Wildlife Board Work Session

Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington UT March 31, 2022 9:00 am

https://voutu.be/X8P9hJSgos8

1. Mule Deer

- Targeted yearling hunts Big game staff and BYU
 - Present the survival rates on 0-6 month old fawns, 6-18 month old fawns, and 18-30 month old animals by sex. This will allow us to clearly identify what is being lost during each time frame.
 - Explore options to increase hunting opportunities for bucks staying with the status quo,
 yearling buck hunts only (possibly for youth and first time hunters), private lands only yearling
 buck hunts, etc. Discuss the downsides to antler point restrictions.
 - Yearling Buck Hunt (spike or 2 point) What would the hunt structure look like? What does that hunt look like for the hunter that waits to draw the mature buck tag? How long will their wait be? What will the buck to doe ratio be? Will the hunt quality for mature bucks be any different than it is now?
- Mule Deer summaries by region Regional Wildlife Managers
 - Managers will take 10-15 minutes each to present regional summaries on current deer trends/observations in the region - this is not a unit by unit summary
- Statewide Update on what we learned from captures and research Kent and BYU
- Wildlife Tracker demonstration Jesse Shapiro
 - Mule deer movements and corridors and interactions with predators
- 2. Technology Committee Derrick Ewell and Gabe Patterson, co-chairs
 - Committee make up and schedule
 - What topics should the committee tackle first? Could include hunting big game with all three weapon types, scopes on muzzleloaders, etc.
 - Survey needs
- 3. Mitigation/Depredation Hunts Chad Wilson
 - 72 hour notices (new changes via the legislature)
 - Provide a summary of depredation payments, permits/vouchers issued, challenges for each district or region, and how many animals are harvested with these permits/vouchers.
- 4. Elk Hunting Strategy Covy Jones
 - Provide an update on the statewide elk committee
 - Highlight major issues the committee will be asked to discuss (e.g. ensuring private landowners in any bull units can hunt elk on their property)
- 5. Point System Lindy Varney
 - What would look like if we merged LE and GS points
 - Issues with going away all points given the investment of so many hunters for decades
- 6. Price Increase Kenny Johnson
 - Share the fee process with the Board but no details to announce at the present time.
- 7. Urban Deer Transplants Chad/Covy/Ginger
 - Division concerns with moving urban deer and disease risks
- 8. Hunters Safety Discussion Gary Cook
 - Can we streamline hunters' safety?
 - Do we still need the mandatory shooting requirement?