permits to the max point applicant and four to the regular round. Currently

we're already kind of doing that if you have less than ten permits. So right now, if you have three permits on a certain unit two of those permits go to the max permit category and one permit goes to the regular round. It's only the even numbers that get the 50/50. So that's kind of how it is. It's just a little pin hole in the bucket, because really that's all we can do, unless we dramatically change everything we do, and that's a bigger discussion.

Gene Boardman: Okay, that leads to my second question. Can you tell us what your thoughts are on this hole point program? Let's say for instance on Pine Valley it's four years to draw after you've drawn once right now. As more people apply that four years is going to stretch to what? On Thousand Lake it's six years. If you drew this year and you started accumulating points to draw again, when would you draw? Probably not six years, maybe eight. Is this thing going to finally implode or come apart? Over the years where is it going?

Lindy Varney: Okay, so just to clarify, the 60/40 only applies to bonus points, which is for our limited entry and once in a lifetime species. What Gene is talking about is the preference points and what it takes to draw out for a general season deer permit. It's hard to say if it's going to go up to eight or ten years it all depends on permit numbers and how many applicants we have. All that goes into it. Me personally, I like the point system and how we do preference points. You wait your turn, you've been waiting for four years, you draw out. Verses someone that has not been applying for zero years and they draw out. So it doesn't have the 50/50. We give preference to the person that has been applying the longest for these general deer permits. But it's a tough question, Gene, to answer if it gets worse or not. It all depends on applicants and permit numbers.

Riley Roberts: I have a follow up question on that. In your words it's just drop in the bucket and looking at the last few years in the number of applicants and the increase in those applicants, aren't we going to have to do something more drastic anyway?

Lindy Varney: We may, like I said we're always exploring different ideas. We are looking at all different ideas and this is the one that came up that still follows our draw structure vs doing the 50/50 it goes to the 60/40. Just as another little pinhole. But we are having bigger discussions regarding what we need to do. If we need to leave it the same of if we need to explore different options.

Riley Roberts: And looking at the numbers based on 2021, what would be the total number of max point holders?

Lindy Varney: That's a question I cannot answer, because every unit is different.

Riley Roberts: Well, what I'm saying is what would be the number on the 60/40? How many additional max point holders will be punched through the system with the 60/40 split?

Lindy Varney: Oh okay. Yeah, about 480 if we would have done it in 2021, that would have gotten drawn out. I thought you were asking total how many applicants, and I was...

Riley Roberts: No, no, I understand it just depends because people swap units every year. No, I wanted to know how many we were pushing through because in my mind I'm trying to process how fast is point creep increasing vs the drop in the bucket with the 60/40 split. So, thank you.

Lindy Varney: Yep.

Chuck Chamberlain: So Lindy, I'm thinking that you take that 480 out and you kind of dull the pyramid and you keep doing that every year until you have a flat line where you have 300-400 guys who are max point holders for every draw and then what do we do when max point holders can't draw anymore because they're all max point holders? So it seems like this is kind of a short-term solution that doesn't get you more than a few years down the road, it looks like. Sorry, that's not a question, is it?

Lindy Varney: You're good.

Brayden Richmond: Lindy, we received an email with another I want to ask you. Taking about the 50% random draw and you do get the bonus points in that random draw. Doing that similar to, well doing it exponentially, so if you have 20 points, but if you're in the random draw those 20 points would be squared. So what that looks like as far as getting rid of that top point holder pool. Have you looked at that, and what are your thoughts on that?

Lindy Varney: So we have definitely talked about that. So if we do similar to Nevada where they square it plus one, for your current application. So if you have 20 bonus points, so if you square it plus one you have 401 draw numbers to go through the app. It definitely would make a bigger dent in it, but it also kind of takes away our whole draw system. If that's the purpose we want to, it will make a big difference if we do the squared plus one. But throughout this whole RAC process and the many, many phone calls and emails that I've received, is they don't like taking away the chance in the draw in those permits for the youth or the beginner hunters or applicants that are going to a new species because they drew something out. So if we went to that method I think we would be giving a lot more permits to our high point holders vs our low point holders. That's why we didn't go that route because of the big number, I don't have the exact number.

Brayden Richmond: Now you answered it, thank you. I'll have more comments later, I'll forgo them during the question section.

Austin Atkinson: I got a question. So I know we're trying to make a dent in point creep. Why don't we issue, and you may have to provide some context here, but these guys that have high points, they draw a tag and decide I don't want to use that this year for whatever reason they turn it back. And I know we fixed that surrender period a little bit last year, but they can still turn it back and have their points reinstated. When we get that permit

back we don't give it to the next max point guy who would have drawn. We just give it randomly to whoever we decide, or however you decide it goes to. But if we're going to address point creep, why don't we do something like that and start giving the tags to the guys that have the points?

Lindy Varney: Yeah so, when we get a permit surrendered back to us, we use the alternate list to issue those permits back out. When we do the max point round it's a whole new list of just hunters with max points. But even if I have zero points, I'm still in that random draw for max points, because you don't know how far you can go down the list. So when that part is done, we go to the regular draw and that is when we generate another alternate list. Most of the time, in my many years of doing this, the top point holders are on that list at the top when we call. And the reason why we haven't gone that direction is because most of these max point holders decline that permit. They don't want it because they have a potential chance of drawing out in the next year or two. They don't want the hunt ruined, they want the whole experience where they can go scout for a couple of months, they want the excitement of drawing out. We may be able to get one or two, but I believe most of them will decline that opportunity because we don't give them enough time to experience the whole experience of that permit.

Brayden Richmond: Additional questions? I'm excited for the discussion.

Riley Roberts: I do have an additional question. You mentioned you brainstormed and looked at some of the other things. I mean this has been a hot topic for a while. What are some of those things? We know what Nevada does, we know what Arizona does, we've looked at doing something like that. In Arizona there is no point banking, you draw you've got one time and then you lose it. Consistently you've got people who are drawing and turning it back in. Have we looked at other things a little more drastic? I know these are all social issues, but have we looked at doing something like that? And if so, what was the consensus?

Lindy Varney: Yes, I have a team where we have a weekly or every other week discussion of trying to look at new ideas. We have several on the board, but we're waiting until the end of this years permit cycle when everyone has turned in their permits to come up with final decisions. We want to make sure that we're analyzing the correct data. And I'm hoping to bring something back out in the next year to address some of these issues. So I don't have the exact answer of what we're talking about, but it may be making the surrender rule more stern. Doctor statements more stern. So, that kind of stuff. But I don't have exactly what we're doing yet. So stay tuned. You guys can't get rid of me.

Riley Roberts: Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions?

01:14:52 Questions from the Public

Jason Aiken: My name is Jason Aiken. I've got a question on the 60/40 and kind of just more of a clarification for myself. What's the main intent is it just to get more high point holders through the system, but we're not increasing what's actually going to be drawn out the door. So I don't know how... so what Chuck talked about, it gets the pyramid, how long before it's going to get to that pyramid is what I'm questioning. Where is that going to come down to ok, it's no longer going to make a difference in point creep. Any idea?

Lindy Varney: I don't, we are looking at it and this will take a big effect on the higher permit units like the Wasatch, the Manti, and it may hit that plateau because people do switch around. This isn't set where you can only apply for one unit the rest of your hole hunting career. So it's a hard question to answer, but it may plateau like you bring up, but it will also get those max point holders who are plateaued through the draw. A little bit sooner than they would have if we didn't do the 60/40.

Ian Heinritz: My question is on the any bull tags. Is there a cap on the number of out of state tags, and is that something you've looked at?

Lindy Varney: Currently no there is not, it's a combined quota. It's not something that we've entertained because right now we're only issuing about 5% of those permits to non-residents. We normally do a 90/10, so we haven't had that issue.

Ian Heinritz: Alright, thank you.

Lindy Varney: Yep.

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions from the public? Ok, we have two comment cards on this one.

01:17:24 Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman: Kevin Norman representing SFW tonight. Thank you for your time. We as SFW are opposed to the 60/40 split, we'd like to see it kept where it's at 50/50. The main reason among our committee is just looking out for the youth and the new hunters, it really stifles their chance at drawing. As far as any of the elk permits going to draw, we support that decision reluctantly. On the stern note that it's a one-year trial period and it's brought back next year to see what happens. Thank you for your time.

Kevin Bunnell: The next one doesn't want to comment publicly (Comment made by Keith Adams). He does not support the over-the-counter elk permits. Feels like we know the demand from the over-the-counter process. And here is one that would blow things up, he would support going back to over the counter for deer permits to take pressure off of elk permits.

Brayden Richmond: I'll open it up to comments from the RAC. (Hold on) There has always got to be one. Go ahead, if you can state your name.

Jason Aiken: My name's Jason Aiken, I've got a comment on both. So the over-the-counter elk going to the draw, I understand we have a limited number of tags, really it does come down to what Kevin said, it's really not fair to people who can't have access to a computer when sales are going through in eight to ten hours. I'm not against the draw system, I think the draw system works very well. When you have a supply that doesn't meet the demand, so it doesn't make it more fair for everyone who wants to play the game. But to go back to last year, I think that unlimited over the counter elk tags is probably the better route to go. Just because I think that it's the one last permit that we can get over the counter and have the true opportunity hunt type of deal. My second comment is on the 60/40 split, Lindy talked about if we square points when they go into the bonus system it takes away opportunity for those with less points, primarily the youth. Technically moving 60/40 to the high point holders technically does the same thing, so I don't understand why one is ok, but one isn't. I personally think... we do have two different systems right now, we have a preference point system for the general season when the supply and demand is a little bit more inline, and a preference point system works really well because you only have to wait a couple of years. Sometimes it is six. But those people have the opportunity to go hunt other units that do only take one or two years. They choose to wait six years, that's their choice. When it comes to our limited entry and once in a lifetime, we've got it spread across the board. We have some units where you can draw with five points; Paunsaugunt archery elk you can draw with just a couple of years. I've had friends draw that hunt just on their five year waiting period for deer. But then we have the limited entry for the Henry's, and that one to become a high point holder is never going to happen for my daughter that I just started putting in for a couple of years ago. Same thing with all the once in a lifetime. It will take 150 years for someone who starts applying now to ever become a high point holder, even if we don't put more people in the system, just right now it will take someone with zero point this year to draw 150 years to be a high point holder. I personally think there needs to be a line drawn in the sand between splitting up limited entry units and saying, ok Colorado has a unique rule on how they allocate non-resident permits. Austin, maybe you'll be able to correct me if I'm wrong, but it takes so many points for a resident to draw, they only allocate 10% of the tags to the non-residents, but if it takes less than that number of points they allocate 20% of the tags to non-residents. Why can't we look at something like that? When your supply and demand is so far out of whack it just makes more sense to have more permits available in the bonus point draw than it does the high point, because that's where most of your people are is in the bonus point draw, and it goes back to more fair for everybody because we set this expectation that once we become a high point holder we'll be guaranteed a tag. 150 years for a sheep tag, not many people will make that. So, I don't know, thinking outside the box and coming up with things like that might be the way to look at it. But I don't think the 60/40 split will be the way. I really think that it would actually be better if we went the other way. We're not moving any more people through the system, it's just a matter of instead of taking them off the top, we're making it more fair for everybody and saying hey, this is just the way we've got to be, because we can't guarantee everyone a tag.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Jason. Do you have a comment there, Lindy?

Lindy Varney: Can I clarify something real quick? So, Austin asked a question about how many unique hunters. They just replied back, I knew they were listening. So in the

last two years we had 25,300 unique ID numbers, in the last two years. Then 31,300 in the last three years for any bull. Does that help?

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Lindy. Comments from the RAC.

01:25:11 RAC Discussion, Comments and Vote

Brayden Richmond: I would just like to go back to what Gene said, let's tackle the 60/40 split first, then we'll tackle the over-the-counter elk permits second. So, let's discuss the 60/40 split and try to get a motion on that one. Then switch over to the elk. Comments on that? And maybe if I could start. I would like to add my comments here. I apply all over the western states for hunts, and I'm at the stage in my life where my kids are key. I got home very early this morning from Colorado where my kids are hunting. I have a tag, but I really don't care, I haven't even carried a gun in a couple of days because my kids are why I go hunting and I apply all over the western states. I love Utah's system. I would be very hesitant to change our 50/50 split. We use the word fair a lot and I hate the word fair, it's the other f word. It's a horrible word and it's a horrible thing to work on. I think with the 50/50 split you get the best of both worlds. I think everybody has their name in the hat and those that have sat around and earned it so to speak get an increase of their odds. That's my two cents, I love where we're at with the 50/50, I would hate to mess with that. I don't want to do Nevada, they're all random. Colorado is guaranteed max. Let's please not go either of those directions. That's my comment.

Austin Atkinson: I'll make a comment. First I want to comment and thank Lindy for coming up with a suggestion. She's in an impossible job. We've put the Division in an impossible situation. There are too many hunters and not enough resources. I ran her numbers on the 60/40 split, say ok I have 20 points for moose right now, how long before I make it into the max? We're giving about 60 moose tags a year to the max draw, so it's only doing to take me 34.5 years so I'll have 55 bonus points. If you go to a 60/40 split it might give a couple more moose tags and shave off a couple of years. It's not a fix. So I think the Division, the Board, someone needs to start a draw committee for long term, what are we going to do committee to start looking into this. We need to support the Division and give them ideas and yes, the RAC process is great, but there are other avenues and we need other minds in here thinking about what Utah is going to do long term. This is not a fix. I'm opposed to the 60/40 for what we've talked about, I think there are other things that can be done. For now let's preserve it for what it is. Lindy already interpreted the rule differently last year, and when we were always favoring the 50% random, we now favor the 50% max. For example when there are nine permits they used to be split. So we give four to bonus and five to random. Now we give five to max and four to random. We already made that adjustment in how we read our 50% rule. So taking it to 60 is too far in my opinion. So those are my comments.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Austin, go ahead Riley.

Riley Roberts: So, I would really like to commend Lindy, she gets to travel all over the state and get beat up over stuff like this, and it's not a fun thing. Too often times we look at the Division as an enemy to the sportsmen or the public at large because of some of these social issues that we face. I'm a very opinionated individual, I also agree with both Brayden and Austin, I don't like the 60/40, not because it's a bad idea, but because it's not a long-term plan for us. I would like to see something much more drastic to help alleviate this point creep. One of the issues, I'm a business guy, and you can cut costs in business, which is good, but you have to increase revenue. We have to have more animals. It's not necessarily just about point creep. I know that we're always looking for more things, but we might have to do some things that are much more drastic to increase the amount of the supply that we do have in order to fix some of these issues. We're going to have to think outside the box and get a lot more creative and in the meantime to approach as some of Austin's numbers, he's a numbers guy that's what he does for living. I know where I'm sitting in my once in a lifetime and I'm not guaranteed a desert sheep tag for another 34 years because I'm not in that... I'm going to be older than Gene, no offense Gene, but I'm not going to be able to get out and hunt sheep because of that. So we're going to have to do things a little more drastic, maybe a little less popular in order for us to achieve what we want. So what's the long-term goal? Because it's not about 2022, it's not even about 2023, it's going to be about 2030 and again the future of hunting in the state, we are losing hunters right now because of those opportunities aren't there. They're not ever going to be there if we don't take some really drastic measures right now.

Brayden Richmond: Additional comments?

Craig Laub: I'd be interested to know if we really are losing hunters, because you look at our population growth and that's why we're having the problem we're having with point creep and the elk now and the deer 25 years ago is because we got more people coming. You look at how many people and how many we're projected to have. Our percentage may be going down of people hunting, but I don't think our number of hunters is going down.

Brayden Richmond: Other comments? Ok, I'd entertain a motion on the max points 60/40 split.

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

MOTION: I move that we reject the recommendation to go to a 60/40 split and remain at the 50/50 split.

Motion passed unanimously.

Brayden Richmond: Let's talk about the over-the-counter elk recommendations. I won't make a comment on this one, I think this one is going to be an interesting one.

Tammy Pearson: No, I was going to make a...

Brayden Richmond: Oh no, I won't make a comment to start Tammy, that's fair. I have opinions here; we'll see where it goes.

Tammy Pearson: Okay, we've enjoyed the three-season hunt, we've had a lot of fun as a family, but I don't agree with it. I do think that in my opinion I would prefer they chose a season and went with it that way. That's just me, myself, and I. Just don't tell my kids.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Tammy. Go ahead.

Craig Laub: I agree with Tammy on that, but I also think that what I talked about here just a few minutes ago, I think the only fair way is to draw. I like being able to buy it over the counter and have for 40 years or however long it's been over the counter, I've had one. But I think the time has come. I remember the mess we had in the mid '90s before they went to a draw and I feel for the people particularly on the open bull tag who don't have time sit at their computer or stand in line at a license place to buy a tag. I think they're being handicap, so I support the Division going to a draw, and I don't think you'll ever go back. Literally more to the point I think it needs to be a draw too.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you, go ahead Gene.

Gene Boardman: These agriculture people down here know that the most permanent thing there is is a temporary entry there, and the most permanent thing there is, is a temporary draw. Trial hunt. We had the trial hunt and they become permanent in a year or two, and that's the way it's been with the Division. The most permanent thing there is is what ever they bring up as temporary. I think that has a lot to do with the sentiment that we got in the farm stack, and we got back. They know that once it goes there it's gone. Now I think that probably that it's going to end up there anyway, pretty soon. But the public sentiment and of course when we talk about public sentiment the people that are opposed are the ones that are going to make statements. Going to have input, and the ones that aren't opposed aren't going to say much, so probably the public sentiment probably isn't as much as it appears. For me, most of the public sentiment has gone that way and I'm going to have to support them and go against the draw.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Gene. Chuck go ahead.

Chuck Chamberlain: Yeah, one of the comments that came up a couple of times is what if we put the multi-season in a draw and left the rest over the counter. I think I would support that, but I can't remember how many tags do we have in the multi-season, sorry. I had a comment before and now I have a question and a comment.

Lindy Varney: You're good. So right now the multi-season is just off the 17,500, but this year we had 7,430 permits purchased for multi-season any bull.

Kevin Bunnell: So Lindy, just to clarify, there is not a cap on them. We will sell as many multi-seasons that we get requests for, until their all gone.

Lindy Varney: All 17,500 could be multi-season permits.

Covy Jones: So, I think we need to clarify this though. So the clarification is that archery permits don't count against any quota, they're unlimited. So the thought is multi-season definitely tempts archers, and if they jump from archery to multi-season, which happens. I'm an example of that, I hunted archery and I switched to multi season because why not. We saw that the first year we sold the multi-season permits so 2018 we introduced the multi-season permit and let's remember the reason the multi-season permit came to be is we had a lot of request for a permit similar to dedicated hunter. So it was a strong public sentiment. We didn't need another dedicated hunter as an agency so we said let's offer it in a different way. When we did that we saw archery sales go from 12,231 down to 9,700, so they did drop a little over 2,000 permits. You can assume that a lot of those switched to multi-season. That said, this year 2021 we are back to selling 12,400 archery permits alone, so although the idea... I understand the sentiment or the cinema, or the philosophy, it's just that it won't solve this problem. Getting rid of the multi-season permit won't force a lot of folks back to archery. There are other hunters, either any weapon or muzzleloader hunters that started to buy that permit, so it got us to where we are more quickly introducing that permit. I want to acknowledge that it got us here faster and if we reversed it today it wouldn't fix it. So putting that in a draw wouldn't fix this without significantly increasing the number of permits.

Craig Laub: I've got a question. Do you think because the any bulls sell out so quick that's why the archery tags came back up?

Covy Jones: Possibly. What you're saying is the archery is a consolation prize. For some folks I'm sure it is. And if you separate it back out though, you still have that many people who want to hunt archery now. The multi-season they're not counting double or triple against the quota, they're only counting one for one. So moving it back just won't fix it.

Brayden Richmond: Any other comment? Go ahead Austin.

Austin Atkinson: I understand the sentiment of let's keep it the way it is. We want to hold on to our heritage of having an over-the-counter hunt in Utah. That's what a lot of the comments were that came in. I think there is something to be said for that. Utah is a heritage rich state and I think we should do what we can to preserve what we have. But at the same time as we look forward, I look at examples of other states who have tried similar things; Idaho is a great example. They tried to keep with their general over the counter so they could use that term and what they've created are these many draw days where there is a waiting room in a system that is horrible when compared to ours in Utah. I've already got alarms set in my phone right now, the first day is December 1st, it's coming up soon where you have to get on and you get stuck in a waiting room; you've got 30-40 windows open on your screen plus multiple devices and you're all trying to beat this draw that is not fair, really. I mean we can look at that and say it isn't fair, what about the guy who doesn't know how to use the computer? What about the guy who

only has one phone and doesn't know what a second tab is? That's not fair to that guy. So I think saying that we need to make this more equally beneficial and make it as fair as we can is right. And that's probably going to a draw unless we can change the supply. So, we need to all realize it's probably headed there. There is going to come a time when we aren't able to hunt multiple species in a year, and our kids aren't going to be able to hunt every year. That's just how it is, unless we can grow some more animals or the Division can find some more under a rock, that's just how it's going to be. I think the easiest route for me to look at this and think what should we do? Let's change the supply. Let's change it to unlimited. We've already talked about 25,000-30,000 people; they're interested in any bull. Let's put them out there on the landscape and see what the crowding is, then let the elk committee decide what to do with multi season, what do to with quotas/caps/divisions of units, whatever may come next. But for now, let's change the supply let them have them over the counter, let them have unlimited any bull tags for this year alone. The one-year trial of making it a draw for one year, that's never going to be a thing. So a guy who doesn't draw this year, then you say oh let's draw next year, surprise I have preference point so you're not going to draw again. There are going to be some made people in here if you let them have a draw two years in a row. So I say we change the supply and let them petition the Board to let them go unlimited this year. That's my comment.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Tammy.

Tammy Pearson: I think we just discovered the reason why our system crashed. Maybe what we should be discussing only one IP address can be online at a time.

Brayden Richmond: I was going to say Tammy, you can't fix that one. I want to make a comment on this one, and I won't be voting because we have an odd number on our RAC today. So even if it's split it's not a split. I still wanted to make a comment on this. We got a lot of public feedback that they want to maintain this history and this family hunt of an over-the-counter hunt. I understand that sentiment, I can definitely appreciate that. The reality is as soon as these tags started selling out in under a day, it is no longer an over-the-counter hunt. If a guy is tied up, something happens, or he doesn't have access to a computer, it's not an over-the-counter hunt for that guy. When there were three to four days they could find a window to get on, then it was an over the counter and it was first come first serve. But as soon as it's under 12 hours, which it currently is, and if we "fix our system" it's going to be sped up even more. So it's not an over-the-counter hunt, I think that's a misnomer. My other comment is the elk committee meets next year, so there is a couple of reasons for this proposal as I understand. Primarily to solve that one day back log and move people through, but also we need some data of how many people are on the field. I asked the question earlier what's the Divisions opposition to that, they don't have a biological opposition. It is a one-year trial, I would strongly suggest or encourage to go to an over the counter unlimited both general season and spike. I think we might be very surprised to see how few tags we sell if we do it like that. I think there is a real fear that we're going to blow out the tags. I think we'll be shocked that it won't be devastating. And it's one year. The elk committee meets next year, we won't have a biological impact in one year. Those are my thoughts on it. And I

think in my opinion, that's the compromise. We've had a large percentage ask us not to go to a draw. If we go over the counter we are not going to a draw, we can still get our data we need, it fixes the back log, and again we're revisiting this next year, it's presented as a one-year trial.

Tammy Pearson: So can I ask you a quick question? So what we're counting in over the counter is still only online, or can you actually go into the offices or anywhere else like in the olden days to buy a tag?

Lindy Varney: Yes, you can buy them online, at any Division office, or any agent across the state.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Austin.

Austin Atkinson: I will make one more comment to your Brayden. And to clarify, the unlimited any bull I think I'm fine with, but you said unlimited Spike as well. But as far as I understand biologically and personally don't kill my baby limited entry bulls. The Division is probably not going to want more than 15,000 spike tags because they've already decided that in the plan and they're still selling out in 5-6 days, so that's still over the counter by your definition. Would that be how you're wanting it?

Brayden Richmond: I hear what you're saying, I still would want to do unlimited both, because I would want to see who wants this. I can't make a motion, so you don't have to listed to my thoughts. But me, I would like to do unlimited both, and I really do think you would be surprised if you made them unlimited. I don't think we'd sale as many as we're afraid we'll sell.

Austin Atkinson: Okay, I think I understand that. I think this is going to be a revenue hit for the Division for sure, because there are guys that won't buy it until they're at Walmart headed out of town on the hunt. But the same could go for spikes and I don't know if we could ask Covy to answer that and how he feels about it, but I know he's passionate about his baby limited entry bulls.

Covy Jones: Well that wasn't a bias question. I think Austin is right. The fact is that spike elk hunting is great, it's what we get to do because we have extreme quality in limited entry in the state. I feel like issuing more permits there would be a bigger discussion because it's different, right? We manage those units for both, we've agreed to 15,000 and that would be something that I couldn't support.

Brayden Richmond: Well that may have answered it for me. I'm not going to go against if you couldn't support it. Again, I won't be making a motion but if I were to make a motion that would be my motion.

Chuck Chamberlain: So, let me just clarify Austin, when you say unlimited any bull tags, we're still saying we're going to make them pick? They can't buy an unlimited

any bull tag and then go buy a spike tag? They have to pick one, right? Is that what you're thinking?

Austin Atkinson: By a statute they can only hold one elk tag in a year no matter if they drew limited entry, or any bull, or spike. So they've got to pick and once they buy one their stuck with that one.

Chuck Chamberlain: Well they can buy more than one elk tag in a year.

Kevin Bunnell: One antlered elk.

Brayden Richmond: Alright, I think we're ready to entertain a motion.

Austin Atkinson: So I'll make the motion that we deny the recommendation to take over the counter elk to a draw and make it unlimited any bull tags for 2022.

Brayden Richmond: So we've got a motion by Austin, a second by Chuck to deny taking the any bull tags to a draw and make them over the counter unlimited in 2022, correct? Additional discussion?

Verland King: So, that leaves the spike out? Do we need another motion on the spike or what?

Brayden Richmond: We could have another motion if we want to change things on the spike, but typically after this motion if there is nothing else we want to add we would pass the remainder as presented. So the spike would be as presented.

Verland King: And that would be a draw?

Brayden Richmond: Yeah. Okay, sorry. Lindy can you tell us what will work on the spike? How will the spike work in 2022 per your recommendation?

Lindy Varney: Right now my recommendation is to put it into the draw. So, your wording would need to be deny the recommendation for both and make any bull unlimited. So that would mean we would sale any bull and spike over the counter in 2022.

Brayden Richmond: No...

Riley Roberts: At the 15,000.

Lindy Varney: Yes, at the 15,000 for spike, but the any bull would be unlimited.

Riley Roberts: Yes, yes.

Brayden Richmond: Do you want to clarify?

Austin Atkinson: So are you ready for a really complicated motion? So we deny Lindy's recommendation to take over the counter general season elk to a draw, and we also set an unlimited quota of over the counter any bull permits and leave the spike bull permits at 15,000 over the counter available as well.

Brayden Richmond: Chuck are you good with that clarification?

Chuck Chamberlain: Yes, I was thinking in my head.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, I think we're on the same train there.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, Denise and Alyssa make sure we've got similar wording here. So the motion is to deny the recommendation to go to a draw for any bull and spike tags and instead go unlimited over the counter for 2022 for any bull but leave the spike bull permits at 15,000 and also sell them over the counter. Does that sound like what you guys have? Ok.

Brayden Richmond: I think that's straight forward, I think we're good there.

Craig Laub: Just a comment on that, I think it's good it will be interesting because it will take pressure off the spike bull hunt if you sell over the counter any bull. I think that is putting pressure, so I'll be interested to watch.

Brayden Richmond: Any further discussion on that motion?

Gene Boardman: I like the motion except for the unlimited for the same reason that I didn't like the draw. Once you make it unlimited, it probably won't ever go back.

Brayden Richmond: Any further discussion?

The following motion was made by Austin Atkinson, seconded by Chuck Chamberlain.

MOTION: I move that we deny the recommendation for the general season any bull and spike permits to go through a draw and instead sell unlimited any bull permits and 15,000 spike permits over the counter.

Motion passed 8 to 3. (Opposed: Gene Boardman, Bart Battista, Chad Utley)

02:04:29 8) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates (Action)
-Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

Brayden Richmond: Let's get the online public comment and then we'll go to questions from the RAC.

Kevin Bunnell: 18 total comments about 33% either somewhat agree or strongly agree. The biggest percentage at 39% is at the neither agree nor disagree, which leave about 27% that disagree or strongly disagree on this one.

Brayden Richmond: Kevin, I was trying to bring up from memory, but I don't recall any real comments on this one of why they disagree. Do you have anything there?

Kevin Bunnell: I don't remember, but I'll go through.

Brayden Richmond: There wasn't really a theme on why they disagreed. Ok, questions from the RAC? (Just because it was Covy) Covy presented, so we must disagree.

Covy Jones: There's some truth to that, and before questions I just want to take a second and thank Lindy. She has made this RAC tour really enjoyable. Appreciate it Lindy. Thank you.

02:06:04 Questions from RAC Members

Austin Atkinson: I have a question. I know it's early, but can you tell us how the September archery hunts and the HAMS hunts which are now over, do we have any idea how those went? Satisfaction? Is it way too early?

Covy Jones: The only thing I have is the few individuals that I've talked to. There were some folks who drew those tags gave me phone calls to ask me areas, or on the Anthro specifically. I know that half of them harvested, but I don't know the overall. I haven't seen any of the harvest data. The other is November 15th and they get 30 days on the HAMS. I really don't know. But I will call you the second that data is available. He knows I will.

Kevin Bunnell: I'm going to hold you it.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Covy.

Austin Atkinson: I have my scraper on the website, so as soon as it's populated I'll know. Another question, and this is the best place I could put it because you're the presented. Trail cameras, technology while hunting, where did that go and where does it come up again so the public knows?

Covy Jones: Yeah, yeah. Let's get that out there. So, that will be in the December RAC/January Board. So a couple of weeks and I'll be back down here to discuss the Divisions recommendation on those issues.

Brayden Richmond: Go Ahead.

Austin Atkinson: One more question. Covy, do you have any heartburn about.. it was brought up as the youth any bull, and this is so confusing, this terminology for me, because we have youth general season any bull permits, then we have youth general rifle any bull permits which are two totally different things, even though I said the same thing. One is in the draw and the other is over the counter. Do you have any heartburn over the draw hunt which is rifle in September being extended two days to butt up against the Wednesday muzzleloader opener?

Covy Jones: Not at all, if that's something the RAC would like to do and give the youth more time alone, that's something we could support. And the reason behind that is because last year there was a push from the public to extend the archery hunts on these any bull seasons. So now there is some overlap there, which means there are five days when the youth is hunting when general season any bull archers are also hunting. The terminology really is tough. So right now there is a five-day overlap, this would give them a few more days in the field and there is now heartburn with extending that.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Tammy.

Tammy Pearson: So, I probably heard more comments on that off the side about that overlap than anything else. And people didn't like that. The parents and whatever. So is that an option to cut that archery season back so they don't have the overlap?

Covy Jones: Tammy it's always an option, this is the meeting that we do it. When we passed it with the Board what we agreed to is we would leave it for two years, understanding that in 2022 we would sit down with the committee, rewrite the elk plan and see if we that's something we would want to continue. Just for background in Utah, the proposal was that archer don't really get any of the prime hunts. They don't get them on limited entry hunts, and they came through this process and said look we're not going to ask for this on limited entry, we understand. But give us a little bit of this on the general season units. And that's where it came from. There obviously is some conflict and I understand the frustration there.

Brayden Richmond: Additional questions from the RAC? Questions from the public?

02:10:14 Questions from the Public

02:10:19 Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman: Kevin Norman, Representing SFW. We would like to support Covy's recommendations. On a personal note, it went through the Central RAC, they voted to extend the youth hunt for two days to the muzzleloader hunt. I'm always looking out for the kids and I'd love to see that happen here as well.

Brayden Richmond: See, I called it.

Jason Aiken: My name's Jason Aiken. We hunt the Zion unit for general season deer. Everyone kind of had a tough year. Several years ago we used to have a five-day rifle hunt on some of these southern Utah units. A lot of people that I've talked to really feel like we should try and go back to that. If that's something that we could try and do again, we would like to see something like that put into place where that regular rifle hunt gets the five days instead of the nine now. Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Jason.

02:12:01 RAC Discussion, Comments and Vote

Tammy Pearson: I would have to support that idea Jason. For the most part I've heard very few positive things about the deer herd, or the lack of the deer herd I should say. I was very proud of my granddaughter this year; she was very successful with a mentored hunt with the antelope. They got in to the general bull season and my son who would never let anybody else take the first shot, let her take the first shot and she got a five-point general bull tag at 12 years old. So when we got into the deer hunt and we couldn't find anything more than a little three point she's passing all of that. And her mom and dad are going, you really should get your first deer under your belt, and she's like no grandma says let the little ones live. I was proud of that, and I think we need to get back to, at some point in time, we all have to figure out how to get that deer herd back on their feet. I would support a five-day hunt. I would support shutting the deer hunt down for a couple of years and let them get back one way or another. I just think that we've got to give them some help.

Craig Laub: The comments I have on that were I don't think that's really feasible, but I think there are lots of people who would like to see until we get better moisture and conditions for the deer to come back, and that's what it's going to take for them to really come back, that we need to go to a five-day hunt.

Brayden Richmond: Any other comments? I could see you just chomping over there Riley. I can tell you wanted to address that. Covy, sorry.

Covy Jones: I have been called way worse, Brayden. But you could have called me a lot better. I think that one of the things that the Board actually asked us to look into this. They said listen, we want to do something other than just cutting permits, is there anything else we can do? They said we want you to look back through the data at five-day hunts, and we want to know what kind of impact they had. I'm going to summarize that data, and then Kent Hersey is online and maybe we could ask him to present some of the data. So we went back through and some of the findings we saw from five-day hunts is it coincided with the rebound with deer populations. So we cut to five days, we saw the deer population swing up and buck/doe populations increase, and we also saw that on units where we had nine-day hunts. It did not have any impact on harvest, in fact, those who were more selected were probably less selective on a five-day hunt. If you would have passed the small one on a nine-day hunt, those individuals may have taken that buck. And there is nothing wrong with harvesting a young buck, but if they would have passed it it would have felt more selective. Hunters felt more crowded, and so hunter satisfaction also went down. So really, the take home message was it didn't impact harvest, the

harvest rates were the same. And it did cause hunter crowding. If the results were different, I'd probably be the first one supporting it, standing up here and saying that this is something we should do because this is a way to provide opportunity. Colorado went even more drastic it's been quite a while ago; they went all the way down to a three-day hunt. They actually showed no impact on harvest success rates or anything like that. So, it won't impact harvest. And Tammy mentioned this, and we hear this all the time, but why doesn't the Division close a hunt? We do and we would if we were any kind of lower biological male threshold. When we're hunting buck deer, we're hunting males. The desertification of America says there is one male and one female and they have a family, they raise little baby deer together, and that's not how it works. As I look at Tammy and Verland here, if I came to you and said you don't have enough bulls and you need to run one bull for every cow, you'd look at me and tell me to go home, right? You'd say that is not going to help my herd grow. You'd run the minimum number of bulls you need on the landscape to make sure every cow is serviced, and that leads to the most productive herd. Deer are the same way. Deer populations are struggling, especially on the southern end of the state, and we haven't hit a biological threshold of where every doe doesn't have a chance to be pregnant, right? So, we're not negatively impacting any populations through hunting. And we've adjusted permits to make sure we're meeting the buck/doe ratios that we've agreed to in the plan. So I hope that provides some context as to why we bring the recommendations we bring. We do care, we are doing things to help build our populations. We've had aggressive predator control, we've done more habitat work than any state in the west, we've installed guzzlers every place we can expand habitat, and we'll continue to do this, but the idea that closing the hunt to help herds is not accurate. It's like running 100 bulls per 100 cows.

Tammy Pearson: Okay, I'm going to comment. So I don't think that that's anybody's proposal to do 1 buck to one female. I do have to say being in the business for a really long time, both hunting and running cattle, there is a huge difference in forage in pressure in whatever else. So when we're running cattle, we call it running cattle but we don't literally run cattle, right? You put them in a pasture and make sure they have plenty of feed and water, you leave those suckers alone. If you run cattle, they're losing weight, they're feeling the pressure, they're not catching. So I think that the sheer pressure on wildlife in general, but specifically the deer herds. And I will say I'm not a biologist, but I've learned this from the ground up, right, the school of hard knocks. Where ever there seems to be elk the deer herds just don't seem to be in the same places. Same way with horses, where the horses are they're running everything else off. The antelope don't seem to be bothered by the horses they can kind of handle it maybe because they run faster. But just being on the ground every day and observing this kind of stuff, it just seems to me like we have way too much pressure and I don't know if it's the hunt seasons are just never ending. They're back-to-back hunt seasons year-round. Pressure just in general. I don't care about the harvest, I'd just as soon not get one, unless it's a wall hanger then I'm going to be the first one pulling the trigger. That was just my snide remarks.

Brayden Richmond: Covy, I've got a question since we're evolving this into more discussion. One thing Tammy said, and this is a thought I've had, what more can we do? There is only so much we can do. If the Division could make rain that would really help us out. I don't know what kind of conservation tags we need to make that happen. The comment that Tammy had of just running the animals. I think there is some real merit to that. In my understanding Idaho really stack their hunts on top of each other. We do our very best to hunt

staggered out and have some going on all the time, and there is just no break for hunters being out in the woods. So whether you're hunting deer, or hunting elk, you're still spooking the deer. Have we looked at that at all? If we could provide a break at all? Now the comment I would have is it's just getting more unrealistic. As the population in Utah increases, people move to Utah to recreate outdoors, and I'm sure I can speak for everyone in here, when you're out hunting I'm running into more guys recreating than I am even running into other hunters. So I don't know that we solve it by stacking the hunts up on top of each other. You know having the deer and the elk and everything being hunted at one time so they get a break in between. But just kind of curious to hear your thoughts.

Covy Jones: I think both of those are very fair points. Everything in deer is related to body condition which is related to nutrition and energy expenditure. Brayden I think I agree with you that if we were the only predator on the landscape for deer, we may be able to have more of an effect than we think. But we're not the only predator on the landscape. These animals were born with eyes on the sides of their heads and flat teeth. Everything is looking to eat them right? So, there are other predators on the landscape that are pushing them around all the time besides just hunters. And the other thing is, and you mentioned this as well Brayden, is a lot of our BLM ground, our Forest ground, they're all multiple use. Hunting is just one use on that ground and the other uses are becoming more and more active on the landscape. So, we can look at some of this, and I'm not saying it's a bad idea and that we shouldn't and we probably can't have the impact we want just from reducing seasons or timing. It's bigger than this. It's bigger than just hunters on the landscape. Kevin, do you have something to add to that?

Kevin Bunnell: I was just going to ask Chuck and Dan. Do you have round numbers on visitation on public lands locally?

Chuck Chamberlain: You know, I don't have that off the top of my head, but we're seeing record numbers of people year-round. We're seeing ATV and UTV traffic. And that's definitely going to be having an effect on your wildlife. We see a lot more recreation than we've ever seen before and just hiring enough people to clean up after them is a hard job. And I feel like the BLM is probably in the same boat.

Dan Fletcher: Yeah, we're in the same boat too. I've been here for 15 years and I used to be able to go out on the landscape and hardly see a soul. Now you go out and there are people all over the place and they're really causing a lot of trouble. Recreationalist from out of state are really the primary problem, but like Tammy said, or wildlife are under constant pressure and they really don't get a break. The hunting seasons go on from August to December/January, right? So, they're on the run all the time, and then you get into shed hunting and shed hunting is becoming a pretty big problem throughout our field office. We have a lot of people that go out and grid. Shed hunting is fine, I think, but the way that people are doing it I think is not all that great for our resources on the ground. And they're putting the deer under extreme pressure under a very vulnerable time. I think Nevada has some dates for shed hunting and limitations for shed hunting and I think it's something that Utah ought to look at and try to help out the deer population in particular.

Covy Jones: Brayden there is one more thing too that I'd like to mention, there is some interesting stuff that happens when you watch collar data. The home range of these animals will actually decrease by quite a bit. So their energy expenditure under hunting pressure reduces. Their forage quality probably reduces too. So they're picking security over movement. I don't know what that means, but what I do know is that we don't have any kind of problem with pregnancy rates in does. Those animals are healthy enough to have a healthy fawn, they've got to have those fat reserves.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Gene.

Gene Boardman: I went through the 2019 annual report on deer. I don't understand why we don't have the 2020 annual report on deer yet. So we're going back two years to see the latest one. I wish I had taken a calculator and counted up the number of doe deer that were taken on that annual report. Because I'm sure that it's like five does to every public tag that is issued for does. A bunch of them fall under fee mitigation and free mitigation, and as I said I'm kind of stuck on this landowner thing. For instance are landowner tags ever reduced when public tags are reduced? And are we giving out too many doe permits into this mitigation thing? Maybe you could talk a little about what mitigation is about.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me take a shot at that, Covy. Gene we do issue depredation permits to landowners. But we're very restrictive on the season dates when we do that. We're trying to target resident animals. So if we have animals on a field in the valley in July or August, they're not migrating on the mountain, they're largely not available for hunters anyway. And all they're doing is causing damage. They're causing damage for the landowner, they're not available for the hunter because they're on private land year-round. Those are the animals we will continue to provide opportunities to remove those animals, because they're not a resource that's available to our hunting public, and they're a detriment to our farming community. Those are the animals that we try very hard to target with those depredation tags that we give out. We try very hard once the migratory deer start to come down off the mountain on to the fields, we try to shut off those depredation tags and limit those season dates specifically not to target the deer that are available to the public during the hunting seasons. So it's a balance we try hard to do that. We are issuing doe tags, but it's to try to target resident deer that are living on farming land year-round. Hopefully that helps.

Gene Boardman: It helps a little. But two things I'd like to see is that information is out where the public can view it. That they know how many deer are going where. Then every tag issued is accounted for. The other thing is that every opportunity to make these things available to the public is taken up, because I think that sometimes the public are getting the short end of this deal.

Covy Jones: Gene those are both good points. We want to make sure the data is available and accessible; we work hard to do that and we're continuing to work to provide better data. We're working now to provide a big game data base with the public interface which should be ready in a couple of years which will hopefully do a better job with that. I couldn't agree more, when an animal can be taken by a public hunter it's always more beneficial to do that. And we strive to do that and we'll continue to do so. Thanks, Gene.

Brayden Richmond: I appreciate these comments. I do really feel strongly that we have these meetings to discuss issues. WE want to hear from the public and we don't want to just run down the agenda items. So I appreciate it, even if we're taking a little bit longer. Any other comments from the RAC on agenda item number eight? Ok, I'd entertain a motion.

The following motion was made by Austin Atkinson, seconded by Chad Utley.

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2022 season dates but extend the youth any bull draw hunts two days ending September 27, 2022.

Motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Bunnell: Denise and Alyssa, did you guys get that? Or would you like me to read it back to you? Accept the 2022 season dates but extend the youth any bull draw hunts two days, ending on September 22. Is that accurate, Austin?

Brayden Richmond: Alright, any other

**02:33:32 9) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations (Action)
-Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator**

Brayden Richmond: Alright final agenda item. So we'll start with the public input/online input, Kevin?

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, we had ten total comments on this agenda item. 50% of those ten neither agreed nor disagreed, that one always baffles me. 20% strongly agreed. 20% strongly disagreed, and 10% somewhat disagreed.

Brayden Richmond: Good, we have some great direction.

Kevin Bunnell: Great direction.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, any questions from the RAC?

02:34:29 Questions from RAC Members

Austin Atkinson: Two question, Chad on the contiguous question, how I understand it, CWMU has to have contiguous acres and that is sometimes why public land... you have to get all the landowners around you to join up to get enough acreage. It all has to touch. Is that accurate?

Chad Wilson: Yeah, for your initial application, it excludes public land, so they need to have a minimum of 5,000 for deer or pronghorn, and 10,000 for elk or moose.

Austin Atkinson: Okay so one question I have, and I'm sure there is an answer for this, but when I look at the Pahvant/Ensign, why does it have the lower piece and 3,000 acres up on the mountain that is not contiguous?

Chad Wilson: Yeah, so we have a few of those statewide that don't touch. So that base that they have meets that contiguous, then this other land that is really close we've allowed a variance for that. Any time it goes outside of that there is a variance. But because the base there is probably five or six of those statewide.

Austin Atkinson: Follow up question. I appreciate the presentation where you showed some maps of CWMUs which included private land so we could see. One thing I did not understand because I'm not familiar with, you talked about traded land. Where the CWMU traded some public land they included for some private land that is now open to the world for trespass. But how does a hunter or sportsman know that trade land is open? Is it marked differently; does it have to be marked? Because it's not going to show up in my OnX properly, it's going to show up as private land. So how do I know that he's traded that to me?

Chad Wilson: And it is on the hunt planner. There are maps on the hunt planner that you can go in and click a layer that will show all the trade lands. That's currently where it is.

Brayden Richmond: Any questions?

Gene Boardman: Now I'm not clear on what is it the Division get out of a permit that goes to the CWMU.

Chad Wilson: So, they do buy that permit, it's a voucher that is given to them, so we do get the voucher fee. Probably what we get more than anything is landowner tolerance for the wildlife and an incentive for them to have wildlife on their land. Where a lot of these places there wasn't this tolerance and they wanted the wildlife off of their land.

Gene Boardman: If I'm an out of state hunter and deal with the CWMU and got a tag there. Do I need a state hunt license?

Chad Wilson: You pay a non-resident fee, yeah, on buying that permit.

Gene Boardman: And that's what the Division gets out of it.

Chad Wilson: Yeah.

Gene Boardman: Ok, I just wanted to get that clear in my mind because it's kind of hard to figure out how the Division is getting anything out of it.

Kevin Bunnell: So Gene, in addition to the tolerance, we also get public access to the private land. Tolerance and public access, those are the two main tradeoffs that the public gets back from the CWMU.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Bart.

Bart Battista: When you have a new CWMU do you typically see a reduction in deprecation permits? So is that the trade off?

Chad Wilson: That can be in a lot of scenarios. That's one of the reasons why the CWMU was formed, a lot of deprecation issues. This is probably more northern Utah, but you have drainages where all we dealt with was deprecation. I'm thinking of unit four specifically. I think the last two years combined we've had \$3,000 worth of deprecation payments there. Drastically reduces our work load there, and the complaints from those individuals.

Brayden Richmond: Any other additional questions?

Tammy Pearson: Yeah, let me ask a quick question. I think I know the answer, but, on your deprecation tags aren't the majority of those irrigated farm land.

Chad Wilson: Yeah, yep.

Tammy Pearson: So, there's normally quite a big difference between what qualifies for a CWMU and an irrigated farm land, right?

Chad Wilson: Yeah, a lot of time CWMU's is a lot of range land and a lot of times too they kind of have both, they'll have some of that agriculture land too.

Tammy Pearson: A little bit of both

Brayden Richmond: Any other questions?

02:40:12 Questions from the Public

02:40:33 Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman: Kevin Norman, representing myself. I've been kicking this hornet's nest for years on public land inclusion on CWMUs. In the Ogden unit in northern Utah there is very little public ground up there. It's mostly compiled of private and CWMUs. But what's irritating is when there is a nice canyon, a nice chunk of public ground that is included in the CWMUs the terms used enforceable boundaries for years. Obviously now with OnX and these different platforms, it's pretty easy to navigate where you're at. In fact if you don't have the right layers on, somebody could think they're on public land hunting and they could be on a CWMU. So, it's a complex issue, I know it is, it can't totally be solved tonight. But I would ask that you start the ball a rolling and looking at these, whether it's through a committee I'm not sure. It's going to take some time to navigate between each individual CWMU. But I just hate to see our public ground, when there is limited access be swallowed up in CWMUs. Thanks.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Kevin. The other comment card didn't want to address (**Ian Heinritz**), but I may have a question for you. This is phrased like a question, but it's a comment. The comment is, would it be possible to make more CWMU tags public to help move point holders through the system? I think if it's a comment, we would like more public tags to move more people through the system. Is that fair? Ok, thank you.

02:42:29 RAC Discussion, Comment and Vote

Dan Fletcher: I remember seeing that as a question from one of the commenters. Can we address that question? Is that a possibility? It's going back to the question scenario to push those max point holder through to the public. Is that possible? Is that doable?

Chad Wilson: Yeah, you know periodically we open up rules and we look at the rules. I think it can be a discussion point for sure, when that CWMU rule gets opened back up.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks. Any comments from the RAC?

Tammy Pearson: I do have to say kudos to those who jumped through the hoops to do a CWMU. I haven't quite got brave enough to do that. But I know that there are definitely some hoops and I really appreciate the Division acknowledging private property and the historic value and current value of what it does for wildlife. I've said that for years. Wildlife wouldn't be where it is in Utah if it weren't for private property and for BLM and Forest Service committees who continually improve their land, continually do the maintenance on water sources statewide or on private and it's a big deal. It really is. It's not a hardship on us and it is a sense of responsibility, I have to say. Not only do we love our livestock and our lifestyle, but we love the wildlife as well and the CWMU is a great program. Kudos to them.

Brayden Richmond: Thanks Tammy.

Austin Atkinson: I'll just make a comment about the private land. I think it's only going to work if we find the public land that is encapsulated in the CWMU boundary and basically create a stake and call that out. And that usually only comes from those that care about that area where their hunting. So I think the public needs to hear if you have a CWMU around you that you want to look on the map on. It's real easy to jump on the hunt planner, turn on the layers and figure it out. I think the Division is open to looking at it, Chad has done a great job with presenting it and showing us the maps better as we've asked him to do. But we need to do that, because if you don't hunt around a CWMU especially us around southern Utah, you might not be as familiar with it and you might not care. But if you're from northern Utah or you hunt up north a lot, it is a big deal and we need you to look at it and we need you to bring it up to the Division and the RACs and let's fix it. That's my comment.

Brayden Richmond: Go ahead Tammy.

Tammy Pearson: I do have to say, I really did appreciate the maps, they were great. And I liked that transfer the public for the private lands. I have to appreciate that part because I don't have OnX, so it does make more sense to me.

Brayden Richmond: Any additional comments? We would entertain a motion.

Chuck Chamberlain: I don't want Austin making all the motions. I'll make a motion that we accept the proposal as outlined by Chad in the Division of Wildlife.

Brayden Richmond: Accept as presented. The shortest and concise.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept as presented.

Motion passed unanimously

Brayden Richmond: That's the end of the agenda items for tonight. Thanks everyone for coming. Thanks for the public input online, we really appreciate that. The next meeting is December 7th at 6 pm in Richfield.

02:47:37 Meeting adjourned at 8:47.

**Southeast Region RAC Meeting
Hybrid Conference
November 17, 2021**

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

RAC AGENDA – November 2021



- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair | |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair | INFORMATIONAL |
| 4. | Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. | Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9
- Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. | Big Game Application Timeline
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | INFORMATIONAL |
| 7. | Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62
- Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. | 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates
- Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. | CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations
- Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |

Meeting Locations

CR RAC – Nov. 9th 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
<https://youtu.be/uk3X-Chnvzk>

SER RAC – Nov. 17th 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtu.be/YZXvsjcRJcl>

NR RAC – Nov. 10th 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
<https://youtu.be/Sw2VaRv5Dj4>

NER RAC – Nov. 18th 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtu.be/jvuN2vyhfyc>

SR RAC – Nov. 16th 6:00 PM
Southern Utah University,
Hunter Conf. Center, Charles R Hunter Room
<https://youtu.be/eC15FyA3RWM>

Board Meeting – December 2nd 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
<https://youtu.be/V7d0dHAZJNg>

Hybrid Conference
November 17, 2021
SUMMARY OF MOTIONS

1. Approval of Agenda & Minutes

The following motion was made by Brad Richman, seconded by Sunshine Broosi and passed unanimously, 11/11.

MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes as presented.

2. Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 — Rule R657-9

The following motion was made by Sunshine Brosi Player, and seconded by Kirk Player, and passed, 8/3.

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented, but additionally to encourage the DWR to investigate different methods of punitive and non-punitive, to deter the harvest of trumpeter swans.

3. Big Game Application Timeline

The following motion was made by Brad Richman and was seconded by Sunshine Brosi, and passed unanimously, 11/11.

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

4. Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations — Rule R657-62

The following motion was made by Eric Luke and seconded by Brad Richman, and passed 6/5

MOTION: To reject the proposal to put the general season elk tags to a draw.

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery and seconded by Eric Luke, and passed 9/2

MOTION: To keep the 50/50 split on limited entry and once in a lifetime, and ask the DWR and the Board to look into other options to address point creep. A list of options should then be run through a public polling process to get input from hunters.

5. 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates

The following motion was made by Kirk Player and was seconded by Charles Fisher, and passed unanimously, 11/11.

MOTION: For the DWR to consider setting season dates out two to three years in advance, instead of one year at a time.

The following motion was made by Brad Richman and was seconded by Scoot Flannery, and passed unanimously, 11/11.

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented by the DWR, with SFW's suggestion to add two days to the Youth Any Bull Hunt.

6. CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations

The following motion was made by Dana Truman and was seconded by Brad Richman, and passed unanimously, 11/11.

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

Southeast Region RAC Meeting
November 17, 2021
Attendance

RAC Members Attending

Kent Johnson, Chairman
Scot Flannery
Brad Richman
Charles Fisher
Daren Olsen
Dana Truman
Eric Luke
Justin Ivins
Kirk Player
Lynn Sittered
Kirk Player
Steve Duke
Sunshine Brosi

18:30:00	RAC chair Kent Johnson called the meeting to order. He called the roll of RAC members to indicate who attended the broadcast.
18:33:18	<p>4) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Brad Richman, and seconded by Sunshine Brosi and passed unanimously, 11/11.</p> <p>MOTION: To approve the agenda and minutes for the Southeast Region RAC meeting.</p>
18:34:00	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</p> <p>Chris Wood updated the RAC with Wildlife Board decisions.</p>
18:35:00	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Chris Wood updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
18:40:00	<p>Waterfowl Recommendations (Action)</p>
19:40:00	Public Comments
18:40:00	RAC Comments and Questions
18:48:00	<p>The following motion was made by Sunshine Brosi and was seconded by Kirk Player, and passed, 8/3.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented, but additionally to encourage the DWR to investigate different methods of punitive and non-punitive, to deter the harvest of trumpeter swans.</p>
18:49:00	<p>Big Game Application Timeline (Informational)</p>
18:59:00	<p><u>Max Points Permits</u> (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>
19:09:00	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Chris Wood stated there were 30+ online comments from the public.</p>
18:55:00	RAC Comments and Questions
19:14:00	RAC Discussion

<p>19:41:00</p>	<p>The following motion was made by Eric Luke and seconded by Brad Richman, and passed 6/5</p> <p>MOTION: To reject the proposal to put the general season elk tags to a draw.</p>
<p>19:49:00</p>	<p>The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery and seconded by Eric Luke, and passed 9/2</p> <p>MOTION: To keep the 50/50 split on limited entry and once in a lifetime, and ask the DWR and the Board to look into other options to address point creep. A list of options should then be run through a public polling process to get input from hunters.</p>
<p>19:57:00</p>	<p>2022 Big Game Key Dates (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>
<p>20:00:00</p>	<p>Public Comments</p>
<p>20:12:00</p>	<p>RAC Comments and Questions</p>
<p>20:27:00</p>	<p>The following motion was made by Kirk Player and was seconded by Charles Fisher, and passed unanimously, 11/11.</p> <p>MOTION: For the DWR to consider setting season dates out two to three years in advance, instead of one year at a time.</p>
<p>20:30:00</p>	<p>The following motion was made by Brad Richman and was seconded by Scoot Flannery, and passed unanimously, 11/11.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented by the DWR, with SFW's suggestion to add two days to the Youth Any Bull Hunt.</p>
<p>20:39:00</p>	<p>CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations (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>
<p>20:45:00</p>	<p>Public Comments</p>
<p>20:45:00</p>	<p>RAC Comments and Questions</p>
<p>20:49:00</p>	<p>The following motion was made by Dana Truman and was seconded by Brad Richman, and passed unanimously, 11/11.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented by the DWR.</p>

**Northeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
November 18, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

**Division of Natural Resources building
318 N Vernal Ave.
Vernal, UT**

Attendance

RAC MEMBERS

Brett Prevedel	Jeff Taniguchi
Dan Abeyta	Robert Johnson (virtual)
Daniel Davis (virtual)	
Dusty Carpenter	Joe Arnold (virtual)
Brad Horrocks	Ritchie Anderson (virtual)
Mike Smith	

Division Personnel

Miles Hanberg	Covy Jones
Dax Mangus	Amy Vande Voort
Clint Sampson	Shay Farnsworth
Randall Thacker	Darren Williams
Blair Stringham	Kory Lilga
Tonya Selby	Matt Frackrell
Lindy Varney	Rose Fedelleck
Chad Wilson	

Wildlife Board Members

Randy Dearth

Summary of Motions

2.) Approval of Agenda and Minutes-Brett Prevedel-RAC Chair

MOTION: To Approve Agenda- Brad Horrocks

2nd Dan Abeyta

Passed Unanimously

MOTION: To approve Minutes- Dan Abeyta

2nd Brad Horrocks

Passed Unanimously

5.) Waterfowl Recommendations 2022-2024 – Rule R657-9 - Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator

MOTION: To accept as proposed by DWR - Brad Horrocks

2nd Jeff Taniguchi

Passed Unanimously

7.) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations – Rule R657-62 - Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

MOTION: To leave bonus point system at 50%/50% - Daniel Davis

2nd Ritchie Anderson

Passed 7-2

MOTION: To not accept proposal to go to a to a general season elk draw and the Division does more surveys.- Dan Abeyta

2nd Jeff Taniguchi

Passed 7-2

8.) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates - Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

MOTION: To approve division recommendations with condition that within the next 120 days the division does outreach to landowners in the CWD area to get them educated with the seriousness of the situation -Ritchie Anderson

2nd Dusty Carpenter

Passed Unanimously/without Brad Horrocks and Robert Johnson (excused)

9.) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations - Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator

MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division –Jeff Taniguchi

2nd Dan Abeyta

Passed 5-2 without Brad Horrocks and Robert Johnson (excused)

MOTION: To propose a rifle youth management deer hunt in the Book Cliffs – Joe Arnold

2nd Daniel Davis

Failed 2-5 without Brad Horrocks and Robert Johnson (excused)

Adjourned @ 10 pm

00:00:00 1) Welcome (Informational)

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

00:02:20 2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)

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

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

Motion passed unanimously.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

00:03:25 3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by RAC Chair (Informational)
- Vice Chairman Dan Abeyta

Dan Abeyta: What I remember most about this meeting is it was short. Usually, the Wildlife Board meetings go all day long, and this was like two hours, so it was awesome. I have the summary of motions in front of me, so I'll try to follow that format. The once in a lifetime species recommendation, there was a motion that was made that failed 3-2 and that was to eliminate the overlap between rifle deer season and the Desert Bighorn hunt down in southern Utah. That's the Pine Valley, Virgin River hunt down there. That did not pass, it was a 3-2. Another motion was made to accept the proposal as it was, so there is a little overlap with those two hunts and that will stay that way.

There were also motions made in our region, the northeastern region, for a change in the seasons for the North Slope (NS) West Daggett, and correct me Dax if I'm wrong there, the season that was proposed by the Division was October... anyway it was bumped up earlier to September 19th or something like that. So that season opened up. That was the proposal and that did pass. Then also with NS Three Corners there was a change there and that hunt will start on the same day that it usually does. That was presented as an incorrect proposal date, so that's back to October 29th, or just the normal date.

That was really kind of it, there were some changes that we didn't cover in the RAC in September; conservation permit audit passed unanimously. Again, another conservation permits annual report. So, those things were accepted and passed unanimously as presented. Then also the conservation permit allocation as well. How that was proposed was passed, and that passed unanimously. I think that was it.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Now I'd like to turn the time over to Miles, who is the regional supervisor for the Northeast region to update us on what's going on in the region.

00:06:28 4) Regional Update (Informational)
-Miles Hanberg, NER Regional Supervisor

Miles Hanberg: Thanks Brett. Good evening everyone. Just an update on what's going on in the region recently. We'll go through our management sections and what's going on right now.

The first one is law enforcement. Statewide this year trespassing cases that seemed to be up, also in this region. People are kind of trespassing more, so they've been busy with that this fall during the hunts.

Many of you realize or know that the new baiting law went into effect this year, and there have been a number of cases of people who seem to be intentionally trying to bait big game animals in violation with that law. Everyone seems to know, normal agricultural operations are probably not baiting, but if the intent or action is to lure or change the behavior of these animals then that starts to get into the realm of purposefully baiting. Anyhow, first year with that law so everyone is learning a little about that. Hopefully compliance gets a little better in the future.

Hunting season started off a little slow during the archery hunt, a dry year, and things like that. But as we got more moisture and things throughout the year it seems like hunts got a little better and officers noticed more harvest out in the field later on in the hunts.

Also, our officers have been participating in some of our youth pheasant hunts and those types of activities, so it gives them a good opportunity to go out and interact with the public in that regard as well.

Our wildlife section has a lot of work coming up. Mule deer captures are planned on the South Slope (SS), as well as the Book Cliffs, I should mention that as well, starting here next week. This is part of long-term survival studies going on in the Book Cliffs that will really help us manage the mortality rates and the birth rates and those types of things with our mule deer. Really a lot of our management recommendations are based on that.

We're also going to be capturing Mountain Goats on the Uinta's. These will be outside of the wilderness area right now, but it will be a part of our migration initiative and some other work to get a better idea of how those goats are moving on the Uinta's. It seems like our population isn't growing right now as strong as it was. We're trying to get a better idea on their mortality rates and causes and those types of things up in the Uinta's. So, we're excited to have that study taking place and we'll be capturing goats here as early as next week.

This time of year, our biologists are out starting deer classifications in all our units to look for buck/doe ratios. Again, that is very important information for management recommendations. So, anybody on the RAC or anybody that is interested in going out with us, you'd be more than welcome to ride with a biologist when we go down

into the field to do some of the classifications do to the see how we do it and what's out there.

Outreach, it's been a pretty busy fall out here. Tonya Kieffer is our outreach manager; she's really been helping with the pheasant releases that are going on. Dedicated hunters have really stepped up. The last couple of years they've really done a lot of the traveling and releasing of these birds. So, this year in this region it will be almost 1,400 rooster pheasants released on behalf of the Division. But the Utah Wildlife Conservation Foundation that's a local Uinta Basin foundation, is actually purchasing an additional thousand pheasants that will mainly be released on our WMAs and walk in access areas, but you can get online and see those maps. That's something that is really popular, and people seem to enjoy it.

So, we'll be planning upcoming ice fishing seminars and there will be some other things with ice fishing, different tournaments, and things like the Burbot Bash. We'll be busy working on that this year as well.

Habitat is still doing a lot of work. We're trying to get a lot of the seeding projects done before winter. We're excited this week; we're cleaning out pond in the Book Cliffs and sealing those. We're doing 25 ponds out there this fall. We're really trying to capture water and distribute it out there in the Book Cliffs. It's been really impacted by drought so we need to distribute it to as many animals as we can and as far as we can to take advantage of the forage out there that is maybe not utilized due to that water.

The East Fork fire in the Altamont area, north of Altamont, we did a lot of seeding out there last year, but there are some areas that didn't really come back as expected. Some of the higher elevations we would have expected to recover a little better on. As a result, there is an extra 8,400 acres being seeded this week. It might be done now, the last couple of days.

Then there was a project up Clay Basin and Daggett County and Richard Mountain. That Richard Mountain fire that happened last year. So, we're seeding about 1,300 acres up there this fall to try and get that range back in better shape and more suitable for big game. A lot of things going on in our habitat and it's excited to seeing these things being implemented.

Aquatics are busy as well. Just last week we installed 240 of these fish structures in Red Fleet Reservoir. These structures are designed to provide some cover for our smaller bait fish. You can see with the lake being down there is not a lot of structure or habitat for fish in these reservoirs as they get older. So, it's helps us maintain some of our bait fish populations so that predators don't completely wipe them out. It kind of keeps better balance between the boom bust cycles that you see sometimes with some of these predator fish.

We're also looking at some Eurasian milfoil treatments at Pelican, starting to evaluate that. Eurasian milfoil is kind of an invasive species that can really form these dense mats, and it's really hard to get a boat in the water.

Then just last week we just finished completing the disease certification of walleye at Starvation. We're now spawning walleye from Starvation to restock other reservoirs throughout the state, including Red Fleet.

We're also going to be tracking carpe this winter in Pelican to see if there are places this carpe will congregate under the ice or different places where we can target removal on those a little bit.

Then finally Utah and Wyoming just finished burbot netting, it's kind of an annual project at Flaming Gorge. Unfortunately, down in the canyon regions we saw an increase this year. It continues to increase in the canyon, but up the reservoir into Wyoming, those numbers for burbot are staying a little more stable it seems but expanding down reservoir. We hate to see that, but certainly we'll keep monitoring that in the future.

I think that one other thing I'll mention as we talked a little bit today on the Book Cliffs research that's been going on the last three to four years. Talking about some of the results and where we're at with BYU and professors there. There are going to be some things as management implication in the Book Cliffs, I think we'll look to present some of that information in future RAC meetings and will probably be seeing some recommendations that we'll be bringing forward as a result of that as well. I just want people to be aware of that, that there is some good information coming in from the Book Cliffs and we'll start sharing that with the RAC as time move forward.

That's my update tonight, Mr. Chair, so I'll turn the time back to you.

Brett Prevedel: Thanks, Miles. We will move into item number five. I forgot to mention on the comments, we want to give you time to comment, but we want to limit it to about three minutes to the public for each comment. With that, Blair Stringham is here who is the waterfowl and migratory game bird coordinator for the state. And if you wouldn't mind Blair, just give a brief summary of what your recommendations are.

**00:17:22 5) Waterfowl Recommendation 2022-2024 – Rule R657- 9 (Action)
-Blair Stringham, Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator**

Blair Stringham: I'd be happy to. We are proposing recommendations for waterfowl for the next three years. So, every three years for duck, goose, cray, swan, coot, snipe, and anything else I may have forgotten. This will be for season dates. A lot of it isn't specific for permit numbers and things like that because it can change from year to year. What we are basically presenting to the RAC tonight is to accept the season dates that we can set in stone, then just to basically go with the maximum amount of season dates, of bag limits that would be for all species over the next three years.

Brett Prevedel: Questions from the RAC?

00:18:03 Questions from RAC Members

Brett Prevedel: I have one question. Any indication that they're going to loosen up the numbers of sandhill crane tags that would help us here in the basin?

Blair Stringham: That's a good question. That changes from year to year based on a three-year survey we do that is across the whole range of sandhill cranes from Montana all the way down to Arizona. We use an average over those three years, so if the average goes up, we can increase permits. If it goes down, we have to decrease. Looking at the last survey we have our crane numbers are definitely trending up. Within the state we've been doing a lot to try and survey every area we have for cranes, so within our state we've seen numbers trending up. If that trend continues, we'll be able to increase permits. Over the last five years we've probably had anywhere from 100-150 permits out here in the basin, which is about 1/3 of the permits that we give out across the entire state. So, if that number goes up, then we'll likely increase as much as we can out here.

Brett Prevedel: You're saying increase the whole state, not just the basin, on the crane numbers?

Blair Stringham: Yes. So, it's part of a larger problem that we have with crane depredation and nuisance. Largely in Cache Valley area/Box Elder County and here, those are kind of our hot spots. So, we try to distribute crane tags throughout those three areas, just to keep the pressure down. If we do see problems growing, then we do adjust those percentages. But generally, try to keep it about 33% of the permits in those three areas.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you.

Jeff Taniguchi: I was just wondering how the drought has been affecting waterfowl in the state? I know you went through this, but I'd kind of like to get another update on it.

Blair Stringham: Sure, so what we've seen the last couple of years is the drought has had an impact on our breeding ducks. Our geese have been relatively steady, but ducks really rely on that seasonal wetland component to pull off their nests. So, a lot of those seasonal wetlands aren't full, and they move into more permanent wetlands. We've seen a lot of those remain dry the last year or two. When that happens, we just see very very poor production in the state. Within the state it's been like that, and really across North America it's been pretty poor conditions the last year or two. Particularly this year a lot of areas that had water across Canada for most of the last 20 years were dry, so we've seen the last two months in our duck harvest is most of those birds are adults, which is pretty good indication that very few of those birds were produced here or anywhere else that they're moving south in our flyway.

Jeff Taniguchi: So, it will probably affect next year's more than it does this year?

Blair Stringham: It definitely can change a lot year to year. We'll probably see the population at least stabilize this year. They're really boom and bust like a lot of the upland game birds in this species. So, if we had excellent conditions across all the breeding areas you could see the population jump quite a bit. The average duck will have anywhere from five to ten ducklings. So, if a lot of them have high success with nest

hatching and raising those birds up to be where they fledge, we can see a lot more birds. So really it all comes down to water, like everything else with wildlife.

Jeff Taniguchi: Thank you.

00:22:27 RAC Discussion and Vote

Brett Prevedel: I will open it up to a motion.

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

MOTION: To accept as proposed by the Division.

Motion passed unanimously.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, Blair. For coming to Vernal and presenting that.

00:23:50 6) Big Game Application Timeline (Informational)
-Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

Brett Prevedel: Lindy Varney is the Wildlife Licensing Coordinator out of Salt Lake, and she's got two topics here. The first one would be the informational and it's the new timeline. If you wouldn't mind, Lindy, would you tell the group what you decided on this item?

Lindy Varney: Yes. It's always been a hot topic, the application period. So, people apply without permit numbers. We open up the draw in February and close in March, and then in April is when our recommendations come out for those hunts that you applied for the previous month. So, the Wildlife Board asked the Division to look and see if we can modify that application date. So, what our informational will talk about is moving the draw to open up the end of March, and then close the end of April. Then post by May 31st. But this won't happen until 2023.

Brett Prevedel: The driving force is the public should be able to see the permit recommendations before they apply for the year, correct?

Lindy Varney: Correct. So, that's the big thing yes. So, the first week of the application we won't have permit number application numbers yet, because those won't come out until the first week of April. But some people don't care, and they know what they want to hunt and where they want to go, and they'll just apply. But if they do want to wait, they can apply the next four weeks and it will be open with proposed permit numbers.

Brett Prevedel: And I saw you even put a modification provision in there.

Lindy Varney: We did. So, it's going to be a new feature where you'll be able to edit your application, instead of needing to withdraw and resubmit, you can go in during the application period and just edit your application for free. So, you can modify it if you apply the first week and then see a big permit change and want to change your unit, there will be that feature.

Brad Horrocks: Years past we were at this time frame, weren't we? Or do you remember off hand?

Lindy Varney: Before my time, we were. But then I know we changed it, we pushed it back to February because of the way we get our permit recommendations now. You guys wanted the previous hunt years, so we weren't using past data to get those permit numbers.

Brad Horrocks: It looks reasonable, I was just trying to remember why it was pushed back a little bit there, and the previous years, but it looks acceptable to me.

Brett Prevedel: When we had the presentation on the Wildlife calendar on the year, it's pretty full. Everything has to work out just right the whole year because of all the different species and all the different applications and there is no busy seasons and quiet seasons, it seems to be year-round.

Lindy Varney: It's a continuous process for all the species we hunt in Utah.

Dan Abeyta: I think it's a great customer service move on the Divisions part. What about additional pressure that's going to put on your contractor for processing those applications?

Lindy Varney: It's going to be a little bit, but we've worked with them and we feel like it's going to be very doable. That's why we won't post until May 31st, at least for the first year. That will give us a better idea of the pressure. But we've been working really closely with them. It will be tight, but very doable.

Brett Prevedel: Any questions from the online RAC members or the public?

00:28:15 Feedback from the public

Tyrel Abeglan: Dedicated hunter. I know in the past few years there have been a lot of people, myself included who either at the bank account or we get our email the mid part of May. Is that going to change now where it will be the end of May?

Lindy Varney: Yes, it will be the end of May. Just because we need those weeks to evaluate all the applications. What we do is we have a process, when you have almost 600,000 applications that come through, we have a computer that analyses all of them and sees if there is anything similar, which we do get. Then it's hands on making sure

those applications isn't something defrauding the system and making sure they qualify. People do make mistakes. So, in 2023 it will be May 31st.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, this is an informational item, so we don't need to vote on it. If there are no other questions, I think everybody viewed this very positively. Thank you. You're welcome to roll right into... I would like to make sure this in two different topics, even though it's in one topic. The max point and the elk over the counter discussion. So, let's take the max point permit first, if you're ok with that.

00:29:47 7) Max Point Permits and OTC Elk Permit Recommendations (Action)
- Rule R657-62
-Lindy Varney, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator

Lindy Varney: Yeah, however you want to handle it. So, the max point recommendation that the Division is making is switching the allocation to our max point holders to a 60/40. Currently right now we offer 50/50 allocation. We've looked at the data and we've seen as point creep grow, those max point holders are getting higher and higher. So, switching it to a 60/40 we're able to minimize it by a little, especially on these bigger units across the state where we offer a lot of permits. We may be able to bring some of these units down in a year or two just to get some of these max point holders a chance to draw out a permit. We realize it wouldn't be a huge change, but enough to make a little bit of a difference.

00:30:40 Questions from RAC Members

Brett Prevedel: Maybe I'll open it up with a question. So, we understand how it works right now, 50% go to the max point, and 50% are a draw of the remaining applicants. Are they weighted according to their points that they're carrying, or are they all equal on the other 50%?

Lindy Varney: It's weighted, so if you have ten points you get 11 draw numbers. So, ten for the number of points and then one draw number for your current application. So, the more points you have, the more chances you have at drawing out, because you may get drawn. And that's why you see sometimes people with zero or one or two points drawing out. They were just lucky and got a low draw number. That's the beauty of Utah's draw system, when you have low points you still can draw.

Dan Abeyta: Lindy, is this something the Division is committed to for one year, two years, three years? What's the thought behind that?

Lindy Varney: So, this part of the recommendation would be a permanent change, the 60/40. The other one is a trial.

Dan Abeyta: So, did the Division crunch some numbers and figure out... you mentioned this might decrease point creep by a year or two?

Lindy Varney: Yes, so if we would have done it in 2021, if we did the 60/40, we would have been able to offer around 480 additional resident permits to those max point holders. Granted, it would have taken it from the lower point applicants, but we would have been able to get those 480 max point holders through the draw system.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, thanks.

Lindy Varney: Now one thing I've thought about, we already currently do this, it wouldn't affect units that have nine permits or less. So right now, if the unit has three permits, we already do two permits to the max point category and one permit to the regular round. So, if it's five we do three/two. Really it only comes into effect when you have ten permits, that when we'll do the six/four. Currently we do five/five. Below ten permits we're already giving it to the max point holder on odd numbers.

00:33:41 Questions from the Public

Jerry Slaugh: Just a question on the 60/40. If it were to lower the first two years, why wouldn't it continue to lower? If it's lowering at one point in time, why wouldn't it keep lowering? I've always liked the 50/50 but just wondering.

Lindy Varney: Just because it's a pyramid effect. We have so many applicants at the bottom who are applying for our draws. Once we get to that it will kind of plateau a little bit. But we still would knock those people out quicker who have max points. So, it always will make a little bit of a difference.

Jerry Slaugh: So, in the future in ten years, we'll be looking to go to 70/30, and then in ten more years we'll be looking to go to 80/20 to do that? Is that the plan that it's doing now? Is it just lowering for the time being?

Lindy Varney: That's not my intention. I think 60/40 is a great compromise because I love the opportunity we still give to the youth, those new beginners or someone switching a species. So, I don't want to take away too much opportunity from them. The Division felt like it was a good compromise.

Jerry Slaugh: And the compromise... what I'm saying is I like the 50/50. There are a lot of people who put in who have like 25 points or whatever, that have been die hard hunters their whole life and are emotional or deserve that tag or whatever you want to call it. But then there are people who have 25 points who have no idea they have 25 points. So, to increase that it takes away from maybe the future a little bit. So, my question was if it's just a two year, what's the compromise for it? Just to thin it out for two years. I anticipate if it doesn't continue to help it, it's only going to get worse, because then we'll have to switch it to 70/30. That was just my question, if it was going to affect forever, or if it was just going to be a couple year fix.

Lindy Varney: It's going to make a difference, but really when you have 10,000 people applying and we only have 100 permits, it's going to take some time to get through that.

Jerry Slaugh: That's reality.

Lindy Varney: That is the reality.

Jerry Slaugh: Everybody wants to hunt sheep or something like that, but the reality is there is just not enough permits for everybody to do it. That was my question, so thank you.

Lindy Varney: No, thank you.

00:36:43 Comments from the RAC

Brett Prevedel: I think I'll take this opportunity to comment that we received a lot of online comments this time. It's always good to receive online comments, but this time there was a lot of suggestions. And as you'll see on the next topic with the over-the-counter elk there was a wide range of suggestions. But on this one there was also some suggestions and the one that must have been a statistician who made the comment and graphed it linear, I can't even explain it because I'm not a mathematician. You probably studied that comment, did you look at that?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, he did email it to me as well.

Brett Prevedel: Will you just explain that as well?

Lindy Varney: No problem, so what the Chair is talking about is squaring points, somewhere similar to what Nevada does. When you have 20 points, you now have 401 draw numbers. It's squaring the number of points you have. So, the more points you have the more chances you have to draw out. So, someone who has five points is only going to have 26 draw numbers vs someone who have 20 points they're going to have 401 draw numbers. So, if the intent is to get all the high point applicants through the draw, it's a great way and we did look into it. We were looking at everything. We felt as the Division it was too drastic of a change because we do want to give those lower point applicants a chance to draw out.

Brett Prevedel: And that one would make it a lot more skewed than the 60/40?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, it would be more like 80/20 or higher. It would go to your high point holders. If you have 26 points, you're going to have 735 draw numbers. The majority of your permits would go to the high point holders.

Brett Prevedel: Miles, was it broke out on public opinion on this specific item?

Miles Hanberg: It was lumped together as one topic. I can give you the overall numbers, or we can wait. As I looked through the comment though, there were four comments that talked specifically about the 60/40 proposal. Two of those were in favor of it, and two were not. But again, there were probably other people that voted that didn't make a specific comment. Maybe I could go through the overall comments for both over the counter elk permit as well as the 60/40 split.

There were 57 people that voted on this item. 3.5% of those strongly agreed, 17.5% percent somewhat agreed, 3.5% were neutral, 0 people somewhat disagreed, then there were 75.4% that strongly disagreed overall.

Again, most of those, the input was talked a little more about the elk drawing proposal. Again, four people specifically mentioned the 60/40 split, and it was split between those if they supported it or not.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. If there are no other comments, I'd still like to vote on the items and break them out separately so we don't blur the line between the two, because I know there will be a lot of discussion on the elk. (are you going to give a chance for public comment?) Yes, do you have a comment on this 60/40 split? (yes) You bet, jump up there and state your name.

00:41:08 Comments from the Public

Kevin Norman: I'm representing SFW tonight. First of all, I want to thank Lindy. We've been around through all the RACs now and she's in an almost impossible position to try and please everybody. I feel bad for her, but she's doing an awesome job and throwing out ideas and that's what these meetings are for. She gets beat up way more than she should. Even though tonight we're going to oppose her recommendations at SFW, we like the thoughts of staying at 50/50. Simply for the fact of looking out for the new hunters and the youth. We'd hate to not see them have a fair chance and get a fair shake. So, thanks Lindy, and we appreciate you guys for your time.

Tyrel Abeglan: Dedicated hunter. I've watched most of the other RACs online. I got to say, I don't know who you made mad Lindy to get this job, but I don't envy you anymore. I saw where they brought up the comment about the squared. On some of your draw units like bighorn sheep, or Antelope Island, or Henry Mountains or what not, I agree with something like that, because when you get these youth that are drawing out on their first or second year, I mean that's really the best you're going to do. I know a few that did that on the Henry's on the Paunsaugunt and all but give up on hunting. If it's something you have to work for and work at and work at and you can actually dream about it a little more. I don't know. That's my comment.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you.

Joe Arnold: I'm just curious with part of the metric of the agreeing or disagree; was points also the survey? I think that probably stands on, you know, the max point people probably said they're all for it. The people that only have one or two probably weren't... I'm just curious if that was part of the metric.

Miles Hanberg: No, it wasn't asked their standings as far as points go. Again, none of that is split out.

Brad Horrocks: Were you suggesting that we do it for a two-year deal, or was this permanent? 60/40.

Lindy Varney: This was a permanent change.

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair, if I could make some comments? So just speaking on a personal behalf and experience of those around me and those I associate with and what not. I myself have been the recipient of having to wait the max time. It took quite a few years, and that's what it took to get it. I've also been the recipient on the other end, when I didn't have max points and I was provided an opportunity and was able to move on to another species in the once in a lifetime category. The current system we have provides that ability to not be so focused on one and take so long to get one, if you're one of those lucky of the lower 50% hanging fruit, if you will. Speaking of both sides of that, I like the 50/50. It's an easy projection as sportsmen and those that utilize the resources looks into these. Everybody forecasts and sees, they can evaluate their odds, and I've seen and heard more opposition to the change, so I don't know that I could support it.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Any other comments from RAC members?

Brad Horrocks: What has the other RACs done?

Lindy Varney: Every other RAC has opposed the recommendation.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, if discussion is over, I would entertain a motion if anyone has one?

The following motion was made by Daniel Davis, seconded by Ritchie Anderson.

MOTION: I move that we reject the recommendation to go to a 60/40 split and remain at the 50/50 split.

Motion passed 7-2 (opposed Joe Arnold, Mike Smith).

Brett Prevedel: Just before we do into the other topic, I had some comments come in and I just wanted to kind of plant some seeds here and ask some questions. Are there any provisions in the case of somebody dying? If someone is almost at max point and they die, do those points just go away? Or are there any provisions for family members, or any talk of something like that?

Lindy Varney: There is not. It's actually in statute that we cannot transfer those rights. Actually, points are not property, so people can't will them or anything. That's in statute, that's not a rule.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, has there been any discussion about, I know you have some provisions for disabled individuals, season start dates and such. Has there been any discussion on senior type tags?

Lindy Varney: There is always that discussion, we have it a lot. But that divides the pie more, so we've always just kind of stayed away from giving special interest groups or categories of people a piece of the percentage of the permits. We always look at it. A couple of years ago, and I don't remember the numbers, but we looked at the numbers and a lot of permits would go to the seniors.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. I was addressing some comments that had come in, and I said I would ask those questions. With that, we will move into Lindy's next item which is the over-the-counter elk permit recommendations. If you could just briefly summarize that?

Lindy Varney: Sure. The Division is recommending moving our general season any bull elk and our general season spike elk permits into the big game drawing for 2022. There are a couple of different reasons behind this, but the main reason is the supply and demand. Over the last two years we have sold out within one day. In 2020 we sold out in less than eight hours and this year we sold out in less than ten hours. That's even with the increase of permits that was approved last year of the 2,500 and the unlimited youth permits. So, with that, we felt like we don't have enough supply for the demand of these permits. Essentially, we've created an over-the-counter draw. Where if you're not first in line you're not going to get these permits, and it can come down to a fairness issue. Some people cannot take the first couple of hours off in the morning to try and obtain one of these permits due to other obligations, or they may be on vacation, or life happens, and you just can't do it. The next thing is because of that, we decided to do it for a one-year trial period, and then we can work with the statewide elk committee and have some data from having this into the draw. This way we can look at the actual demand because right now we know that there are 17,500 people obtaining the any bull elk permits, because that's how many permits we sale. But do we know how many people want to hunt any bull elk? We don't. When you're in the virtual waiting room, you can see there are 50,000-60,000 people in that room, but it's not people, it's IP addresses. So, we don't know if it's an actual person, or if it's a person with six devices trying to obtain a permit. So, we can see and gather some of that data, and work with the statewide elk committee and see what is best for our hunters in the state of Utah and what works best for them and of us.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. With the youth tags that did not count against the quota, were we somewhere around 21,000 tags this year for the any bull?

Lindy Varney: Now you're making me do math. It's about ... (just shy of 20) Just shy of 20,000 thank you. It's been a long week guys. We sold 2,200 youth permits, so it's a little shy of 20,000.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, that's the number we're talking this year. The demand.

Lindy Varney: But I had multiple calls saying that they wanted it, so we don't actually know the full demand of these permits.

Brett Prevedel: Right. So, I'll just open it up to questions. I will say that we received lots of comments. Miles has them wrote down and we'll talk about them in a few minutes. They came with lots of really good suggestions that we can draw it on the table also.

00:52:57 Questions from RAC Members

Brad Horrocks: It's a one-year trial deal so we can actually come up with the actual numbers?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, we would like to see how many people are wanting permits. Last year we came through with an unlimited proposal for these permits, and the main question was, well how many people want these? We can estimate, we can never actually give a good number.

Brett Prevedel: I think you did a really good job in your video of explaining why we have a problem. I think as we hash this solution out, we may go back and forth on that. But the multi-season tags are a major contributor to the issues.

Lindy Varney: We feel like they sped up the process, but we feel like we would have been here in a year or two from now. They just come off the overall quota, it's not like we're issuing more permits if multi-season went away. But we do feel like it contributed to it. We still would be here in a year or two without them.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Questions?

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair, I've got a question. Lindy, if these permits were to not be unlimited or in a draw, is there a way to restrict the purchase of these permits to be in person from retailers only, rather than online with the antlerless or leftover permits from other season hunts?

Lindy Varney: From what I'm understanding, you're wanting to not sell them online, just at a Division office, or a retail office. It's always doable, but it feels like we're going back in time. We have the technology to sell these permits online, let's utilize it. There are some people who obtain these permits do not have the means to go to a retail store or a Division office. There are the non-residents who couldn't purchase, so we would be not giving them the option to purchase. We don't sell many to non-residents, it's about 5%, so it's not a huge number of non-residents, but we still won't be giving them the option because they won't come to Utah to purchase one. But it is always an option.

Daniel Davis: So, we talked about technology, but that seems to be our failing component, is that correct?

Lindy Varney: It is one of the factors. It doesn't fail, it definitely bogs down because of the pressure. But even if we had the best system possible, the only thing that would do is make these permits sellout quicker. They would sell out instead of 9 hours and 45 minutes, they'd sell out in 3 hours and 45 minutes. Because ultimately it goes back to supply and demand. There is too much demand for these permits.

Daniel Davis: One more question, Mr. Chair. When the multi-season permits were put out and approved, were they put out and approved on a one-year trial as well?

Lindy Varney: No, they were not. They were approved in 2018 the year when multi-season was put in place.

Daniel Davis: Thank you Mr. Chair, that's all I have at the moment.

Ritchie Anderson: I have a couple of questions for Lindy. Lindy did you say that the elk committee recommended this one-year trial for the draw? Or they did not recommend it?

Lindy Varney: No, this is the Divisions recommendation. Last year the Wildlife section met with the elk committee, they opened the plan to revise it, and we recommended unlimited any bull elk permits last year with additional four any bull units, and that did not pass. So last year they sold over the counter again, and now we're on plan B.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok, if it went to a draw system permanently, what would you run it... let's say you had 20,000 tags available and you had 25,000 applicants. How would you work that? Would that be worked on a point system as well, or let's say the 5,000 applicants didn't draw, would they be guaranteed to draw the following year? What is kind of your plan there, or are you not that far along yet?

Lindy Varney: Kind of both. Right now, we're recommending a one-year trial without preference points. But that would be something that we'd work with the elk committee on and take it back through the public process if that's the way the committee and the Division wanted to go. So, it's all on the table for sure, but I'm not saying it's a yes or a no, it's a discussion.

Ritchie Anderson: Ok, thank you.

Dan Abeyta: I have a question and it's kind of a nice Segway from Ritchie's question. My question is, I struggle with this idea of using one years' worth of data to make a longer-term decision. Help me understand the rationale of using one years' worth of data to make a decision that could affect management for multiple years.

Lindy Varney: That's a good question. So, we have prior years data where we can see unique hunters who have obtained these permits over the years. This way if we look at that data and we look at the actual data we can compare them. But since the elk plan is opening up next year already, that one year would be enough for the elk committed and the wildlife section felt like that would be good data to help determine what kind of management skills they want to move forward.

Brett Prevedel: Last year when we had the recommendation to go unlimited, I asked the Division to research that out and Covy and Lindy got that number for me and there were, if I remember right, approx. 33,000 unique individuals who had hunted elk. And I don't remember if that was in the last five years, or ten years, but that's how many known elk hunters there was when I asked that question last year. Just in case you're wondering if there are 100,000 out there. There are 30,000. Everybody who had ever hunted in recent times, it was about 33,000.

Lindy Varney: I got the last two years; I'm just trying to find the text. But it's close to 20-25,000 the last two years. Give me a second and I can pull that exact number.

Brett Prevedel: That's great, and I will follow that up. We're in questions right now.

Lindy Varney: Ok, 25,000 the last two years.

And we sold 20 approx. I felt that probably with a few exceptions of those who had work conflicts or whatever, this year everybody that wanted an elk tag probably got one. Even though it took all day. I was at the central office for a meeting, there were no lines at quitting time out in the city. There were no lines at Walmart, the lines were done and the I told you that after the draw. I told you that after the draw, I'm sure it was exhausting for you, but it was quite fair. I think in my opinion everyone that wanted a tag this year got one. So, Joe, I'll just roll that into your question, go ahead.

Joe Arnold: Thank you. How will this affect the spike hunts? Will that also be a draw or is that over the counter different than the any bull season?

Lindy Varney: No, we're recommending putting any bull and spike. The reason behind that is people do try to purchase both, so if they don't get the any bull they'll try to go to spike. So, putting it in the draw they still can go that route. Spike is selling out quicker and quicker each year, so the demand for those is picking up. Granted it took five days to sell out for spike this year, but each year it's getting less and less. So, with us getting the data we can now say, this many any bull hunters wanted it as their first choice, this many wanted spike as their second choice. Right now, we don't know that. So, we just feel like it would be best to put them both in.

Brett Prevedel: They would be able to put spike as a second choice?

Lindy Varney: Yes. Or vice versa, or just plain spike. But they'd be able to apply for both.

Joe Arnold: Does that mean they can take a spike in an any bull unit, but that's the only thing they can take is a spike only? Is that correct?

Lindy Varney: No. I have to think for a second. The any bull has to hunt the any bull units. If they obtain a spike permit, they have to hunt the spike bull units. So, it would stay the same kind of permit.

Jeff Taniguchi: I understand the problem, and I applaud the Division for at least looking into some different solutions. I feel like it might be to the advantage of the Division to look at some of the comments that were given because there were some pretty good suggestions, and maybe reevaluate this and just get a better handle on it for the future. I think it's kind of tough to say this is going to be a one and done deal when it's going to be this way for the rest of the years ahead of us. I would just kind of entertain the idea of thinking that. Thank you.

Daniel Davis: I mentioned at the time that was the only questions I had, but I didn't promise that was all the questions I had. Lindy, was there possibly a survey done to any of the resident on this recommendation proposal?

Lindy Varney: No, there was not. Coming up with this recommendation, we felt like surveying the hunters, it would have been during their hunt. So, we would have been asking questions that would have been hard to answer. But that is one thing with working with the elk committee, we do want to survey the elk hunters and maybe ask them, did you like the draw, do you like over the counter? So, they can have experience with both. Verses saying would you like to do it or do with what you're having. That is one thing we will be doing with the elk committee if this goes into a draw is surveying our elk hunters.

Daniel Davis: Ok, the next question I had, in this meeting and this process are the RACs and Wildlife Board and they able to or are we able to make recommendation on what permits would be handled whether in the draw or left over the counter, or in that nature and if I'm correct as well, but not discuss permit numbers. Is that correct?

Lindy Varney: This one is a little tricky, I'm going to have Covy come up and explain. General season elk is in the statewide elk plan when it comes to numbers, so I'm going to let him explain this one since he helped write it.

Covy Jones: You always have the hard questions, Daniel. At this meeting we usually don't discuss numbers, that's what I'll say. This one is pretty intertwined. Because what the recommendation comes down to, as Lindy has said time and time again, that we're at a point where the demand has increased and surpassed the supply. Everything else aside, that is the rationale for the recommendation. So, it may be hard to discuss this without discussing what the supply is. So, I would hate to limit the RAC, but I can say, and I've said this in every RAC, is last year when we brought forth this

recommendation, we met with the elk committee and we opened the plan. When the Division writes a management plan, we work really hard to make a recommendation to that plan. You can't expect a recommendation outside the plan from the Division. In fact, it's in statute that tells us we're going to write management plans and make recommendations to those plans. That's what helps us know what success looks like. We have a direction and a guiding document that we've worked through with the public already. It's intertwined and I understand if the RAC wants to go there, and it's not the Divisions recommendation right now. Does that answer, Daniel?

Daniel Davis: Not really. The way I understand is permit numbers come in the spring, correct?

Covy Jones: Permit numbers come in the spring. And the permit numbers for any bull and spike are set in the management plan. There you go.

01:08:45 Questions from the Public

Tyrel Abeglan: A lot of people, myself included, we wait until after the draw to see what we drew out for to see if we're going to get an elk tag, and which one we're going to get. I've been putting in for the Henry Mountains for the last 12 years now, and if I ever do draw that, I'm going to get an any bull because it's an any bull unit, spend three weeks down there scouting for my deer and hunting elk. Right now, I just get a spike tag and hunt with my family and it's kind of a way for people to kind of have some family time. Everybody knows somebody who can get online, and four years ago when the multi-season tags were implemented, I think that was the driving force for that. So, what they say is going to be a one-year temporary trial, what would hurt to put the multi-season in the draw and see what happens?

Lindy Varney: So, we definitely could put the multi-season in it, but it's not going to solve the supply and demand. What happens if you put the multi-season in the draw, you're still going to have 12,000 or whatever the divide is over the counter. It's not going to solve people selling out within one day to get those permits. It's definitely an idea, but it's not solving the solution that we're trying to solve. Multi-season isn't the actual... it brought us to where we are quicker, but even if we didn't have multi-season permits, we'd still be here trying to figure out the supply and demand issue.

Ritchie Anderson: Are we going to talk about the multi-season tags now, or do we want to just stay with the over-the-counter subject now.

Brett Prevedel: Well right now we're asking questions, and then I assume that will come up when we have ideas or suggestions. So, we will revisit that in a moment.

Samantha Petit: A lot of us hunt for family groups, and if we go to a draw out, is there any way we can up the number from four numbers to maybe a little higher.

Lindy Varney: So, it's always a possibility if that's a motion that wants to be made. But we've done some research on group apps and numbers and about a decade ago we did allow up to ten hunters to apply as a group. But what we were seeing happening was people not drawing because we didn't have enough permits. So, a lot of groups were starting to get skipped toward the end of the quota, because we don't offer if we have ten people in a group and we only have nine tags, the whole group is skipped because we can't offer an additional permit. When we started looking at all that data, we noticed that from five on there aren't that many groups that apply that way. So that's why we stuck with four and that's consistent. If we start dividing out the groups saying this species you can apply for ten, this species you can apply for two, this species you can apply for six, it gets pretty confusing to the public with an already confusing system. But it's always a possibility.

Samantha Petit: Ok, thank you.

Brett Prevedel: Miles, can you take a minute. I know you've done a lot of work on the comments.

Miles Hanberg: Sure. So, I kind of looked at comments and kind of categorized them into different themes. There are probably some more specifics that some of you may remember and want to discuss. In general, the overall most frequent comment that people brought is they really want to maintain the last over the counter opportunity for hunting big game in Utah. It's important to maintain that that opportunity for different reasons. That was the foremost concern.

The next most popular theme that I noticed was concerns with multi-season tags. People wanted some reform in that, either eliminating that or turning it into a limited entry draw opportunity. That was a concern the people brought forward.

Another theme that kind of surprised me a little bit, is there is a lot of concern with residents vs. non-residents. I think the conception to the draw process that non-resident would get an advantage to some of these permits, or if there is going to be a limitation on the amount of permits that residents would get, we should be restricting non-residents first. I think Lindy probably has some data to address that as well.

There were quite a few people that did support going to a draw, but if you read their comments, they were supportive of going to the draw because they wanted to take the opportunity to reduce permits and manage these units more intensely on a more of a trophy opportunity perhaps or see less people in the field.

Other comments people like putting money into the license sells system, try to improve that system. People were concerned about point creep as we enter into another draw system. Are we going to end up going years without being able to get an elk permit? They didn't want to see elk turn into something similar to some of our general season deer units where it does take a couple of years to draw out for those.

Then the last theme that people were concerned about were the extra application fees. They felt like they didn't want to have another application fee on top of what they're doing with other permits.

Those were kind of the general themes; I think there might be more specific stuff you might want to focus on. I think Lindy you may have addressed some of these concerns already but maybe the opportunity to talk about them a little bit more as well.

Brett Prevedel: Maybe you could address fees, because there is always a lot of suspicion that when you make recommendations that it is money driven. I know you don't make any money on the \$10 fee. Would you explain where that money goes?

Lindy Varney: Yeah, so that \$10 application fee that residents pay, about \$2.50 actually goes back to our contractor. That's the cost of doing business, we have to pay them for their services. The other \$7.50 comes back into the Division. With that \$7.50 we do use it to pay salaries, we do use it for projects, for proactive wildlife, and do we use it for credit card fees. Right now, we don't pass that fee on to the consumers. Right now, when you guys apply you don't pay the credit card fees unlike some states, you pay that. You do not, we don't put that on to the hunter to pay so some of that is used towards that.

Brett Prevedel: I have been in enough meetings to know that this recommendation is not financially driven.

Lindy Varney: No, this is not financial. It is basically a supply and demand, fairness- trying to get permits to the hunters that want these permits in the most fair way possible.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. I will add to that, while the original intent of the multi-season tag was not financial, the popularity of it has turned into a very profitable item.

Lindy Varney: It has. So back in 2018 people came through the process wanting kind of a dedicated hunter elk permit. We didn't need another dedicated hunter program, so this is where the multi-season elk idea came from was through the public process because they wanted to hunt elk for three seasons.

Brett Prevedel: Just for the public's information there has been over 10,000 multi-season tags sold annually. Is that right?

Lindy Varney: So, any bull we sold 7,430 any bull multi-season licenses this year. And spike was 4,535.

Brett Prevedel: So, way more demand than we thought.

Lindy Varney: It is. The any bull is 42% of the permits go to multi-season.

Brett Prevedel: Is everyone satisfied that they understand what the issues are? Are there any other comments from the public?

01:18:48 Comments from the Public

Tyrel Abegal: I think we talked about it a little while ago. We figured we've got 25-30,000 people who want the elk tag, right there just went 7,000 of them out of the 17,000 of them. You had all these archery hunters that went to the multi-season. Like I said I watched all the RACs, and I know there was at least one that voted to go to unlimited tags, I think the draw would be a better option than going unlimited. Like I said we start getting crowding and then we start having more hunts and we're already hunting elk six months out of the year. Then the shed hunters come in and they hunt them for another four months out of the year. I think it was Gene down in the southern region who said it best, when it comes to the Division there is no such thing as temporary.

Kevin Norman: Representing SFW. We had lengthy discussion on this as well and went back and forth and can certainly appreciate your comments on this. It's kind of the last family hunt and it being a tradition rich state, that is very important to many of us. With that being said we voted to support the Divisions recommendations on this strict contingency that it is a one-year trial and it's brought back through the public process again to reevaluate and go from there. Thank you for your time.

Brett Prevedel: Alright I will open it to the RAC members to discuss. What kind of ideas do we have? What kind of support or other ideas?

01:20:54 RAC Discussion, Comments and Vote

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair I have one question if I may ask it real quick? Lindy, what limitations are there for the over-the-counter purchasing. I know online it's a little different scenario where you have multiple parties do a purchase. But is there a way to manage how many one individual can show up or purchase for people who are not present? Say at a retailer or a log in sku that they have to enter their credentials prior to getting in line, if you will, and ecrue the wait for your turn.

Lindy Varney: Currently we don't do that, we don't log in your credentials, so your customer ID number and date of birth to pull up your demographic. We put you in the virtual waiting room because once you get in there it starts working the data base. I think if we did it prior it might bog it down a little bit more. That's really a question that I might have to get back to you on if it's something we can do. I don't know the ins and outs of the program. But restricting a person at an agent, I don't feel like the Division would support something like that, because how would I buy my kid one if I can only buy one? How do I buy my father-in-law one if he's out on vacation and unable? It's something we can definitely talk about with the elk committee, but there would be a whole program rewrite from me thinking outside the box. I'd have to definitely talk to my programmer to see if it's even doable.

Daniel Davis: Ok, thank you.

Lindy Varney: Oh, really quick, he is listening. He said there are ten items per transaction right now. So, you can only do ten things in a transaction. I did not know that. So, there you go, that's what we have in place.

Ritchie Anderson: I have a few comments. I agree with SFW on this. We've got to remember this is a one-year deal. I think we need to allow the Division some leniency to collect some data and try some things. I am a little different than Brett, I do know some people who wanted a tag who did not get it. When you only have an eight-to-ten-hour window to get that tag, if you have technical problems, or work as an underground miner which those are some of the people I'm talking about; you can't fit an eight-to-ten-hour window to get a tag. I know a few people who said look I can't make that time frame I'm not even going to try to get a tag. I do think it's very valuable, I do think they could collect enough data in one year to at least affect a decision next year or a year from now. I think it would be very valuable. I do think we need to do something with the multi-season. When I was younger, I hunted the multi-season and I really enjoyed it, but the demand has gone up quite a bit. I know people who have bought the multi-season tag, they don't necessarily agree with the multi-season hunt, but they bought it because it was available. But they agree that maybe we're putting too much pressure for too long of a sustaining period with the multi-season. As far as unlimited tags, I hope we just drop that. I don't think there is ever going to be enough support for unlimited tags. I think we kind of need to be going the other direction and maybe breaking these units up into different units for more detailed management I guess, because some areas are at objective, some are over, some are under objective and so the management options to break some of these areas up into units I think would be better. If you did that, you'd have to go to a draw anyway. So, that's my comment. I think the Division needs the leeway to try some new things once in a while and collect some data. I think it would be very valuable. Thank you.

Dan Abeyta: I was wondering, Lindy can you summarize for us how the other RACs voted on this.

Lindy Varney: So, I've been everyone's favorite, every RAC has opposed this recommendation. Central, northern, and southern opposed it but went unlimited. Southeastern just opposed it and left it as is.

Brett Prevedel: And that was just for the any bull and the spike would stay at the quota, right?

Lindy Varney: The spike would stay at the 15,000. The any bull would be unlimited, and they would both be over the counter just like we did for this current year.

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair, if I could make some comments. I would like to touch on a few timelines that have led us to this point that kind of has me a little bit worried, not to be a pessimist by any means. We encounter this issue in June/July timeframe with the system and buying the permits online. We didn't have time to do a survey, to conduct a survey with this to see how the public truly felt about this and make suggestions other

than the small time frame that was put out with the presentations. So, what has me a little concerned about that, we go to the draw, the draw is concluded the end of May, based on the current time frame, unless that were to change, so I don't see a whole lot more time there and this is during an open cycle for the elk management plan, to do another survey. And what we've seen in the years past is well we need to push it another year, and we need to collect more data. I'm a data driven guy, I think data is very important and is a must have. What I'm seeing here with this proposal is the feedback that I've received personally and staying caught up on the forums, a lot of the sportsmen's groups who are online and social media, and just staying online and reading comment. What about data the other way? Why can we not maybe obtain some data without the multi-season permits and see how quick those permits sell out. Then maybe decide does the multi-season permit need to be a draw in of its own? Not to eliminate it on a permanent basis, but what's the potential of removing it, seeing the supply and demand on the online system, and making people go back to choosing their weapon so we can actually see what that looks like today, four or five years later, we can see what that demand really represents that. Because as described, I've been one of the individuals who has bought a multi-season permit. Archery hunter by nature, never got into the rifle hunting because it was super crowded, not favorable season dates but it was an opportunity and found myself hunting less time than I had before, because I procrastinated, because it looked like a good opportunity. But the time that was used was not there. We'll maybe I'll go next season, maybe I'll find some time during the season. And these comments I'm making now are echoed from a lot of people online who have done the same thing and confessed that and see the draw back that the multi-season permit has caused. So, I think we could collect data the other way, and then use that open cycle to survey our public and sportsmen and users of the resource to maybe come up with a better solution that's not so knee jerk. And maybe it's a system issue that can be improved, and the technology. And the system is used for that stays caught up. Those are just a few comments I had.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, I believe we've heard comments from the public and RAC.

Dusty Carpenter: Lindy, I have a quick comment about triggers. Like if this was a temporary one-year option just to collect data, what would be the trigger to kind of bring it back?

Lindy Varney: So, seeing the actual demand and working with the elk committee, do we see 20,000 people? Maybe we come back and say we can see that only 20,000 people want the permit, let's up the quota to 20,000. I'm just spitting out random numbers, ok? Don't quote me on the 20,000. With 20,000 permits we feel like we can meet that demand, and we feel like we can sell them back over the counter. So, I am committed to do a one year trial, we want to work with the elk committee, we want to do what is best with the public and the Division. And my intent is not to fool you guys into saying it's going into the trial and it's going to stay there. We're going to try to do what's best for everyone and look at these triggers or things. Covy has something to comment on here.

Covy Jones: I just want to make sure that the RAC understands that we rewrite statewide management plans, depending on the length of the plan, sometimes in five years. The elk plan was a seven-year plan. We did a mid-plan review last year and what Lindy is trying to say is we've committed to take this discussion, because it's bigger than this, general season elk, what do we want general season elk to be? We know what we want limited entry. But what do we want general season elk to be? And doing some of these things. So when Lindy is asking for this, she's saying give us a year to go this way, we'll write a public survey, we'll get representatives from around the state, we'll rewrite the statewide management plan, and as a part of that she's willing to bring this back and discuss it again and say ok after public survey data, after input from what the draw looked like, after all these data inputs, we come back and we say, ok our recommendation is the supply outweighs the demand, we would recommend to stay in the draw. Or our philosophy of general season elk is to hunt. And hunting general season means you may feel crowded, but our recommendation is to leave it over the counter. So, that's what the trigger is. The trigger is we're up at the end of the plan, we have to rewrite it anyway, we're going to address this issue.

Joe Arnold: If this went to a draw for a one-year program and let's just say 5,000 people were unsuccessful, would they get a preference point? And we voted the data was positive so we said let's go to year two and it was voted on, would that preference point then give them a better option in drawing in year two if we stayed with the draw system?

Lindy Varney: So currently we're recommending no preference points for the trial year period. So, if it stayed in a draw no one would have any points attached to them so they would be going back into the draw with everyone at zero. If we came back out with a recommendation we may or may not recommend points or not. It depends on the public process on points.

Joe Arnold: One other quick question. Multi-season has kind of been considered a dedicated hunter of elk. Is there time given, like there is for the dedicated hunter for deer for the multi-season elk hunters?

Lindy Varney: No, there is not. It's just a permit they can buy over the counter, no service required. Just the increase of the fee.

Joe Arnold: I think that is something that should be considered, if you're asking it of the deer hunters.

Ritchie Anderson: I think again, to reiterate, the Division is asking for a one-year window, the thing is if a year from now they're asking for another year, we can deny it then. But the one-year window, in that one-year period they can still run surveys, they can still run data other ways as well as collecting the data from this draw. So, I think as far as it becoming permanent it will not become permanent unless next year, we say it can become permanent. So, at this point I'm not really worried about the permanence of it, but I think they're asking for a one-year window. I think it will be valuable. I think it's a good idea. Thank you.

Daniel Davis: Mr. Chair, I have one more comment followed by a question. So, to that we've identified what triggered a lot of this demand. So, if we were to remove that trigger, not in its entirety, but place it in a manageable state where we could manage it by itself, that would be ideal. Out of a statement made by the Division as well in several aspects what we've tried to address the spike elk hunts it's very adamant that this is one of the last traditional hunts that families get to do together. I find it quite odd that we're seeing it go a different direction when we try to limit the spike elk hunts in the past. Question following that is, just like the numbers, is this a time frame for permit value? I know that has to be passed through the legislature anytime there is a permit value change. But can that be discussed tonight, and put on the table?

Brett Prevedel: The process for setting fees is not something the RAC is involved in. I know the state auditor and Division analyze fees. Am I correct? Fees, for us to say raise the fee, we don't really have that prerogative, do we?

Lindy Varney: You can raise the motion, but it is a legislative action. We did work with our auditor in 2020 and raise our non-resident fees. They did feel like resident fees were good for our residents. It is a legislative, we'd have to get someone to sponsor a change in our fees.

Daniel Davis: Would that be a legislative sponsor? Or would that be something that the Wildlife Board would give as a directive and the Director would move forward and present that to the legislature?

Lindy Varney: No, it's a legislative... Maybe Miles knows a little more about this process. But it's usually the legislatures will come to us and say they want to raise our fees. It's not usually us going to them saying we want to raise our fees. In July we do take around, if there are any fee increases, we take that in July to the RAC process. For approval, but it doesn't mean it's guaranteed because it still has to be approved by all the legislatures and signed by the governor.

Brett Prevedel: I'd like to make one personal comment. Number one, Lindy, I think you know more about your job than I think anybody I've ever worked with. You answer all the questions, you know the ins and outs. But the Division last year, without public survey, without any sense of public comment recommended unlimited. We dealt with the backlash. We kind of fought the unlimited and went with the public sentiment, and here we are a year later without any feeling of what the public was going to do, we have 80-90% opposition again and we represent the public. So, my take on it is rather than make everyone mad to get the data, we ought to probably survey the public, all the hunters, and get the data a different way. So, I feel as a RAC for us to go against 80-90% opinion of who we represent would be bad business for us as public representatives. But I don't vote. I'll open it to suggestions at this time.

Dan Abeyta: Yeah, Mr. Chair, I kind of feel the same way you do. I feel like this is something that has come up in the last couple of months. We haven't heard about this

and this is a pretty major change. At least I think it is, and a lot of the people do as well based on the public comments. What I've heard about the other RACs and what they've voted on this, I really have a hard time supporting this proposal and going to a draw. I think we cart out ahead of the horse a little bit here and I think we ought to back up, slow down, and again I kind of go back to this one-year trial. I'm thinking back on multi-season, I feel like I remember when that was proposed the multi-season was going to be a one-year trial and now look. That's what four or five years ago, and here we are multi-season is kind of set in stone now. It's good for some people and it's causing some problems for others. That's where I'm at Mr. Chair.

Jeff Taniguchi: I'd like to make a comment. I feel like this is a true deal where RACs are important. Because I think we've got the input from the public and if it's that lopsided I think it needs another look. That's kind of where I'm sitting with the proposal. Thank you.

Brett Prevedel: I would entertain breaking this into parts as a motion, or a suggestion, or we could vote on it yes/no as presented. Anybody have any ideas?

Lindy Varney: Mr. Chair, could I make a clarification? I heard back on the question of the fee. He said it can go either way, a legislature or a DWR could request a fee increase, but it still needs to be approved by the legislatures.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. I remember last time they changed all the license fees, and it came from the audit, right? And you were informed these are your new fees.

Lindy Varney: Kind of in a roundabout way. I just wanted to clarify that with you guys.

Daniel Davis: With that Mr. Chair, could I entice a little more discussion? What she stated, that was what I had clarification on as well, and how that process moved forward. So, I was thinking along the lines of taking that multi-season permit, increasing its value to double of what it is today, as just a term. I'm not going to place the value on it but leave that for discussion. If it's favorable, we can achieve what those permits brought with half of those permits' numbers out of half of the permit totals of what the public has available to them. If we were to dedicate 10% of the total permit to the multi-season and leave that as a draw because as we see those special hunts and special opportunities, that's typically how it's conducted when we talk about a traditional state and how we've done things in the past. Not that we can't think outside the box and move another direction. But I myself feel like that would be the biggest negotiation that I feel comfortable with. With maintaining the multi-season and not getting rid of it completely from my perspective.

Brett Prevedel: Does everybody understand what we're talking about there? Putting a cap on the multi-season and increasing the value so it wouldn't be such a significant budget issue. Though I don't think we've been asked to address this from a

budget standpoint. No. I understand what you're saying Daniel, but the Division isn't saying anything about the value of these tags.

Lindy Varney: No, we're not.

Daniel Davis: Absolutely, just trying to look at the whole picture in its entirety.

Brett Prevedel: Ok. Do we have a motion of what we want to hit with this?

Joe Arnold: Daniel, let me understand that. Is the increase of the fee and the cap on the multi-season to try to make people a little more dedicated towards that? Is that your goal there?

Daniel Davis: No, I was thinking all in all, we're not being asked to think that way, but that would be my view of a compromise that the thorn or the accelerator to this process seems to stem from that multi-season permit. If we handled that like we did other multi-season opportunities and dedicate that solely to the draw by itself and leave our over-the-counter public permits, the traditional hunt, the opportunities families get to continue and have a chance to get to do that. Separate those two, don't hold them in the same category and put a cap on it, set a number. That's why I brought up numbers tonight. Whether that's decided tonight or in the spring with the rest of the numbers, separate those two and how their handled which is no more the dedicated side is from the way I understand it we have enough problems with dedicated deer and having enough projects to add in elk and 2,000 more participants to manage that from a logistics standpoint. So just handling the multi-season as a limited opportunity and leaving the general as general for the family and the tradition and the time on the mountain.

Joe Arnold: I think we continue to peel back this onion back a bunch just layer after layer, I think the spike issue is still another one of those things that is unfavorable with a lot of elk hunters as well, especially in limited entry areas. I know that's a whole different topic, so it's hard for me to understand how to get on board with what the proposal is because there are so many moving parts.

Brett Prevedel: Are there multi-season spike tags?

Lindy Varney: Yes, there is.

Brett Prevedel: Were you about to make a motion, Dan?

Dan Abeyta: Yeah, I am ready to make a motion. My motion is that we do not accept this proposal that the Division is presenting to us to go to the draw for elk and I would follow that up with a motion that it stays the way it is for now and the Division does the necessary surveys to see if this is the direction we should go. Pretty focused on the proposal. I know we've talked about a lot of things, cost, number of tags, things like that, but that's my motion Mr. Chair.

Brett Prevedel: To remain as is?

Dan Abeyta: Correct.

Brett Prevedel: We have a motion to not approve as proposed by the Division and a recommendation to remain as is for one more year until the elk committee addresses the issue, I guess.

Jeff Taniguchi: Seconded.

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

MOTION: I move that we deny the recommendation for the general season any bull and spike permits to go through a draw and instead sell unlimited any bull permits and 15,000 spike permits over the counter.

Motion passed 7 to 2. (Opposed: Joe Arnold, Ritchie Anderson)

Brett Prevedel: Motion passes 7-2. Thank you for all the good discussion and thank you Lindy very much for traveling out here.

Lindy Varney: Thank you guys.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, we're going to take a very brief break, five minutes.

BREAK

Brett Prevedel: We have two more items to discuss tonight. This next item is the 2022 big game hunting seasons and key dates. There were some tables for all the seasons in the packet for everyone to look at. I'm going to ask Covy to just highlight the changes or whatever you want to highlight there.

02:03:19 8) 2022 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Key Dates (Action)
-Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator

Covy Jones: That's perfect. Thanks, I appreciate that Mr. Chair. There are very few changes this year to our recommended hunting structure, but two of those changes occur in this region. Probably appropriate that we address those. One is a new limited entry deer hunt on the SS Myton. The rationale for this is it's not necessary to provide a limited entry opportunity. It's a recommended limited entry muzzleloader hunt. On the SS in and around the Myton area we have a CWD hot spot. Now, we can go into the science of CWD a little bit, but Chronic Wasting Disease is a prion disease that affects deer, elk, and other servants, right? The disease is fatal, it's transmitted from animal to animal from various methods, and when animals get it, it tends to increase in prevalence in the animals in and around certain areas. And by that, I mean you start out with the

animals with 1% in the population having it. Then you go to 2%, 3%, 5%. There are some areas in Wyoming and Colorado when you're seeing high 30's in increase of prevalence. What that really comes down to when you get those high prevalence rates and it's a fatal disease, you can't grow deer anymore. If 30% of your population has this disease, and you're trying to grow deer, and you're losing that 30%. And it can take up to two years. You're losing that 30%. Your survival rates are too low to grow deer. And in these areas in Colorado and Wyoming have struggled and struggled. You can't really eradicate it when you get it in a population. But there are strategies that have shown to help not only mitigate but reduce prevalence. One of the things we know is bucks are twice as likely to have and spread this disease than does. Mature bucks are most likely to have the disease. So, this limited entry hunt in this area is set at a time to provide harvest on those animals. A couple of years ago in 2019 when we brought around the mule deer management plan, it had an appendix. In that appendix you can read different strategies to address CWD. One of the strategies is to implement doe hunts, and we've done that. Another is to implement these late season buck hunts. Now Randall is the biologist, and he recommended this hunt. As long as we're talking about just this one, maybe Randall could you come up and talk about what's happened since we implemented those doe hunts and any information you'd like to provide about that area? Randall loves to speak at RACs so we love to give him every opportunity we can.

While Randall is talking, the data for these targeted buck hunts, this comes out of Colorado. So, Colorado has higher prevalence rates than we do, and they're actually able to show a reduction of prevalence through targeting mature bucks, infected animals.

Randall Thacker: Just real quickly as Covy has mentioned, we kind of have a hot spot around this Myton area. This red line here shows the hunt boundary we've used to target this area. Specifically, we had a doe hunt down there the last two years. We started out when we first noticed this hot spot down there in 2016 and we had one deer test positive down there. 2017 we had one deer test positive, and these were only bucks for the most part that are being sampled. And in 2018 we had one buck. So, three years in a row we had one deer test positive in this area. But then in 2019 we had six deer test positive. Then last year we had eleven deer test positive here. So, on this map here it shows you the blue and pink stars, this is just the past two years. I didn't go back and get the other locations, they're in the same general area as here. This just shows where those positives have come from in the last two years, and you can see it's kind of a cluster right here. Went through, and we started of course, part of the intent with the doe hunt was to get more data and more samples from does. So, we've done that and tried to focus on this a little better and try to get some more samples. Last year within this area, and even around the periphery of this, we had 92 samples that we tested. Of those 11 of them tested positive and we have twelfth one right outside. That gives you a 12.5% positive rate of those animals tested last year. Now that may not be exact, of course who knows how many deer we'd have to get, but 92 deer isn't a bad sample, it's a pretty good sized sample for what we've got down there. Only one of those who tested positive was a doe, all the others that tested positive were bucks. As Covy mentioned it's much more common for bucks to get it and spread it around themselves. What we're really concerned about is this spreading in the future. If this would stay down here and we could contain it, I guess we could live with that. It's almost all agricultural area, very little public hunting

goes on down there, it's more public getting to hunt their relatives private lands and things like that, almost exclusively a private lands area down in there. But our concern is that this is jumping up in example that we've seen over the last couple of years. Hate to see that continue to increase, and then some of these mature bucks roaming later on during the rut and spreading this anywhere else. 12% positive ratings, even if it's 10%, that's ten times what the rest of the state is. This really is a problem spot. We've got something and we need to do something about the problems there. So, this is a starting point to try to reduce some of the older bucks that would be wandering around and leaving the area. My concern about this is it is private lands, so it will be hard for the public who draw a tag to be able to... they've got to have access, they've got to have written permission really before they should even apply for this hunt. We're committed to try and get one of the pop-up boxes that when you go to apply for this hunt it will pop up and say, warning this is a private lands only hunt. Make sure you have written permission before you apply for this hunt. So, people can get in. But we really need to start reducing the number of bucks out. It's a high buck/doe ratio too because it's private. It's been controlled we have a very high density of deer down there, a lot of deer in those areas and we need to start addressing some of those to reduce this prevalence of CWD in that area.

Brett Prevedel: We have an additional 200 doe tags down there in that area?

Randall Thacker: That's right, we did.

Brett Prevedel: Are they required to bring them in for sampling?

Randall Thacker: They're not required, but I sent a letter to every one of them telling them how and encouraging them to do that. We did get a pretty good sample last year; we haven't got this year's information yet obviously. Last year when we had 100 hunters out there, and we made them two doe permits, so each hunter could take two does if they got access. They could do a little more than just one doe. Last year we had a harvest of about 50 does that were taken out of the 100 folks that had permits. Hopefully we start getting people who know the unit a little better and can get better access and can help us get that kind of increase of success rate higher than what it was.

Brett Prevedel: So, the percentage on does that you mentioned, was that in this area, or was that part of the sample from the...

Randall Thacker: It's from this area, we had 32 does last year that were tested, so 32 of the 49 does that were harvested out there were tested basically, and we got one that was positive. One of the deer was a roadkill, you can see the one that was right off Hwy 40 over by Bridgeland deer. But the rest were hunter harvested for the most part.

Dan Abeyta: I don't know if the tribe does a lot of deer hunting in that area, but have you reached out to the tribe?

Randall Thacker: Good question. Yes, we talked to them when we actually went and did a training with the tribe and all of their officers about a month ago, making sure

they knew how to collect samples for us so they could take samples on anything collected from this area. And we provided them a copy of the map of the unit so they know where we're targeting it to see if we can have them help get a few more samples for us. It's all the same animals, they're just coming and going across the tribe and going to private. You know how that movement is down there. It's checkerboarded down there.

Covy Jones: And again, this strategy is one that is in the appendix in the mule deer plan. After you get it in a population, you'll never eradicate it, but you can hopefully manage it and reduce prevalence.

Joe Arnold: I got cut off for a second, this may have been asked. With most being private, do you feel like you can make an impact, with CWD seems to be kind of a catch all where you've got to get access to hunt. Pleasant Valley is a pretty big area and you've got to get access to hunt. Lots of corn fields, trying to grow big deer down there. I know you probably can't talk permit numbers, but I'm wondering what kind of impact you can have on CWD on what almost all that your proposing is probably private land?

Randall Thacker: That will be a matter of scale, so we will have to realistically start off with a fairly limited number of permits to see if it's going to work. We don't want to inundate landowner down there and make them frustrated with us in multiple ways, not just the fact that we're trying to remove some of these deer out of there and some of these bucks, but we can't force people to allow hunters on. Of course, it's going to be by willing landowners who allow hunters to come on. I fully expect something that a lot of these landowners down there encourage their family and friends and relatives to go and put in for. This is really going to be a neat opportunity for them to hunt something this time of year. It's a neat opportunity and maybe have some of their family remove some of the animals on their property that they've been building or making to be nice deer by protecting them for years. This may give them an opportunity to get deer that would be difficult to get otherwise because some of the crops that are grown down there. We'll probably start off relatively cautious this year and try to ramp that up over the next few years. This is probably something we'd like to maintain in the long term, until we find some other type of solution and see how this can work in that area.

Joe Arnold: One other question, there is a big extended archery area and there has been some concern from the public on a couple of comments that I've been able to read about now bringing basically weapons and there is a decent amount of poaching they believe goes on down there. What do you think about adding basically a rifle, I know it's a muzzleloader, but the new muzzleloaders are absolutely just like rifles?

Randall Thacker: Some of them are, Joe, but the majority of the ones out there aren't the newest, latest, greatest. Majority of them are folks like mine that are ten and 12 years old or 20 years old that most people are hunting with for the most part. That is why we opted to go with the muzzleloader type of situation to reduce potential of having some for these you know go too far into somebodies back window or something, that would be a nightmare. The possibility already exists, the poaching that is already going on, this isn't going to change that in any way, shape, or form. It will probably actually open up

opportunities for legal hunters to report things they see down there, people that are going to have an invested interest of protecting thing that they can hunt in a few weeks might have an invested interest of reporting people that are out there. As far as the poaching side goes, the extended archery hunter can still hunt any property they have access to, they'll still be able to hunt there. That extended archery overlaps a lot of hunts when it starts in August and goes through the fall, all of our regular full seasons are overlapped with that. They're already overlapped with the regular muzzleloader deer season as well as the rifle season, and the muzzleloader elk season. I don't think it adds anything to that. If anything, a few bucks may get harvested by those folks hopefully, and that's the intent to increase the number of bucks that are getting harvested down there. We need to. This is a real problem if we let this go, who knows where it will spread. Are we willing to let the rest of the SS and the Anthro and even potentially the Book Cliffs? Are we willing to leave this with the potential to spread and let it get higher and higher concentration rate than is what's there? We do need to do something about CWD. I can't as a biologist, stand there and ignore it any longer. We need to do something to start addressing the problem.

Joe Arnold: And Randall, you feel like statistically it is on its way up, that we're not just testing more than we have in the past? That it's on the incline?

Randall Thacker: Yes. Going from one buck to three years ago to 11 now. We didn't increase anywhere near that 12 times the increase and sampling. Yeah, it's definitely gone up.

Daniel Davis: Randall, I've got a quick question, if I may Mr. Chair? So, with the severity that you've expressed, and it's been expressed across the western United States, as big of a deal as this appears to be, why not a consideration, and again this is just speaking in a severity stance. Why not a consideration for the private land only permits? I know since we went to smaller general season units, it's still hard for a lot of these landowners to hunt their back yard and it can take two the three years for them to get that opportunity. So, in this manner when you do have landowners that are willing to mitigate this situation on their own property that they can control, a lot of folks don't feel comfortable letting people on and around their farm and that aspect needs to maintain that. Empowering those landowners to help step up and mitigate that, has it been a consideration for private land buck deer permit? I mean you can only harvest one buck deer or even hold one buck deer permit a year in the state of Utah. The severity that you've expressed and has been expressed over time, why not that route, perhaps?

Randall Thacker: Just trying to work within the permit structures we have right now rather than just giving it to... we don't have a CWD landowner permit or anything like that that's out there. This actually gives them the chance to do that, by having this permit, they'll be able to buy these tags, it gives them the opportunity to hunt in November that they haven't had unless they're willing to hunt archery. And right now, they have all the opportunity in the world with an extended archery permit and haven't for the most part. We have some folks that do, and those that do continue to hunt it. And this kind of thing just gives that opportunity to those landowners that want it. They really

could be the ones, them and their family and relatives, will probably be the ones that end up with a lot of these permits. If people don't have access, they can't hunt there. They just can't. So, the folks who really should be putting in for this should be the folks that have access to that private property which would be the private landowners there. So, I guess to me this is a compromise somewhat to try and have them do it, and also have hunters help take some of these bucks too, if they can get access from relatives, family, or associates can do that.

(unknown) Why don't we change that?

Randall Thacker: That would take probably a changing code through state legislature to create a new hunting code, I believe.

Daniel Davis: So, to go to a private land only buck deer permit in this area like we did the cow elk permits to address some not so similar issues, but population control. In essence that takes a code change.

Covy Jones: I can speak to that, Daniel. We discussed that in the mule deer plan. So, in the RAC tonight we spend a lot of time talking about public sentiment and what they want and the last mule deer plan that we wrote we discussed that through the committee and the public process and there just wasn't the desire to do that. And the reason why is because everybody wants to hunt deer, right? So, the committee and the public process, everybody felt like let's stick with the draw. In general season we already have a landowner program, we'll stick with that. But they just weren't supportive of a private lands buck tag.

Dan Abeyta: Mr. Chair, I've got a question for Randall. Randall, have you considered just taking action into our own agencies hands and taking a larger sample? Kind of like with Gosling Mountain here 10-15 years ago with the bighorn sheep population. Do you know where I'm going with that question?

Randall Thacker: We even did it with CWD when we first found it if you remember on Diamond Mountain. We went in and we tried to do a large-scale removal and took out about 100 or so animals basically when it was first discovered over there in that area and found out not sure if it was really all that productive one-time effort. It's got to be a long-term thing. We need to remove bucks for the most part you're going to want to take. And because of the nature with all the private property down there, you're going to want to remove them on properties that are willing to allow us to do it down there. And we can, we've stepped up and have got a couple of landowners who have asked to help remove deer and elk on their property down there, and we target those and tried to put extra effort into removal on our part, in addition to this. This is simply an addition to anything we can do to remove them in there. Any landowner that is willing to let us come in, I'm sure we'd be willing to work with them and try to address some of the problem that way too. This would be in addition; this would be letting the hunters have the opportunity to come in and help us solve some of the problem too.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, thanks.

Ritchie Anderson: I've just got a question for Randall. When you're talking about the general season elk tags and not maybe having quite enough information to propose a draw and maybe needing more surveys and stuff, have you ran a survey, have you ran a survey for the landowners down there to see how they feel about this hunt?

Randall Thacker: I haven't ran an official survey, but I have contacted a number of them and talked to the different number of landowners down there. It doesn't qualify for all of them by any means or anything else of a big enough sample. But there is a variety of opinions as you can image. Some of them like the idea, some of them hate the idea. It just depends on their personal feeling of the deer and elk on their property and whether or not they like them or dislike them, or feel they're causing damage. It just varies depending on the individual so much, there really is a lot of variation I guess Ritchie, some of them think it's a great thing and some don't.

Ritchie Anderson: Do they generally recognize the issue with CWD and do they recognize it as... I guess do you get the feel they recognize it as a pretty intense issue, I guess you could say.

Randall Thacker: I don't think very many of them understand the seriousness at all. I think we've got to do a little better of educating them and trying to get that information out a little better to help them understand. A lot of them were totally oblivious to the fact that this was such a prevalent thing in their area. Especially it is fairly short term. It is the last few years that it's really blown up and kind of turn out to be so serious. I don't think they understand why we're worried about it. For some of them they literally want to protect the deer that they don't see as a threat to them yet. So, they wanted to preserve deer and have as many big deer they can get in their areas, and other just want all the deer gone. So, it depends on how they are perceiving deer. I understand both sides of it, I really do. I think that's why we thought we would start off at a reasonable level to begin with and let that kind of increase. If we can gain support from the landowners and they can allow folks on and be supportive.

Dan Abeyta: Another question for you, Randall. Is this like the hottest CWD spot in the state, or how does it compare in other places in Utah?

Randall Thacker: I think for how compact it is, it probably is. The only other one that would come close is down there on the La Sals. That's a much bigger area, much more spread out. For such a small compact area, I'm certain it is.

02:27:38 Questions from the Public

Tyrel Abeglan: I've spent the first 22 years of my life growing up in Pleasant Valley. I know those farmers. The years I've spend hunting down in Pleasant Valley, I actually hunted down there last year, and they specifically told me, do not tell anybody where I got those deer because they get tired of 100 people stopping by a day asking for

permission. Like Henderson's and Harveys and them, they've got the silage pits, where they cut the corn and put the silage in. They have the depredation tags although the deer don't usually move in until late November. This year the Henderson's didn't sell any of their depredation tags, mostly because we couldn't find any dry does. And Wayne brought up the fact that used to go into the middle of November. Would it be possible to bring that back with the stipulation that for every deer they bring tested? So, we get a little bigger pool to test in, even though they are does. We get a little bit bigger testing group.

Randall Thacker: So just extending depredation permits season? I think in that area it's far enough away from any migratory deer that would move into the area that we could definitely consider that, and work with them on that.

Tyrel Abeglan: My next question, is this going to be a permanent thing or is this just until the numbers go down a little bit?

Randall Thacker: It will be based on numbers. If it stays higher than the surrounded area, I would envision it as being permanent, but it will be looked at in the RAC process every year.

Kevin Norman: Representing myself. This is kind of off this subject, but I have a question for Covy on this agenda item. It's been discussed in other RACs that as far as the youth any bull hunt overlapping with the archery bull hunt, general season, that there is a two-day window when the archery hunt ends before the muzzleloader deer starts. Is that a real possibility and does it work to extend the youth any bull hunt by two days?

Covy Jones: There wouldn't be any conflict to extend the youth any bull hunt a few days and end it before the opening of general season muzzleloader deer.

Covy Jones: Just to wrap up this. I think there are two views here right, one view of CWD management is short term; save big bucks, save deer, right? And in the short term you may be able to do that. But I can tell you it increases prevalence and in the areas it has in Wyoming and Colorado, they can't grow deer anymore, they can't increase populations at that level. So, the short term hold on to these animals holds on to a long term growing deficit in growing deer. So, with that I'll finish with those thoughts and move on.

The other recommendation for deer is a new extended archery area. The Box Elder West Bear River in the Box Elder unit. And then there is one recommendation for a new pronghorn hunt and that's on the SS Vernal. We've got a new population of pronghorn there, it's doing well. We already have an archery hunt and an any weapon hunt, and we're just looking to add a muzzleloader hunt there. And those are the recommended changes to the 2022 big game season dates.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you. Ok, I didn't want to cut anybody off, if anybody else wants to speak? Any more questions?

Mike Smith: I have a question. I don't know, could there be a mechanism in the draw where you have to go get a swan tag you have to go online and take this test or this or that. Could you do something with these muzzleloader tags with the CWD and that unit where nobody could even put in for a tag unless they have permission ahead of time? Because it seems to me, when I saw those dates, I got excited, and I've never held a muzzleloader in my life. I thought wow! And I could see guys like me who don't know all the little nuances put in for that hunt. They see your little thing that says this is private and go well I'll work something out, or money solves anything. And all these landowners aren't going to get the tags. Are they going to be pissed off, excuse my language, because they can't even hunt their own land because all these guys from Salt Lake got these permits? Is that something that could be done?

Covy Jones: Something that we can do is when we have something like this when we're concerned about that we can put a pop-up box. So, when you say I like these dates and I want to apply for this hunt, a box will pop up and say this hunt is composed of private land, please make sure you have access before applying. Now, we can't restrict them, but if they apply for a hunt, they'll never get access to it's probably a bad idea.

Mike Smith: Yeah, but that doesn't solve the problem that the landowners can't put in for this tag because there is a conflict because they're competing with guys from Salt Lake who they'll never let hunt. I guess I'm not putting myself across correctly.

Randall Thacker: It doesn't guarantee that it will go most to those and I think within a year or two it will work itself out really fast though, honestly. People learn. We had that with those doe tags the first year when a bunch of people even those that thought, we'll I thought I had somebody that would let me on, then they couldn't get on the last minute. They don't hunt anything, they just tag soup, you know. They go home, and they don't put in again the next year. It does self-resolve a little bit. If they don't have access, they're not going to get access.

Mike Smith: But there is no way that from the beginning there is no way that they can put in if they don't have access?

Randall Thacker: I don't think we can guarantee it in any way.

Mike Smith: No, I'm just asking.

Lindy Varney: No there is not any mechanism in place. We have a lot of units that have private property. So, it would be very difficult to prove that you have access, so that's why we put the advisory box on saying that if you're apply for this hunt, make sure you have permission to hunt. If not, we advise against it. They also, if they can't get access, they're allowed to surrender 30 days before the hunt because they do have a penalty of surrendering their permit. But no, we don't have that mechanism.

Brett Prevedel: Does everybody feel like we're ready to move forward on this?

Ritchie Anderson: Brett, are we in the question period or are we in the comment period? I'm confused.

Brett Prevedel: You can do either because you're the last comment or question.

Ritchie Anderson: Alright, so I've got a little experience with CWD from where we run cattle in Colorado, and it can be quite devastating. But I think, I'm not opposed to the hunt, I think what is going to be critical to controlling this this is going to be extreme outreach to the landowners, and I don't think we're quite there yet. They're going to play a critical part in getting this thing under control and I just don't think the outreach has quite been as significant as it needs to be yet. I'm sure there has been some. I would probably encourage the Division to... Like I said I'm not opposed to the hunt, we can see how it goes, but if we don't get the landowners on board, you're going to have a hard time with this situation. I would encourage the Division, and I can't speak for the Farm Bureau directly, but I'm sure the Farm Bureau would be interested in maybe helping the Division maybe set up some meetings, maybe have an actual meeting with these landowners to help them understand the significance of this deal and how detrimental it can be to the state's deer population. Maybe work with the Farm Bureau or the Cattleman's Association locally here I can speak for them, they'd be interested in helping facilitate that. But I can't stress enough how critical it's going to be to have those landowners on board. Until we get that, we can try some things, but I think in a small time period we can meet with some landowners and get a better direction. I don't know that this hunt is the answer, because I don't know if you're going to have enough support from the landowners to do it, because I don't know if they understand the significance of CWD. So, I guess I'll look at whatever motions are brought forward, but you're going to fail if you don't get those landowners on board.

Joe Arnold: It's kind of in that same line. I know I've hunted Colorado private lands only and you have to take it on that private land, or at least on private land. I'm just wondering if we have something like that in this area. And also, other states like Montana has a trespass fee where the landowner get compensated a little bit. Randall is the biologist and I trust what he's saying that there's a problem and this maybe could impact that. But I'm just afraid that maybe the way that it's going about kind of the same as what Ritchie is talking about, I don't know much impact we can make with the current situation. Unless the landowners are approached and there is some compensation and maybe the private landowner get the voucher and it has to be taken on his ground rather than putting it into the draw so that we can mitigate the situation. I think there are some things that I think can be brought forward for me to support it. I think it sounds like something that could devastate the deer herd, but I'm not sure the way we're approaching it will help us right now without the support of landowners and private land tags, maybe some compensation to the landowners and so forth.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, and there is nothing precluding the landowners from charging a trespass fee for these bucks for the ones that want to. For the ones that like them, it's probably not worth it. But there are a lot of nice bucks on that private land, and they could charge a very hefty fee, and people would probably pay it. With that, let's

move forward. If everyone is ok, I think we've got the issues on the table. Where do we want to go with it?

02:40:14 Comments from the Public

Blake Bess: Dedicated hunter, representing the sportsmen tonight. I'd like to explain to the RAC why this hunt foremost probably will not work. The deer hunt located around Myton targeting mature bucks, that the Division is claiming have CWD, when in reality we're already hunting these mule deer bucks, and not to mention a special doe hunt that has already been in place in this area. They hunt these deer around the clock starting with the archery hunt August 21-28, then they go to the general muzzleloader hunt September 29-October 7. They hunt these bucks October 13-16 then they go to another rifle hunt from October 23-31. Then we have a late muzzleloader hunt already in place November 3-11. Not to mention the extended archery deer hunt that runs September 18-November 30. That hunt alone is 74 days of pressure for grand total of 134 days of continuous and overlapped hunting pressure. I am talking to you, the RAC members. If you hunt buck deer 134 days of continuous and overlapping hunting pressure going into the peak of the rut, I believe a buck that can survive 134 days of continuous and overlap hunting pressure deserves to live and breed the few does that are left. Also, if we let the Division start another special late season deer hunt, my fears are with our suffering deer herd in Utah, the Division would continue the following years like they did with the prior late muzzleloader deer hunt. To all units just like they did with the late hunt we already have. Also, if you guys watched the southern RAC last night, they mentioned a serious concern we have in the Book Cliffs. We all know in the Book Cliffs the deer and elk is way below where it should be. Tonight, I'd like to encourage the northeastern RAC to stand up and smash the spike hunt in the Book Cliffs. Last and foremost I'd like to encourage each and every RAC member to get out in the next few weeks and look at our deer herd, look at the poor quality of bucks doing the breeding, not only in our region but the whole state of Utah. Look especially yin our region. Lastly, if you thought the hunting was poor this year, wait until next year come.

Tyrel Abeglan: I just thought of something else I wanted to bring up to you guys. I know a lot of guys use the OnX hunting apps and in the Pleasant Valley/Myton area it says there is a lot of state ground, and there is a little bit there, but about 70% of that isn't state ground. Some of it is tribal and I've got the OnX for Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. I've never seen an area where the property lines are off that bad. That's why we get a lot of trespassing problems down there. I've kicked all kinds of people off there. So that's just something to consider too, guys.

Miles Hanberg: Mr. Chair, I'll summarize the online comments real quick. This is the big game season dates as a whole package, the whole agenda item. 25% strongly agreed, somewhat agreed was 33%, 25% were neutral, 0 people somewhat disagreed, then 16.7% strongly disagreed with the package.

Brett Prevedel: Pretty much across the board on the comments then.

Miles Hanberg: You know, there were only two specific comments. So, this was 12 people that responded to this question. Two commented, one was regarding the muzzleloader pronghorn hunt, they didn't agree with that. Then the other was this deer hunt, and they also opposed it.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, do we have a feel where we want to go with it, RAC? I'm opening it to a motion at this time.

Ritchie Anderson: I would make a motion that we approve the DWR recommendations but put a condition on there that within the next say 120 days they find ways to engage those landowners through the Farm Bureau/Cattleman's Association and other areas I'd be glad to help with that. But approve the recommendation based on they agreed within the next short time frame to find ways to engage those landowners and educate them and inform them better on the situation.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, we have a motion on the table to approve, I know Ritchie you were talking about the muzzleloader issue, but you're talking about the entire big game item with the provision that they do outreach to the landowners in the CWD area and try to get them educated or on side with the seriousness of the issue. Is that right Ritchie?

Ritchie Anderson: Yes. That's correct.

Dusty Carpenter: I second it.

The following motion was made by Ritchie Anderson, seconded by Dusty Carpenter.

MOTION: To approve division recommendations with condition that within the next 120 days the division does outreach to landowners in the CWD area to get them educated with the seriousness of the situation.

Passed Unanimously/without Brad Horrocks and Robert Johnson (excused)

**02:47:28 9) CWMU and Landowner 2022 Permit Recommendations (Action)
-Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator**

Brett Prevedel: Chad Wilson is here to give us a brief summary. This is the landowner 2022 permit recommendations.

Chad Wilson: Thank you Mr. Chair. Just to summarize the CWMUs we have 30 applications, 18 of them are renewal applications. We had eight new applications and four change applications that we're looking to renew. With the LOA – Landowner Association we had just one renewal and one change application.

Brett Prevedel: Were the LOAs in this region?

Chad Wilson: No.

Brett Prevedel: Any of the CWMUs in this region:

Chad Wilson: West Willow Creek.

Brett Prevedel: And West Willow Creek was specifically the renewal with similar numbers?

Chad Wilson: Yes, I think an increase of two buck deer and one bull elk.

Brett Prevedel: We had a lot of comments come in regarding just the rules of CWMU. The 90/10 or the ratio. We had quite a lot of comment of people saying the public ought to get more. And I have tried to reach out to the people to say that's not something they're asking us to do, that's in the rule. But if they want that to be discussed, and they've got some arguments that the value of the tags have got so great on some of these areas over the years that when it was originally set up on a 90/10 now all of a sudden, the finances are now a much higher reward than what was envisioned. So, in a broad view of it, they've kind of got a valid argument from a public standpoint. Where would we bring that up? Does the rule get looked at every five years or ten years?

Chad Wilson: My plan is, as you know, we're working on the landowner rule and that's a pretty big one that we're trying to get through. My plan is after that I completed to open up the CWMU rule and at that point in time we can have those relations.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, I'll just relay that back at some point that will be revisited. Whether it's fair or not fair, at least it will be addressed.

02:50:28 Questions from RAC Members

Dan Abeyta: I have a question. Chad, with the Book Cliffs deer and elk herd struggling as bad as they are, and we've heard this time and time again for years now. What is the rationale for the increase on the West Willow CWMU? What was it two deer and one elk? Can you help me understand that rationale?

Chad Wilson: Yes, and we might ask Clint to come up here if he wants. But I'll take a stab at it if you want me to. The rationale is that it's a unit in of itself and it's those surrounding units. If it's meeting the management criteria that the surrounding ones are. This is probably where I need help, but if it's a five year old elk and the CWMU are killing seven year old elk, then they are above that management objective. Maybe you should, Clint, chime in.

Clint Sampson: I'm the wildlife biologist for the Book Cliffs. We also have Clay Batty who is the foreman or operator of West Willow Creek Ranch. We could have...

how many guys filled buck tags out there this year? We could have 18 people come up to this mic and tell you how great of a hunt it was, and how there are still real nice quality bucks on the landscape even after those 18 guys punched their tags. It's just a unique area that funnels a lot of migratory bucks into that area and it seems to be able to hold the pressure we're putting on it.

Dan Abeyta: So, it's funneling bucks. These bucks are coming in off of just the general Book Cliff area into this private land.

Clint Sampson: We have collar data that supports that they migrate to the roadless area onto the CWMU and the roadless area is pretty difficult to be able to hunt. Pretty limited access and these deer a lot of times don't even leave that roadless area until after the rifle deer hunt is over in the Book Cliffs. So, really those deer, the best time to take advantage of those deer is on that hunt. It's not taking away from any of the other limited entry hunts or anything like that. It's just an opportunity to hunt deer that normally don't get hunted.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, in my mind it just begs the question that the Book Cliffs in general are just struggling for deer and elk so that's why I asked the question, it just seemed like it's just screaming out at me. So, why are we increasing tags on a CWMU within the Book Cliffs as a whole is struggling.

Clint Sampson: And the reason for the elk too is Clay has done an extremely good job with water developments and habitat projects and things like that to increase the amount of animals that he can have on the landscape. It really shows the difference that these habitat projects make.

Brett Prevedel: These tags are all private tags? No changes to the public tags?

Chad Wilson: Correct, it's the same public, right?

Clint Sampson: I think so.

Brett Prevedel: They were under the ratio so they can absorb these private tags without having to increase the public tags.

Chad Wilson: Right, under that split still.

Clint Sampson: West Willow Creek Ranch is extremely generous with the split between the public and the private and they give more than what we require other CWMUs to give to the public draw. (what is that?) 70/30.

Chad Wilson: Just to be clear and transparent, there is some public land in that one. You probably saw it. When there is public land in a CWMU it is required for them to give more tags. It is two extra deer and elk that go to the public than what your split would be normally.

Clint Sampson: It's seemed to work out pretty well so far, we haven't had any complaints from the public hunters or the guys who are purchasing the private permits. It's seemed to be a really great working relationship so far. Very positive.

Brett Prevedel: If there are no other comments or questions, we'll proceed with looking for a motion on this item, and this would be the entire list.

Miles Hanberg: Let me quick go on the online comments. 33% of people strongly agreed with the overall package. 33% were neutral. 33% somewhat disagreed. I think you've identified some of those concerns already, it was public land being included in some CWMUs.

Ritchie Anderson: Brett, I have a question. I noticed on one of the CWMUs there allowed four moose tags which are once in a lifetime. I guess my question is why are CWMUs allowed tags on once in a lifetime species when on occasion there is depredation by once in a lifetime species on private lands but there are no once in a lifetime species tags allowed for depredation on private lands? What is the difference?

Chad Wilson: I don't know if I have a super good answer for that other than the CWMU rule allows for moose to be in CWMUs, and the depredation rule doesn't allow for us to give out tags. So, for both those programs we're just following rule.

Ritchie Anderson: Thank you.

Daniel Davis: I have a question Mr. Chair. Could you tell us how many total public acres are combined into the CWMUs at this point?

Chad Wilson: I don't have that information off the top of my head.

Brett Prevedel: You're asking total tags in CWMUs?

Daniel Davis: No, total public accessible acreage.

Chad Wilson: I know that there are 33 CWMUs in the state that have public land in them. I think the highest is 15,000 acres, and a lot of them are less than 500 acres. But there is a range in between those.

Daniel Davis: So, roughly we can say 50-60,000 acres overall.

Chad Wilson: I'd have to look. I don't know if I want to speculate on that.

Daniel Davis: Ok.

Brett Prevedel: And that's probably a topic again when we get the LOAs done?

Chad Wilson: Let me touch on what we are committed to do, regardless so of what RACs and Boards pass. We're going to look at these individually. We'll meet together as a Division and come up with some criteria. We'll take the recommendation to the CWMU advisory committee. That advisory committee will help us have a recommendation for the CWMUs. This wouldn't be all at once with all 33, but it would be as they renew, or maybe a few extras because we have one year where a lot more renew. We'll have that recommendation so when CWMUs renew in the summer they'll kind of know our stance, and at that point in time when we come back next fall, once again like I split out those CWMUs with public land in them this year, those will be split out with more detail given with our stance and the reasoning and benefits the public gets from that public land being in the CWMU. Maybe that will alleviate your concerns a little bit.

Daniel Davis: Yeah, it does. Concerns in our region that there are 3,000 acres tied up in one CWMU. The season dates with a lot of those permits get filled, are harvested during the public draw permits and not all allocated in that later season. So, some public opportunity that is alleviated is a hard pill to swallow.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, thank you. Do we have a motion on this item?

Dan Abeyta: I just have another question, Chad. The 90/10 split is my question. We have several CWMUs that have public land. Tell me again how is that determined? How does that split change when there is public land involved? Can you quickly summarize that?

Chad Wilson: Yeah, there is a few different ways. So, there is also such things of trade lands. So, say some of them will have 400 acres of public land in them, but they have some other private land that is not connected, and they'll trade that out for the inclusion of the public land, they'll open up that private land for accessibility. So that's one way. The other is just the permit calculator. How ever many public acres are in there, what percentage that makes it up, we take those tag off the top with a calculator.

Dan Abeyta: Ok, thanks.

Brett Prevedel: Everybody good? Alright, if I don't hear any other questions, would anyone like to make a motion?

Jeff Taniguchi: I'd like to make a motion that we accept it as proposed by the recommendations from the DNR.

Brett Prevedel: Thank you, we have a motion from Jeff to accept the CWMU and landowner 2022 permit recommendations as presented.

Dan Abeyta: I'll second that.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept as presented.

Passed 5-2 without Brad Horrocks and Robert Johnson (excused) (Opposed: Daniel Davis and Joe Arnold)

Brett Prevedel: Motion passes five to two. Thank you. Did you have anything else Miles, that you need to address? Thank you to the Division for all of your work. Joe, did you have a comment?

Joe Arnold: I just had a question on the proper time to propose a management hunt in the Book Cliffs and just kind of need some direction on that. If that's during permitting in the spring or exactly when it would be a good time to propose that?

Brett Prevedel: Actually, I think that would go as a recommendation to the Division and the Wildlife Board to consider a new hunt which would be now, right Covy?

Covy Jones: Yes, if that were a recommendation the RAC were going to make that would be now. If you have any questions on it, we would be happy to answer them.

Brett Prevedel: So, tell us what you're thinking Joe. What species and what you're talking about.

Joe Arnold: So, we've got the Book Cliffs that's a major challenge right now. It's near and dear to our hearts and our back yard. I've had a couple of public people ask me to bring about something that is also done in the Paunsaugunt and the Henry's, also limited entry unit on management hunts. I think Blake Bess was discussing that on the quality of bucks that are doing some of the breeding because we're chasing them pretty hard. And proposing that were offering potentially youth tags in management hunts. You know, Brad would know better than I, so spending a decent amount of time on Diamond Mountain. Diamond Mountain could use some management buck hunts as well on lesser quality deer. So that is kind of what I would like to propose and bring up. You know we talked earlier about giving the youth more opportunities and maybe this would be a way to help the herd. Again, Clint spends tons of time out there, if that is something that he would be on board with? If it makes sense, do we add them to the tags? Do we take them away from the tags? I think that's my proposal to try and incorporate some kind of management buck hunt that would youth driven, if possible, for the Book Cliffs for sure, and think about the Diamond area as well.

Brett Prevedel: For our youth you're talking, correct?

Joe Arnold: Yes, for youth.

Covy Jones: Ok so you mentioned management buck hunts we do conduct on our premium limited entry units. And the reason why we do is we manage those units at such

an extreme high quality that there's a lot of waste. So, if you're under the impression, and by waste what I mean is our buck/doe ratios are high because we manage for the average age of a five year old buck being harvested. So, our buck/doe ratios get extremely high, and we have bucks die from old age that are never harvested. Those are the extreme quality units.

Joe Arnold: Covy, if you would, give me a buck/doe ratio. Like 40-45 vs 19-29?

Covy Jones: Yeah, we're talking like 50-55. And if you remember on the Henry's when that buck/doe ratio went down this year, we actually cancelled the management hunt on the Henry's. We pulled it. So genetically a management buck hunt, genetics are really hard to manipulate in a wild free ranging herd. Because you're manipulating the males and not the females. When we talk about bucks and their quality and their growth the biggest driver in bucks and antler quality and their growth is age and nutrition, those two things. You have the age you have the nutrition. Genetics are definitely a component to that, but the doe contributes to that as well. So, calling bucks that you feel like are genetically inferior or producing an inferior antler may just be a buck who that year didn't get the nutrition it needed. Or it may be a buck who that doe throws a buck who has less quality. So, there is no data that shows you can manipulate the size of mule deer antlers through male harvest. There is great data that shows you can manipulate the size of the antler through nutrition. There is a study they did on white tail where they had two populations of deer. One deer was always smaller, and one was always big antlers. They took these smaller deer and they moved them into a controlled area, same genetics, and same deer, into the habitat that had the large antlered deer. In two generations they were indistinguishable. So, it took some time, it had a lag affect, but they were able to grow those antlers. We don't have a hard time meeting management objective in either of these units we're talking about, the Book Cliffs or Diamond. So essentially what we'd have to do is cut limited entry permits, enforce an arbitrary restriction that won't do anything but penalize somebody that accidentally shoots one that is outside of that restricted thing. The truth is that we offer these to youth, and at times that's really hard because we're asking youth to make a call on a buck that looks like a three point maybe a four point, they shoot the buck, it's a four point and then they call law enforcement. So as far as management buck hunts go, these units they don't fit that, and it won't help you achieve what you're wanting to achieve. We're already meeting those buck/doe ratios because in the Book Cliffs we're already cutting populations because the population is down. Anyway, that's the Divisions perspective on management buck hunting. It's one of those things that sounds great, and then when you implement it there are a lot of negatives and a lot of hard things.

Daniel Davis: So Covy, if you don't mind me asking a question in this, how do you manage the waste in these limited entry units when you encounter the same thing? Now the waste isn't going to be on the same scale, cause you're not managing to such a high buck/doe ratio, but the waste is present.

Covy Jones: Yeah, anytime you don't optimize buck harvest you're going to have some bucks die of old age. I think the thing is that we know it's not to the same

extent. It's not to the same extent it is in these premium limited entry units. And the second these premium limited entry units, those buck/doe ratios came back again, we didn't recommend a management buck hunt on the Henry's last year, and we didn't recommend one on the Henry's this year. We won't recommend one down there until we see the buck/doe ratios exceed the management objective. It's there Daniel, there is a social decision to say we want to manage some units for more quality, and when we do that, we end up with surplus bucks. Some of them never get very big. There are also a lot of hunters that take some small bucks. I was sitting at Strawberry check station this year and had a gentleman who came in who was so excited about his Book Cliffs hunt. I'll tell you, by most hunter's standards it was not a trophy buck. It was definitely old. And he couldn't be more happy. So, there are a lot of different hunters out there. A lot of us in the room care about trophy quality that we're here tonight. But there are a lot of hunters out there that are just excited to get out too.

Brett Prevedel: Joe, where this is your topic would you like to...

Joe Arnold: I'd still like to propose it and make a motion, because it feels like we continue to talk about managing for quality and we'll get there. Again, I've been to the Book Cliffs my whole life and it's had quality and of course there are lots of problems with it. Every time it's been basically shut down, it responds nicely. So, I'm not talking about shutting it down, I'm just talking about taking a look at the different management styles, because honestly, we managed for 15,000 deer out there for 20 years and we didn't get there and the quality isn't there, and the herd isn't there. So, I'm just asking the Division to maybe put aside a little bit of pride and understand that maybe there is a different way to tackle it, then the way we've been tackling it because of whatever is going on right now is not working, so just say let's take another approach, let's roll the dice a different way. You're the biologist and I respect what you do, but also, I don't think what's been going on in the Book Cliffs is working, so let's take a different approach to it. I'm just throwing the suggestion out there that maybe has some impact.

Daniel Davis: Joe, I want to voice some support to what you've got started here, but on a much bigger scale. These surplus animals utilize the resource and take the same feed that could be supporting a higher number. We've heard all this, and it's all science based. I think there is opportunity there, it may not be on a large scale like we would hope it would be, out of the sake of looking at it as a youth opportunity. I do believe and I feel like we all can agree that there is surplus that does go through that on a small scale provides some opportunity, but also created benefits. If you were to go forward with this, I would be in full support.

Joe Arnold: As my job to represent the public in hearing and being around the public and lots of people opposite of what Covy is talking about. People being happy, I used to put in for the Book Cliffs. I have 15 points and I'm not going to put them in for the Book Cliffs, and that's my choice because I don't think it's a quality hunt. It's a limited entry hunt that now has become maybe once in a lifetime for me personally. And I'm being selfish on that. I'm just asking us to take another look at the way we're managing the Book Cliffs and maybe we can bring it back to its glory day. There is a lot

more pressure, there are a lot more issues than there used to be in the 80s but maybe we can get there. The Paunsaugunt is still pretty good, the Vernon units are pretty good. The Oak Creek is pretty good. Antelope Island. There are places you guys are being super successful as a Division, what can we do in the Book Cliffs? Because it can grow just as big of deer as any of those other units, and I know that without being a biologist I know that. I'm just asking you, what can we do? If this isn't the right proposal Covy, Clint, team, what is the right proposal? I know we're headed down that direction and we're moving a whole bunch of mouths off the landscape, but I think my patience is probably growing a little thin on trying to help this unit rebound a little sooner.

Ritchie Anderson: I just have a quick comment. I'm not opposed to what Joe is offering, I guess. There has been, as far as what's been tried, the Book Cliffs not working, I think there has been some changes of management over the Book Cliffs the last couple of years that I think we'll see some results from. They've been very aggressive with habitat projects out there and water resources. So, there are some management changes and some management efforts that I think we're going to see fruit from, especially if we get a little change in the weather pattern and get a little wetter. But Like I said, I'm not opposed to what Joe is offering at all, but I think there have been some management changes that I think we're going to see fruit from, it's going to take a few years.

Daniel Davis: I agree with you Ritchie, that's why I said I think this scope can go much wider than just the Book Cliffs or Diamond. I think it can be looked at in a much bigger scale.

Joe Arnold: I'm not very good at this type of thing so if I was to propose say five tags for the youth on a management style hunt. And I know that's hard to police from a game warden standpoint. So, I'm probably not the right one to say exactly how to do that and say what is a management buck. What constitutes a management buck? But I think as we talk about youth and there was a discussion earlier about point creep and splits and trying to keep youth involved. SFW and all the different groups that are all for the youth then let's make some more opportunity for the youth on deer that get through the Book Cliffs that I would pass up on, and a lot of people that are burning ten points are going to pass up on. Let's offer some younger kids an opportunity to go out there and be successful vs just the general season tag that sometimes is unsuccessful. That's my proposal. That's five tags, whether that's additional to the limited entry or if we feel like we have to take that away, I honestly don't know that you would need to take any away because they're deer that probably wouldn't be harvested anyway but I think a small number to start out with and whether or not limited entry points are burned or not, I think that's all part of the discussion. I know we're fairly late and I don't want to bore everybody to tears on this. But I feel like it's something that's important.

Daniel Davis: So, Joe, at this time you would need to make a motion for the new hunt strategy and hunt opportunity, and it would have to go to the Wildlife Board for consideration. If they passed it, then in the spring we could set numbers by unit.

Miles Hanberg: What I would maybe add to the discussion real quick. The Book Cliff working group is still meeting and there should be some recommendations and some other changes coming down the line because there are already a lot of things being implemented with that deer herd out there. Keep that in mind. Daniel did outline the approach that could be taken tonight. The other thing is in the future, and Covy I don't remember the timeline, but the mule deer management plan will be revised at some time in the future so the representatives and that committee could put their teeth into a proposal like this and try to flesh that out with the details. Especially if you're talking about expanding this more statewide that would need a lot of discussion to get support that way. So, I think there are a couple of different routes you could go, but also just keep in mind that there are some good things going on out there and we should see some changes in the future, like Ritchie kind of outlined some of the activities going on.

Covy Jones: And again, the RAC can do what they want on this. The deer are going to come from somewhere. This is a discussion we had when we wrote the statewide management plan two years ago. And there is not support for it, so it's not in the plan. That understanding it feels a little ironic that on one hand we talk about public support and public surveys and on the other hand we talk about taking something statewide that we just started five minutes ago. Again, you're the RAC you make the motion, you make the calls. There aren't surplus deer in the Book Cliffs. When you shoot some, they've got to come from somewhere. So, they'd be deducted from somewhere else to make the buck/doe ratio that we have.

Joe Arnold: Yeah, statewide was maybe brought in later, but I wasn't proposing statewide, I specifically said the Book Cliffs and/or Diamond Mountain. But the Book Cliffs would be my first. There are some challenges with Diamond because of all the private. I think the Book Cliffs. I'll propose that we offer a 5 tag management buck deer hunt in the Book Cliffs for the youth. That would be my proposal. I don't know if you could speak to this Brett because you're on that Wildlife committee and if you have to abstain from any votes, but maybe you could enlighten us on what's going on in the Book Cliffs? I don't know if you could actually be on board with this or not.

Brett Prevedel: I think at this meeting we could make a recommendation that they add a youth hunt on the Book Cliffs and be within the framework, because that's what we're talking about is the hunt, or consider adding a youth hunt to the Book Cliffs to this packet. And as far as the five tags that would be the April discussion, I don't know where five came from, whether it was five new tags or whether we took five, or recommended we reduce the overall tags by five. But I think it's just the framework we're dealing with right now. That's what Covy has presented with his tables. Would you be ok with that, Covy? If they recommend that we consider adding a youth hunt in the Book Cliffs?

Covy Jones: There are two questions here. One could we support it? No. Is it the RACs prerogative to do it and make that motion? Yes.

Brett Prevedel: So, we could make that motion if we have support from the RAC that we recommend they add a youth deer hunt on the Book Cliffs.

Joe Arnold: And a management hunt.

Brett Prevedel: Ok, you could call it a management hunt, but you're into a brand new hunt that they don't have on the state when you do that. That's the risk that I'm hearing. Your definition of a management hunt based on points on antlers or whatever you were going to use for criteria is different than what the DWR calls a management hunt, to take out a percentage of the bucks, I believe.

Daniel Davis: There is actually a management hunt in the Henry's and the Paunsaugunt that has restrictions. The only thing new to that is the permit allocation to the youth only rather than distributed through the public in the percentages as it is.

Brett Prevedel: Ok. Well, the criteria that they use to have a management is a buck/doe ratio that you will not meet in the Book Cliffs which is why I think you're proposing a different hunt which is what I'm saying.

Covy Jones: There is a definition of what a management buck is, and there is the criteria to when we use a management hunt. So, there are two things, but there is a definition of three points or less on one side.

Joe Arnold: But it wouldn't meet the criteria according to the deer plan, so that would be your concern, Covy? There is not surplus.

Covy Jones: There is not that same level of surplus. They've got to come from somewhere and if you want us to meet the objective, we've got to pull those. There are no magic animals.

Brett Prevedel: Do you want to make that motion and see if there is support, Joe? You can make that motion right now and we can see where it goes.

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

MOTION: To propose a rifle youth management deer hunt in the Book Cliffs

Failed 2-5 without Brad Horrocks and Robert Johnson (excused)

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

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting.

Passed unanimously.

03:28:47 Meeting adjourned at 9:59 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. SHIRLEY
Division Director

Date: Nov. 22, 2021
To: Wildlife Board Members
From: Riley Peck, Once in a lifetime species coordinator
Subject: Once in a lifetime season dates correction

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources would like to propose the following corrections to the Once in a Lifetime season dates.

- Move the start date of the Beaver Mountain Goat hunt GO6801 forward 2 days, to Oct. 1st from Oct 3rd.
 - This prevents overlap with other mountain goat hunts on the unit.
- Move the end date of the Newfoundland Bighorn sheep hunt RS6704 back one day from Nov. 19th to Nov. 18th.
 - This prevents overlap with the any weapon and archery sheep hunt on the unit.





Application for a Variance for Possession of a Prohibited Species R657-3 Collection, Importation, and Possession

A \$200 nonrefundable fee is required and if approved there may also be a \$100 inspection fee and Certificate of Registration fees. An email will be sent with instructions to pay over the phone. Email application to: anitacandelaria@utah.gov. If you have, any questions email or call Anita Candelaria 385-332-6154.

As an applicant, you are responsible for complying with City/County ordinances you live in for the possession and numbers requesting. You must include a statement from the City/County that they will allow the possession of the species you are applying for. In addition, if a Federal permit is required, submit with this application either a copy of the permit or a copy of the application.

Applicant Information

Name: Samantha Nelson Business Name: Down Home Doodle
Phone #: 801-656-9151 Email: samanthanelson@hotmail.com
Address: 9750 E 33610 N City: Fairview State: UT Zip: 84629

Species: White Face Capuchin Monkey Total Number: 1

Variance Request: Explain why you are requesting a variance (personal, moving to Utah from another state that currently allows possession, commercial purposes or other).

For the past couple few years we have split our time in our homes in Utah and Ohio. Our Capuchin has always lived in Ohio and stayed with employees here when we came back to Utah. Since Covid our in-person interactions have gone only to social media and we now plan to keep it that way. We are selling our home here in Ohio and moving back to Utah. Presley (capuchin) is the face of our business and we also use her for interactions that are only online now.

Description of Holding Facilities: Total number allowed will be based on the enclosure size and will be determined by the Division based on the submitted facility description and dimensions. Housing must meet minimum AZA or USDA Animal Welfare standards. Photos of enclosure can be emailed with this application. (If additional space is needed include with the application).

Presley spends most her day on someone's back, training and interacting with our staff. When have to leave her she spends her time in a 5*5*5 enclosure. It gives her plent of room to swing, play and sleep. The enclosure sits on a marble floor in Ohio so any messes can be easily cleaned up. It will be on sealed concrete floors in Utah. Her enclosure is inside our home that is kept between 68-74 degrees year round. There is access to natural and artifical light. Humity is monitored and kept between 50-60%. Please see attached picture. This same enclosure will be used in Utah.

Animal Care: Must meet minimum AZA or USDA Animal Welfare Standards. (If additional space is needed include with the application).

Presley is fed 2 main meals. Her diet consists of banana, apple, papaya, pears, kiwi fruit, avocado, melon, watermelon, orange, mango, berries, grape, pineapple. A wide variety of vegetables is provided, including carrot, sweet potato, broccoli, lettuces, green beans, turnip, peas, corn, celery, greens, egg plant, zucchini, cauliflower. Nuts, seeds, insects, eggs and meat. She is also given scattered food, enrichment toys and fed during training through the day.

Every AM all food bowls and enrichment toys are removed from enclosure to be cleaned and sanitized. Bedding replaced with clean bedding. Walls and floor are cleaned and sanitized.

Education/Conservation Message (if applicable): (If additional space is needed include with the application).

With Presley being the face of our social media business we hope to entertain and also educate people on what is like living with a Capuchin Monkey. Private ownership of a monkey is not for everyone and to detour some people from doing so. Now that our meet and greet interactions are solely internet based we offer interactions through Zoom with Presley. During our interactions we entertain and educate our clients on Capuchins and other animals around the world.

Supplier Information or if currently in possession where did you get the animal from:

We got Presley from Zootastic Park in Troutman, NC. There she did in-person encounters with their guests.

I hereby certify that I have read and am familiar with R657-3. I further certify the information submitted in this application for for a variance is complete and accurate.

Applicant Signature: Samantha Nelson Date: 9/2/21



Re: Final paperwork for Capuchin Monkey possession

2 messages

Samantha Nelson <samanthanelson@hotmail.com>
To: Anita Candelaria <anitacandelaria@utah.gov>

Thu, Sep 9, 2021 at 3:30 PM

Good afternoon,

The USDA told us that we would fall under a Hobby Exhibitor. It is listed on page 15 on the handbook I attached. Ohio does not require any licensing or registration to own a Capuchin Monkey unless you are breeding them. Let me know if there is anything else you need.

Samantha

[L & R pub 4/04 \(usda.gov\)](#)

Licensing and Registration Under the Animal Welfare Act

Licensing and Registration Under the Animal Welfare Act Guidelines for Dealers, Exhibitors, Transporters, and Researchers United States Department of

www.aphis.usda.gov

From: Anita Candelaria <anitacandelaria@utah.gov>
Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Samantha Nelson <samanthanelson@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Final paperwork for Capuchin Monkey possession

Hello Samantha,

Email me any permits you have for the monkey (State and/or USDA).

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks and have a great day!
acc

On Tue, Sep 7, 2021 at 12:14 PM Samantha Nelson <samanthanelson@hotmail.com> wrote:

Good afternoon,

I have attached a few documents to submit with our application. Please also feel free to pass on our social media accounts where you can see Presley.

Down Home Doodle
InstaGram
[@downhomedoodle](#)

Presley and my daughter's new account
InstaGram
[@thelifeofamonkey](#)



SMALL ANIMAL CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION
OHIO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL HEALTH
REYNOLDSBURG, OHIO 43068

SA- 0025640

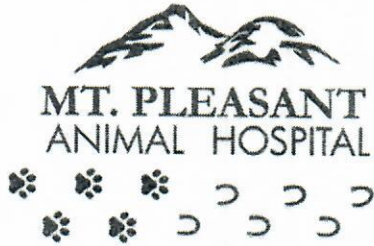
PINK - TO ACCOMPANY SHIPMENT
 CANARY - TO STATE OFFICIAL AT DESTINATION
 GOLDENROD - HOME OFFICE COPY

DATE 9-3-21

CONSIGNOR Samantha Nelson CONSIGNEE _____
 ADDRESS 6501 Mathers Rd. ADDRESS 9750 E 33610 North
Cambridge, OH 43725 FAIRVIEW, UT 84629

SPECIES	BREED	SEX	AGE	COLOR & MARKINGS	RABIES VAC DATE	RABIES TAG NO.
<u>Primate</u>	<u>Capuchin</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>2-3y</u>	<u>Black/White</u>		

<p>OTHER VACCINATIONS</p> <p>_____, Date _____</p> <p>_____, Date _____</p> <p>_____, Date _____</p> <p>_____, Date _____</p>	<p>Owner/Agent Statement (Where applicable): The animals in this shipment are those certified to and listed on this certificate.</p> <p>_____ Date</p> <p>_____ Owner</p>	<p>Certificate of Veterinarian.</p> <p>"I certify, as a licensed veterinarian, that the above-described animals have been inspected by me and that they are not showing signs of infectious, contagious, or communicable disease, (except where noted). The known vaccinations and results of tests are indicated on the certificate. No warranty is made or implied."</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Licensed Veterinarian</p> <p>ANIMAL MEDICAL CARE CENTER 5065 YOUNGSTOWN-WARREN RD. NILES, OH 44446 PH. 330-652-0400</p>
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Mount Pleasant Animal Hospital
1180 Blackhawk Blvd
Mt. Pleasant, UT 84647

3 September 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I have the privilege of providing veterinary services to Travis and Samantha Stanley and have witnessed the great care they provide for their animals. Their housing facilities are clean, secure and well maintained. Their personal animals are well behaved and the puppies they offer for sale are clean, well taken care of and exceptionally well socialized.

Travis and Samantha Stanley are two of the most conscientious, responsible animal owners I have encountered. I am comfortable recommending the State of Utah grant the Stanleys approval for importation and permit for keeping of their Capuchin monkey.

Any questions can be directed to me at l.r.barton72@gmail.com or 573-590-2168.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn R. Barton".

Lynn R Barton, dvm



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. SHIRLEY
Division Director

November 1, 2021

TO: Staci Coons
Wildlife Board Coordinator

FROM: Virginia Stout
UDWR Wildlife Veterinarian

RE: Variance Request for personal possession of a White Faced Capuchin Monkey by Samantha Nelson

On September 9, 2021, there was a variance request for personal possession of a White Faced Capuchin Monkey by Samantha Nelson with Down Home Doodle. The Capuchin has been living in Ohio with Samantha Nelson and her family. The Capuchin lives with the family full time and has done in-person interactions to “entertain and educate their clients” for the business in the past. Due to COVID the Capuchin is now doing the interactions online via social media.

The division evaluated the merits of the request base on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-3. Based on the criteria, the analyses and recommendations are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public-** There is concern over the health, welfare, and safety of the public related to the Capuchin biting or scratching someone in the family, staff, or general public. The Capuchin, being taken into public places and interacting with the public increases the risk of biting or scratching. There is also a concern with potential disease transmission to humans, including Rabies, Monkey B virus, Monkeypox, measles, Herpesvirus, and Leptospirosis.
2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry, and other animals-** The Division has no significant concerns with the health, welfare, safety, and genetic integrity of wildlife or livestock since there are no other monkeys in the wild and the chance of survival in the wild is low.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts-** The Division has no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts at this time.
4. **The suitability of the facilities-** The Division is concerned about the suitability of the facilities. There seems to be a high chance of escape due to the monkey being able to freely roam within the residence as well as being taken on trips and into the public for outings. The housing facilities (5X5X5 enclosure) appears to be clean and adequate but the diet may not be entirely balanced.



5. **Experience of applicate for the proposed activity-** Samantha Nelson and her family were recommended by a veterinarian in Mt. Pleasant, UT as conscientious, responsible animal owners, but there is no more information about their experience or training in regards to caring for a Capuchin. Due to this, there is concern if they are educating clients about how to care for a Capuchin.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states-** The Division has no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

After careful evaluation and discussion, the Division does not recommend that the Capuchin be imported into Utah due to the following reasons:

1. R657-3-24 states that New World monkeys are prohibited for importation and possession. The Capuchin has a home in Ohio and it has the potential to stay there where it is legal to possess.
2. R657-3-18 states that a registration will not be issued for a prohibited species for commercial use unless they are a zoo, circus, amusement park, aviary, etc. Due to the online interactions with clients from Down Home Doodle, the Capuchin will be used for commercial use for their business which is prohibited in Utah. The Division is concerned that the commercial use would promote others to consider getting a Capuchin which is not allowed in the state.
3. The Division is concerned about the health and safety of the public, including the family in possession. Capuchins can live up to 40 years and when they get older, they often become more aggressive which would increase the risk for a bite or scratch to occur. Capuchins can also transfer certain diseases (see list above) to humans especially with close interactions.
4. Finally, the Division is concerned about public safety due to the high chance of escape with free roaming around the house, trips in a vehicle, and into public space.

Sincerely,

Virginia Stout
Wildlife Veterinarian

