

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 4, 2024, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, Utah

The meeting can be viewed live at <https://youtube.com/live/b09caB9kv58>

Thursday, January 4, 2024 – 9:00 am

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– J. Shirley, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Inedible By-Products Rule Amendment Update
– Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief | INFORMATIONAL |
| 6. Shed Antler Gathering Recommendations
– Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator | INFORMATIONAL |
| 7. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33
– Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Elk Management Unit Plans
– Daniel Sallee, Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions
– Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief | ACTION |
| 10. Removal of Ornamental Species from the Prohibited Species List
– Craig Walker, Assistant Chief of Fisheries | ACTION |
| 11. License and Permit Privileges Suspension Appeal
– Ryan Holt, Case No. 2021-000330
– Kyle Maynard, Assistant Attorney General | ACTION |
| 12. Other Business
– Randy Dearth, Chairman <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Amend 2024 June and December Meeting Dates | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Motions

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

Fall 2023 – Target Date – Special Use Permits on WMA’s – Guides and Outfitters – Non-consumptive user fee

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to look into Guides and Outfitters obtaining special use permits on WMA’s and to look at implementing a fee for non-consumptive users. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Blair Stringham
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: August 25, 2022

Fall 2024 – Target Date – Increase Trapping Fee for Non-residents

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into a trap fee increase for non-residents for 2024. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: January 3, 2023

Fall 2024 – Target Date – Mandatory Tooth Reporting

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into mandatory tooth reporting. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

Fall 2024 – Target Date – CWMU Recommendations Committee

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to form a CWMU Recommendations Committee to review the rule and bring recommendations back to the board in June 2024. The committee should consider if the rule is equitable for both the public and the private parties. It needs to be an incentive based program to encourage CWMU’s to fulfill antlerless harvest. Tools need to be in place to encourage CWMU operators and the division to obtain necessary harvest for unit objectives. The rule needs to address non-contiguous lands and set requirements for trade lands – land traded needs to be comparable to be fair to both the public and the operator. Trade lands need to be posted with a common sign such that the public can easily recognize it as such. If public tags increase or decrease then CWMU tags should do the same. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Chad Wilson
Action: Under study
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

Fall 2025 – Target Date – “Destination Water bodies” List

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to create a list of “Destination water bodies” throughout the state. This list will determine which fishery management plans are presented statewide and which may be presented to only the local RAC. This is to be placed on the action log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson

Assigned to: Randy Oplinger

Action: Under study

Placed on Action Log: September 21, 2023

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
November 28, 2023, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025
The meeting will stream live at <https://youtu.be/V7d0dHAZJNg>

Tuesday, November 28, 2023 - 9:00 am

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Randy Dearth, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Gary Nielson, Vice-Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– J. Shirley, DWR Director | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. Harvest Survey Amendments – R657-5
– Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Pronghorn Augmentation Sites
– Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Hunt Structure/Research Proposal
– Kent Hersey, Big Game Projects Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. Emerging Technologies – Muzzleloader and Archery Amendments
– Blair Stringham, Wildlife Migration Initiative Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Dedicated Hunter Program Amendments
– Bryan Christensen, Dedicated Hunter Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. LOA Rule Amendments
– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. LOA Permit Recommendations
– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. CWMU Permit Recommendations
– Chad Wilson, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator | ACTION |
| 13. Landowner Association Advisory Committee Members
--Covy Jones, Wildlife Program Chief | ACTION |
| 14. Deep Creek Elk Unit
--Dax Mangus, Big Game Program Coordinator | ACTION |
| 15. Book Cliffs/Little Creek South Bison Hunt Variance Request
--Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator | ACTION |
| 16. Corrections to the Approved Prohibited and Controlled List Changes under R5657-3c and R657-13-13 | ACTION |
| 17. Other Business
– Randy Dearth, 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 2023 – Target Date – Special Use Permits on WMA’s – Guides and Outfitters – Non-consumptive user fee

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into Guides and Outfitters obtaining special use permits on WMA’s and to look at implementing a fee for non-consumptive users. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Blair Stringham
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: August 25, 2022

Fall 2024 – Target Date – Increased Trapping Fee for Non-residents

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into a trap fee increase for non-residents for 2024. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Darren DeBloois
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: January- 3, 2023

Fall 2024 – Target Date – Mandatory Tooth Reporting

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to look into mandatory tooth reporting. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Karl Hirst
Assigned to: Dax Mangus
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

Fall 2024 – Target Date – CWMU Recommendations Committee

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to form a CWMU Recommendations Committee to review the rule and bring recommendations back to the board in June 2024. The committee should consider if the rule is equitable for both the public and the private parties. It needs to be an incentive based program to encourage CWMU’s to fulfill antlerless harvest. Tools need to be in place to encourage CWMU operators and the division to obtain necessary harvest for unit objectives. The rule needs to address non-contiguous lands and set requirements for trade lands – land traded needs to be comparable to be fair to both the public and the operator. Trade lands need to be posted with a common sign such that the public can easily recognize it as such. If public tags increase or decrease then CWMU tags should do the same. This is to be placed on the Action Log.

Motion made by: Randy Dearth
Assigned to: Chad Wilson
Action: Under Study
Placed on Action Log: May 4, 2023

Fall 2025 – Target Date – “Destination Water bodies” List

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to create a list of “Destination water bodies” throughout the state. This list will determine which fishery management plans are presented statewide and which may be presented to only the local RAC. This is to be placed on the action log.

Motion made by: Kent Johnson

Assigned to: Randy Oplinger

Action: Under study

Placed on Action Log: September 21, 2023

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
November 28, 2023, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.

3) Harvest Survey Amendments – R657-5 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Mandatory Harvest Survey Amendments as presented by the Division.

4) Pronghorn Augmentation Sites (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Pronghorn Augmentation Sites as presented by the division.

5) Hunt Structure/Research Proposal (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passes 4-1 with Gary Nielson opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reject the division proposal as presented and ask the Mule Deer Committee to discuss these recommendations and bring forth next year; also ask the committee to include a research project.

6) Emerging Technologies – Muzzleloader and Archery Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division proposal as presented, but allow 1x power crosshair or 1x red dot for a scope (going back to 2015

definition).

7) Dedicated Hunter Program Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendations and to ask the division to prepare an annual report on how the "buy-out hour" dollars are spent.

8) LOA Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendation to remove the public access requirement from LOA's as presented.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Paula Richmond and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendation to establish a limited-entry draw for non-LOA lands as presented.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman and died for lack of a second.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendation to issue general season landowner permits on private property allowing up to 10% above the total number of unit permits that could be issued over the counter as presented.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Kent Johnson and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendation to issue general season landowner permits on private property but reduce the percentage to 6% above the total number of unit permits that could be issued over the counter.

9) LOA Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Kent Johnson and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's LOA Permit Recommendations as presented.

10) CWMU Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Kent Johnson and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we not issue one additional public buck or bull tag on Double Cone CWMU.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we amend the permit recommendations on Guildersleeve CWMU from 20 buck deer permits to 10 buck deer permits and from 10 bull elk permits to 20 bull elk permits.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passes 4 in favor with 1 recusal from Bret Selman.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remaining recommendations as presented by the division and ask the division to report on units 4/5/6.

11) Landowner Association Advisory Committee Members (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Paula Richmond, seconded by Bret Selman and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendation to place the following on the Landowner Association Advisory Committee:
Sportsmen Representatives – Troy Justensen and Donnie Hunter
LOA Representatives – Dale Christiansen and Andy Monroe
Agricultural Representative – Steven Tew
At-Large Representative – Greg Wilding
RAC Member Representative – Scoot Flannery

12) Deep Creek Elk Unit (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bret Selman and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's Deep Creek Elk Unit Recommendation as presented.

13) Book Cliffs/Little Creek South Bison Hunt Variance Request (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Gary Nielson and passes unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the division's recommendation as presented.

14) Corrections to the Approved Prohibited and Controlled List Changes under R657- 3c and R657-13 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passes unanimously.

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

10) Other Business (**Contingent**)

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
December 1, 2022, Eccles Wildlife Education Center
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025
Attendance

Wildlife Board

Randy Dearth – Chairman	Kent Johnson
Gary Nielson – Vice-Chairman	Paula Richmond
J. Shirley – Executive Secretary	Bret Selman
	Bryce Thurgood
	Wade Heaton

RAC Chairs

Central – Brock McMillan
Southern – Austin Atkinson
Southeastern – Eric Luck
Northeastern – Grizz Oleen
Northern – Brad Buchanan

Division Personnel

Justin Shannon	Mike Christensen	Teresa Griffin	D. Barrett
Mike Canning	Seth Magers	Dax Mangus	
Miles Hanberg	Staci Coons	Guy Wallace	
Ben Nadolski	Kent Hersey	Kevin Bunnell	
Jason Vernon	Lindy Varney	Jim Christensen	
Wyatt Bubak	Mark Martinez	Sidney Lamb	
Chris Wood	Blair Stringham	Dave Beveridge	
Kenny Johnson	Covy Jones	Chad Wilson	
Riley Peck	Dallon Christensen	Mike Kinghorn	
Craig Walker	Kyle Maynard	Devin Shirley	

Public Present

Brandon Zundel	Dale Christiansen	Mark Chivers	Kelly Warr
Wynn Zundel	Michael Labrum	Ryan Brown	Heather Warr
Garritt Slatcoff	Ken Strong	Justin Prince	Dallas Hamilton
Cory Huntsman	Chris Hatch	Carl Albrecht	Gerald Wilson
JD Sorensen	Terry Camp	Rex Shipp	Hunter Stallings
Rodney Steadman	Troy Henrie	Troy Justensen	Ross Worthington
Michael Scott	TJ Pace	Chris Jasmine	Blake Stoker
Trace Thacker	Bob Ott	Jace Taylor	Ray Etcheverry
Erik Dalley	Todd Ballinatine	Kyle Coombs	Travis Adams
Travis Murphy	Daniel Richins		

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
November 28, 2023, DNR Auditorium
1157 South Waterfowl Way, Farmington, UT 84025
https://youtube.com/live/h_sBblEgSto

- 00:00:01** Chairman Dearth called the meeting to order, welcomed the public, reviewed the meeting procedures, and asked the Board members to introduce themselves.
- 00:01:11** **1) Approval of Agenda (Action)**
The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.
- 00:01:38** **2) Approval of Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 Wildlife Board Meeting as submitted.
- 00:02:12** **3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)**
Vice-chairman Gary Nielson reviewed one item from the action log, and Blair Stringham gave an update on the action item.
- 00:05:17** **4) DWR Update (Informational)**
Director Shirley noted the vacancy on the Wildlife Board given Wade Heaton's resignation, and thanked Mr. Heaton for his four years of service. Director Shirley shared that the vacancy will not be filled until the end of Mr. Heaton's six-year term. Director Shirley then gave updates on all the Division sections: Administrative Services, Aquatic, Conservation Outreach, Habitat, Law Enforcement and Wildlife. A short video was then shown.
- 00:16:41** Chairman Dearth invited the RAC chairmen to introduce themselves. Austin Atkinson attended virtually. Chairman Dearth explained how to enter a public comment card, and noted that Director Shirley would be sharing data from submitted online public comments.
- 00:19:57** **5) Harvest Survey Amendments – R657-5 (Action)**
Big Game Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey summarized the online rule change presentation that was posted on the Wildlife Resources website.
- 00:21:35** **Board/RAC Questions**
The Board asked if the Division knows what questions will be asked on the survey, and asked if the Division was going to ask a specific question about weapon type used to harvest. The Board asked why the Division is choosing not to track mitigation permit harvest, and asked if the Division would consider requesting mandatory reporting data from individuals who harvest on a mitigation

permit.

00:25:45 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

00:27:28 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the amendments as presented.

00:29:28 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were taken at this time.

The Board asked how an individual is put on the list to receive a survey, and if the Division could send scheduled reminders to hunters to complete the harvest data survey. The Board noted that adjustments could be made to the harvest data survey process after what is currently being proposed has been tried.

00:36:26 Board Questions/Discussion

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Mandatory Harvest Survey Amendments as presented by the Division.

00:37:35 6) Pronghorn Augmentation Sites (Action)

Big Game Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey summarized the online presentation that was posted on the Wildlife Resources website.

00:38:48 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked how the Division determines which sites are first chosen for augmentation.

00:39:40 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

00:40:35 Public Comments

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

00:40:37 RAC Summaries

All RACs unanimously passed the Division's recommendations.

00:42:15 Board Discussion

The Board commented on the Northeastern Region's suggestion to transplant depredating animals whenever possible.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Pronghorn Augmentation Sites

as presented by the Division.

00:44:31 7) Hunt Structure/Research Proposal Dates (Action)

Director Shirley gave comments on this agenda item.
Big Game Projects Coordinator Kent Hersey summarized of the proposed units, and clarified items that were in the online presentation that was posted on the Wildlife Resources website.

00:56:26 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked when the mule deer plan is scheduled next to be updated, and asked why the Division is proposing this study at this time rather than waiting for the cycle of the management plan.

The Board asked about the proposed archery hunt dates.

The RAC asked something about buck to doe ratio.

The Board asked how buck to doe ratio and population trends would be addressed between study units and reference, or control, units.

The Board asked what the results were from using antler point restriction management strategies in past harvest years, and asked if youth hunting opportunity was considered in this proposal.

The RAC asked if the Division has concerns that if adjusting buck to doe ratios during the four-year term of the study would affect study results.

01:13:05 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

01:16:13 RAC Summaries

The Central RAC rejected the proposal; the Southeastern RAC voted to accept the proposal; and the other three RACS voted to send the proposal to the Mule Deer Committee to review.

01:19:04 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. Clarification was not needed at this time.

01:50:01 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC motions and votes, and commented on the proposal.

Chairman Dearth commented that there is not sufficient data from units where previous changes to hunt structures have been implemented for a limited duration of time, and noted that this proposal was generated internally without pressure from individuals or groups outside the Division.

01:53:52 Technical issues

02:06:10 Board Questions and Discussion

The Board commented on the value of using predator control as an effective wildlife management tool, and also commented that the proposal seemed to favor quality hunting rather than more hunting opportunity.

The Board noted personal observations from past years of hunting in relation to former years in which antler point restrictions were in place, as well as subsequent research project results related to antler point restrictions.

The Board commented on the potential effectiveness of shortened seasons.

The Board voiced support for the Division having made concerted efforts to propose new changes to wildlife management strategies, and for the study to begin as proposed.

The Board conversely argued that the proposed study should be considered by the Mule Deer Committee to comment on, and suggested that board members reject the proposal.

The Board asked if the Mule Deer Committee could comment on and make recommendations to the proposed study in order for the input to be incorporated in the public process in a year's time.

The Board asked what it might look like for the study if it were implemented a year after the original proposal start date, and suggested that beginning the study as soon as possible would allow biologists to gather data to then present to the Mule Deer Committee.

The Board suggested an amendment to the motion.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Bret Selman and passed with a vote of 4-1 with Gary Nielson opposed.

MOTION: I move that we reject the Division proposal as presented, and ask the Mule Deer Committee to discuss these recommendations and bring forth next year; and also ask the Committee to include a research project.

02:36:53 8) Emerging Technologies – Muzzleloader and Archery Amendments (Action)

Wildlife Migration Initiative Coordinator Blair Stringham reminded the Board that there were two elements in this recommendation that need to be voted on.

02:37:50 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from Board or RAC members.

02:38:01 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

02:40:31 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the archery recommendations. The Northeastern and Central RACs rejected the muzzleloader recommendations of the proposal, and the other RACs passed the muzzleloader recommendations.

02:44:50

Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time.

02:45:41

Lunch Break

03:32:28

Public Comments

Public comments were accepted at this time. There was no need for clarification at this time.

04:22:11

RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

04:23:13

Board Discussion

The Board stated that the objective of the proposal is to preserve a separate type of hunting opportunity, address a weapon type performance issue and be the most reasonable to enforce, and that technology has advanced such that there is not a lot of difference between the first shot of a modern muzzleloader and the first shot of a rifle. The Board also argued why restricting other parts of the muzzleloader firing system would be difficult to enforce.

The Board also argued that decisions need not necessarily align with public opinion.

The Board noted the diversity of interests that were represented in the Technology Committee members, as well as how advanced muzzleloader technology has become. Said some other stuff, and voiced support for the proposal.

The Board reiterated that it was the Board who asked the Division and Technology Committee to create some sideboards on existing and emerging technology and put a lid on it.

The Board voiced the challenge of having to make a decision on this proposal, and suggested

The Board also stated support for the fact that the recommendation came from a committee that put a lot of time into arriving at the recommendation.

The Board asked if the committee had considered compromises to removing scopes on muzzleloaders.

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposal as presented, but allow 1x power crosshair or 1x power red dot for a scope (going back to 2015 definition).

04:54:07

9) Dedicated Hunter Program Amendments (Action)

Dedicated Hunter Coordinator Bryan Christensen gave an update to the program amendments based on how the Board had voted on agenda item number 7.

04:55:46 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

04:55:56 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

04:57:50 RAC Summaries

All RACs passed the proposal as presented with varying stipulations.

04:59:35 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. Clarification was given at this time.

05:02:09 Board Discussion

The Board asked if a motion could be made to direct the Division to spend a percentage of Dedicated Hunter program funds on mule deer, and also if Dedicated Hunter program projects could be posted online.

The Board asked the Division about the ability to spend money

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations, and to ask the Division to prepare an annual report on how the "buy-out hour" dollars are spent.

05:11:41 10) LOA Rule Amendments (Action)

Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator Chad Wilson summarized the presentation that was posted on the Division's website.

Chairman Dearth suggested discussing one rule amendment at a time, but to first begin with general questions.

05:15:48 Board Questions/Discussion

The Board asked about which permits land owners could apply for in the proposed amendments, and what percentage of landowners did not receive a general season permit during the hunt in which they sold out.

The Board asked how the Division intends on setting landowner permit numbers, and what benefits, in terms of obtaining permits, might landowners be able to take advantage of under the proposed amendments.

The RAC asked for clarification on the proposed amendments.

05:25:30 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

05:27:15 RAC Summaries

The Central RAC voted to reject the proposal. The Northern RAC made three separate motions addressing the amendments. The other RACs voted to accept the amendments.

05:30:02 Public Comments/Division Clarification

Public comments were accepted at this time. Clarification was given at this time.

05:45:50 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

05:47:54 Board Discussion

The Board voiced appreciation for landowners' toleration of and benefit to wildlife, and support of the rule amendment, and made general comments on the recommendations.

Chairman Dearth commented on the proposed option that was created to satisfy the Diamond Mountain LOA's concerns about public access on their private lands.

The Board discussed the proposal to create a special draw for landowners on limited entry units that are not enrolled in an LOA, but whose private land holdings total 640 acres or more.

The Board discussed the proposed creation of a general season landowner permit that would be valid only on private property.

Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones clarified two aspects of the proposed program rule amendments, and the Board suggested a modification to the proposed permit allocation percentages.

The Board asked the Division if they anticipated landowners modifying how they participate in the program based on the proposed amendments.

The Board asked if obtaining a private lands only LOA permit would affect a hunter's number of points.

The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation to remove the public access requirement from LOAs as presented.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation to establish a limited-entry draw for non-LOA lands as presented.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman and died or a lack of second.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation to issue general season landowner permits on private property, allowing up to 10% above the total number of unit permits that could be issued over the counter, as presented.

The following motion was made by Bryce Thurgood, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation to issue general season landowner permits on private property, but reduce the percentage to 6% above the total number of unit permits that could be issued over the counter.

06:13:54 11) LOA Permit Recommendations (Action)

Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator Chad Wilson summarized the presentation that was posted on the Division's website.

06:14:54 Board/RAC Questions

There were no questions from the Board or RACs.

06:15:15 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

06:16:08 RAC Summaries

All RACs unanimously passed the recommendations.

06:17:18 Public Comments/Division Clarification

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

06:18:17 RAC Summaries

Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.

06:18:32 Board Discussion

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's LOA Permit Recommendations as presented.

06:19:15 Break

06:29:52 12) CWMU Permit Recommendations (Action)

Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator Chad Wilson made a few clarifications to what originally was presented.

06:32:46 Board/RAC Questions

The Board asked about the quality of trade lands for hunting.

06:34:15 Public Input

Director Shirley summarized the online public input on this agenda item.

- 06:36:11 RAC Summaries**
All RACs passed the recommendations, with the Southeastern RAC suggesting a modification.
- 06:37:57 Public Comments/Division Clarification**
Public comments were accepted at this time. Clarification was not needed at this time.
- 07:08:36 RAC Summaries**
Chairman Dearth reiterated the RAC summaries.
- 07:09:39 Board Discussion**
The Board asked about elk cow hunts, about the committee's decision on the variance in question, and about the origin of the 10,000 acre minimum. The Board voiced general opposition to granting a variance request for a property that did not meet the minimum requirements, and opposition to granting the specific variance in question.
The Board spoke in favor of the quality of the Double Cone CWMU for wildlife habitat. The Board asked when the additional permits in question would be issued.
The Board recognized and voiced appreciation for CWMU operators who had voluntarily given up deer and elk permits.
Chairman Dearth commented that the Board voting on a CWMU's permit numbers without that item going through the public process is unique and not the intended process for making decisions about permit numbers.
The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we not issue one additional public buck or bull tag on Double Cone CWMU.
The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Bryce Thurgood and passed unanimously.
MOTION: I move that we amend the permit recommendations on Guildersleeve CWMU from 20 buck deer permits to 10 buck deer permits, and from 10 bull elk permits to 20 bull elk permits.
The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Paula Richmond and passed 4 in favor with 1 recusal from Bret Selman.
MOTION: I move that we accept the remaining recommendations as presented by the Division, and ask the Division to report on units 4/5/6.
- 07:35:11 Break**
- 07:44:22 13) Landowner Association Advisory Committee Members (Action)**
Wildlife Section Chief Covy Jones gave a presentation titled, "LOA Advisory Committee Members."

- 07:46:49 Board Questions/Discussion**
- Chairman Dearth asked the Board if there were any of the named committee members that they were uncomfortable with. The Board asked about the agriculture and at-large committee members.
- The Board voiced support for having an LOA Advisory Committee.
- The following motion was made by , seconded by and, with
- MOTION: I move that we accept the division’s recommendation to place the following on the Landowner Association Advisory Committee: Sportsmen Representatives – Troy Justensen and Donnie Hunter LOA Representatives – Dale Christiansen and Andy Monroe Agricultural Representative – Steven Tew At-Large Representative – Greg Wilding RAC Member Representative – Scoot Flannery**
- 07:50:02 14) Deep Creek Elk Unit (Action)**
- Big Game Coordinator Dax Mangus explained the Division’s recommendation.
- 07:51:19 Board Questions**
- There were no questions from the Board.
- 07:51:35 Board Discussion**
- The Board asked the dynamics of past meetings with the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, and how long it might take to transition the West Desert, Deep Creek unit to a general season, Any Bull unit. The Board also asked about the details of the Memorandum of Understanding presented by the Division to the CTGR leadership.
- The following motion was made by Kent Johnson, seconded by Bret Selman and passed unanimously.
- MOTION: I move that we accept the Division’s Deep Creek Elk Unit Recommendation as presented.**
- 07:58:05 15) Book Cliffs/Little Creek South Bison Hunt Variance Request (Action)**
- Once-in-a-Lifetime Species Coordinator Rusty Robinson shared a minor correction to the action item, and shared a presentation titled “Book Cliffs Bison Permit Extension Request.”
- 08:02:53 Board Questions**
- The Board asked about permit numbers and anticipated harvest data questions
- 08:06:04 Public Comments/Division Clarification**
- Public comments were accepted at this time. Clarification was given at this time.
- 08:09:16 Board Discussion**

The Board shared where hunters may find pressured bison during the hunt.

The Board voiced support for the extension request.

The following motion was made by Bret Selman, seconded by Gary Nielson and passed unanimously.

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

08:12:15 16) Corrections to the Approved Prohibited and Controlled List Changes under R657-3c and R657-13 (Action)

Assistant Chief of Fisheries Craig Walker shared a presentation titled, "Corrections to the Approved Prohibited and Controlled List Changes R657-3C and R657-13-13."

08:17:53 Board Questions/Discussion

The Board asked if the Division has plans to address the presence of cichlids at Blue Lake.

The following motion was made by Gary Nielson, seconded by Kent Johnson and passed unanimously.

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

08:20:01 17) Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions
December 2023**

1 - Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action)

CR

MOTION: Decrease the tags by 10% on the 4 units La Sal, San Juan, Book Cliffs and Boulder
Motion dies for lack of a second

MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented

VOTE: Passed 7-1

NR

MOTION: I move we accept the revisions as proposed but ask the Wildlife Board to consider allowing for the purchase of a second control tag.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

MOTION: I move we ask the Wildlife Board to revisit the barrel use requirement at bait sites.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR, NER

MOTION: I move we accept the Division's Black Bear Management Plan revisions and Rule R657-33 as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SER

MOTION: I move we accept the Division's Black Bear Management Plan revisions and Rule R657-33 as presented.

VOTE: Passed 10-1

2 - Elk Management Unit Plan (Action)

NR, CR, SER, NER

MOTION: I move that we accept Elk Management Unit Plans as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR

MOTION: I move that we accept Elk Management Unit Plans as presented.

VOTE: 10 - 1

3 - Poaching reported Reward Permits Rule Revision (Action)

CR

MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented and ask the wildlife board to recommend the Division to present the data associated with the reward permits annually.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

NR

MOTION: I move that we accept Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

MOTION: I move to have the Wildlife Board take up with legislature's ways to protect the reporting poaching parties from civil litigation.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

SR, SER, NER

MOTION: I move that we accept Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimous

Central Region RAC AGENDA – December 2023

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. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 **ACTION**
- Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator
 6. Elk Management Unit Plans **ACTION**
- Daniel Sallee, Box Elder District Biologist
 7. Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions **ACTION**
- Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief
- Regional Presentations
Only**
- SR Researching Woundfin in the Virgin River **INFORMATIONAL**
- Melinda Bennion, NER Native Aquatic Biologist

**Central Region RAC Meeting
Summary of Motions
December 5, 2023
Springville, Utah**

1) Approval of Agenda

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

2) Approval of November 9, 2023 RAC Meeting Minutes

The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 9, 2023 Central Region RAC meeting as transcribed.

3) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33

The following motion was made by John Ziegler and failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: Decrease the tags by 10% on the 4 Units La Sal, San Juan, Book Cliffs and Boulder

The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Jim Shuler and passed 7 in favor and 1 opposed (John Ziegler).

MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented

4) Elk Management Unit Plans

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented

5) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions

The following motion was made by Mike Christensen, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously.

MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented and ask the wildlife board to recommend the Division to present the data associated with the reward permits annually

Central Region RAC Meeting

Attendance
December 5, 2023
Springville, Utah

RAC Members

Attending

Brock McMillan
Eric Reid
Josh Lenart – online
Mike Christensen
John Ziegler
Amos Murphy – online
Kellen Hyer
Joshua Greenhalgh
Braden Sheppard – online
Jim Shuler – online

Absent

Steve Lund
Luke Decker
Scott Jensen
Bryce Castagnetto

Wildlife Board

Paula Richmond – online
Gary Nielson

DWR Personnel

Jason Vernon
Matt Briggs
Wes Alexander
Mike Christensen
Covy Jones
Brynlee Jones

Wyatt Bubak
Scott Root
Sydney Lamb
Dax Mangus
Daniel Sallee

Total members of the public in attendance: 6

Central Region RAC Meeting

December 5, 2023

Springville, Utah

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oDTGOPX_fyQ

06:00:13	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.
06:03:07	1) Approval of Agenda (Action) The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously. MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.
06:03:07	2) Approval of Minutes (Action) The following motion was made by Jim Shuler, seconded by John Ziegler and passed unanimously. MOTION: To approve the April 5th Central Region RAC minutes as transcribed.
06:03:45	3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational) RAC Chair Brock McMillan updated the RAC.
06:07:37	4) DWR Update (Informational) Jason Vernon updated the RAC on all regional activities.
06:14:53	6) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action) A pre-recorded presentation was provided online on the Division website prior to the meeting: https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html
06:16:05	RAC Questions RAC members asked female to male ratio, confidence on data, bear population changes, process of gathering data, and current tag numbers. There were also questions about ways bears are harvested, current bear studies, harvest objective tag course process, and population statistics. Public Questions None
06:24:42	Public Comments Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation. Public Comments TJ Pace-Utah Houndsmen Association: Propose 10% reduction of tags on the Book Cliffs, La Sals, Boulder, and San Juan Units. Other than that, they support the

	<p>recommendations.</p> <p>Garritt Slatcoff-Backcountry Hunters and Anglers: Support the recommendations. Believes that it will make it easier for hunters and officers in the field.</p>
06:26:28	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members discussed the methods of taking bears, harvest statistics, and the recommendations.</p>
06:31:13	<p>Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by John Zielgler. Motion failed due to the lack of a second</p> <p>MOTION: Decrease the tags by 10% on the 4 Units La Sal, San Juan, Book Cliffs and Boulder</p> <p>The following motion was made by Eric Reid, seconded by Jim Shuler. Motion passed 7-1. John Ziegler voted no due to no tag reductions being proposed.</p> <p>MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented</p>
06:34:05	<p>7) Elk Management Unit Plans (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>
06:35:18	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>RAC members asked about the Oak Creek and Beaver West unit management plans, and who was on the committee.</p> <p>Public Questions</p> <p>None</p>
06:40:36	<p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <p>Garritt Slatcoff- Backcountry hunters and anglers: Support the recommendations.</p>
06:42:07	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>The RAC members discussed elk numbers on tribal lands and the size of tribal lands.</p>
06:43:46	<p>Elk Management Unit Plans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen and seconded by John Ziegler. Passed unanimously.</p>

	MOTION: To accept the DWR recommendations as presented.
06:44:09	8) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions (Action)
06:45:15	<p>RAC Questions RAC members asked about the cougar harvest numbers now that the changes have been made, how many poaching rewards go out each year, the rules of a reward permit, the process/requirements met to be rewarded, and how the recommendation will affect who gets permits.</p> <p>Public Questions None</p>
06:55:30	<p>Public Comments Jason Vernon summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments Garritt Slatcoff- Backcountry hunters and anglers: Support the recommendations.</p>
06:56:50	<p>RAC Discussion The RAC members discussed their concerns for multiple rewards, the number of tags being issued, the reporter process and anonymity, the public hunting pool, and how it may affect the future.</p>
07:02:18	<p>Elk Management Unit Plans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Christensen and seconded by John Ziegler. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: Accept the Division's recommendation as presented and ask the wildlife board to recommend the Division to present the data associated with the reward permits annually</p>
07:04:54	Meeting adjourned.

Regional Advisory Council Meeting

December 6, 2023

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/qkQ3D3bDtuY>

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. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33
ACTION
-Darren Debloois, Mammals Coordinator
6. Elk Management Unit Plans **ACTION**
- Daniel Sallee, Wildlife Coordinator
7. Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions **ACTION**
- Wyatt Buback, Law Enforcement Chief

Regional Presentations Only

Researching Endangered Woundfin in the Virgin River – SR Only **INFORMATIONAL**
– Melinda Bennion, NER Native Aquatic Biologist

CR RAC – Dec 5th, 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street Springville
https://youtube.com/live/oDTGOPX_fyQ

SER RAC – Dec 13th, 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/W48K9w3oWE4>

NR RAC – Dec 6th, 6:00 PM
Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
<https://youtube.com/live/qkQ3D3bDtuY>

NER RAC – Dec 14th, 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/oH-o7EHtWTo>

SR RAC – Dec 12th, 6:00 PM
DNR Richfield Complex
2031 Industrial Park Rd, Richfield

Meeting – January 4th, 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center, Farmington Bay
<https://youtube.com/live/b09caB9kv58>

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimously.

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

2) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (**Action**)

Casey Snider left the meeting and was not present for the vote.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we accept the revisions as proposed but ask the Wildlife Board to consider allowing for the purchase of a second control tag.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Junior Goring and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move we ask the Wildlife Board to revisit the barrel use requirement at bait sites.

3) Elk Management Unit Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Nikki Wayment, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept Elk Management Unit Plans as presented.

4) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revision (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Nikki Wayment and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we accept Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions as presented.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, and seconded by Junior Goring and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move to have the Wildlife Board take up with legislature's ways to protect the reporting poaching parties from civil litigation.

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

Dec 6, 2023

Attendance

RAC Members

Brad Buchanan – Chair
Ryan Brown – Vice-Chair
Jim Christensen-Act. Exec Sec.

Mitchell Alford
Jaimi Butler
James Carlson
Robert Dale
David Earl
Junior Goring

Darren Parry
Casey Snider
Steve Sorensen
Jessica Wade
Nikki Wayment
Ross Worthington

Board Member

Kent Johnson-Online
Brett Selman

RAC Excused

Randy Hutchison

Division Personnel

Jodie Anderson
Darren Debloois
Daniel Sallee
Wyatt Buback
David Beveridge
Blair Stringham
Xaela Walden
Sam Robertson
Cash Hancock
David Smedley

Teresa Griffin-Online

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

Dec 6, 2023

Minutes

- 00:02:33** 1) Chairman Brad Buchanan called the meeting to order, welcomed the audience and reviewed the meeting procedures.
- 00:06:38** 2) **Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
The following motion was made by Ryan Brown, seconded by Ross Worthington and passed unanimous.
- MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes.**
- 00:07:31** 3) **Update from past Wildlife Board Meeting by Brad Buchanan, RAC Chair**
Links on website to view.
- 00:13:18** 4) **Regional Update – Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager (Informational)**
Jim Christensen updated the RAC on regional activities.
- 00:27:02** 5) **Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action)**
Presentations could be viewed at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/agendas-materials-minutes.html>
Darren Deblois summarized the presentation for the RAC.
- 00:28:25** **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Questions from the RAC and Public were taken at this time.

00:31:30 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

Comments were taken from the public at this time.

00:34:07 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

* Casey Snider left the meeting.

Discussion regarding the number of bears in the Northern Region. Bear nuisance issues. Use of barrels for baiting. Harvest rate with spot and stock.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Ryan Brown and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we accept the revisions as proposed, but ask the Wildlife Board to consider allowing for the purchase of a second control tag.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington, seconded by Junior Goring and passed unanimous.

MOTION: Ask the Wildlife Board to revisit the barrel requirement at bait sites.

00:59:39 6) Elk Management Unit Plans (Action)

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

Daniel Sallee summarized the presentation.

01:00:59 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Questions from the RAC were taken at this time. No public questions.

01:05:55 Electronic/ Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen, Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation.

No public comment.

01:06:40 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Discussion regarding elk harvest on units and getting the numbers down. Control permits on private property. Competition between wildlife and wild horses.

The following motion was made by Nikki Wayment, seconded by Steve Sorensen and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we accept Elk Management Unit Plans as presented.

01:14:30 7) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions (Action)

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

Wyatt Buback summarized the presentation.

01:15:50 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Questions from the RAC taken at this time. No questions from the public.

01:21:25 Electronic/Public Comment Report by Jim Christensen Regional Wildlife Manager

Jim Christensen summarized the public comments received from the online presentation

Public and RAC comments taken at this time.

01:27:19 RAC discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Reporting a poaching event. Getting legislative balance. Number of poaching cases. Monetary Rewards. Number of reward permits allocated for a particular unit. Restitution value.

The following motion was made by Robert Dale, seconded by Nikki Wayment and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we accept Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions as presented.

The following motion was made by Ross Worthington seconded by Junior Goring and passed unanimous

MOTION: I move to have the Wildlife Board take up with legislature's ways to protect the reporting poaching parties from civil litigation.

01:41:43 Meeting Adjourned.

DRAFT

Southern Regional RAC Meeting

December 12, 2023

DNR Richfield City Complex
2031 Industrial Park Rd., Richfield
6:00 P.M.

RAC Members

Attending

Austin Atkinson
Bart Battista (Online)
Chuck Chamberlain
Rachel Bolus (Online)
Dan Fletcher
Russell Gardner
Mike Grant
Bryant Johnson (Online)
Verland King
Riley Roberts (Online)
Chad Utley (Online)
Tammy Pearson (Online)

Absent

Travis Duran

Wildlife Board

Paula Richmond

DWR Personnel

Kevin Bunnell
Darren DeBloois
Denise Gilgen (Online)
Melinda Bennion
Danielle Finlayson
Vance Mumford
Teresa Griffin
Paul Washburn
Shawn Stucki

Adam Kavalunas
Mike Christensen
Jason Nicholes
Stetson West
Mike Wardle
Morgan Hinton
Wyatt Bubak
Kyle Christensen
Tyrell Orme

**Public invited to join online: <https://youtu.be/8VjmK9Pi8xE>
<https://youtube.com/live/5N0Rx-JsKJc>**

<p>06:00:08</p>	<p>1) RAC Chair Austin Atkinson called the meeting to order. Called the roll of RAC members and recognized Paula Richmond with the Wildlife Board who was present. He explained the RAC process and that there will be no live presentations. The public will be given the opportunity of providing comments and asking questions at the appropriate time. He asked for respect and professional conduct from all those in attendance.</p>
<p>06:04:40</p>	<p>2) Approval Of Agenda and Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Verland King.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the Agenda and Minutes as presented.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell asked the RAC Members if they approved of the new format that was being used for the minutes. Changed from verbatim to a summary of comments. Everyone agreed the new format is acceptable.</p>
<p>06:05:59</p>	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational)</p> <p>RAC Chair Austin Atkinson provided the RAC members and public with an update from the last Wildlife Board Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verland King: Asked if there was a lot of discussion in other RAC meetings on how the Dedicated Hunter payments for service hours are being spent. The Southern RAC discussed this issue at length during the November 2023 meeting and had concerns about it. • Austin Atkinson: State it was discussed quite a bit by the Board. Not sure how many other RAC’s had motions on it, but the Wildlife Board recommended the Division provide a report on how the D.H. dollars are being spent.
<p>06:13:33</p>	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Kevin Bunnell, DWR Regional Supervisor provided an update on all regional activities to the RAC and public. The Wildlife Section is very busy this time of year with captures, collaring and classification. If anyone wants to participate in collaring, please contact Teresa Griffin.</p> <p>Contact Danielle Finlayson to participate in Christmas bird counts and Winter Rapture Surveys.</p> <p>The memorandum of understanding on the Prairie Dog Conservation Plan has been signed by almost all of the partners so far, including the counties. This is the first step towards us then working with the Fish and Wildlife Services Boards for a species status review. We hope this ends in the delisting of that species, 5-10 years down the road.</p>

	<p>Finished an important guzzler on the Buckskin Overlook on the Paunsaugunt unit with the BLM.</p> <p>A lot of planning going on with our Aquatics Department. Multi-reservoir plan in Washington County (Sand Hollow, Quail Creek and Gunlock). An online public survey has already gone out. Final plan expected in the Spring of 2024 and will be presented to the RAC. A committee is being formed for the Piute Reservoir and that will be completed in late Spring as well.</p> <p>The Washington County Field Office is very busy as well. Please refer to the information contained in the slide presentation to review all current and ongoing projects. It's the fastest growing community in the State with several endangered species of Fish flowing through a couple of the water sources. It's important work. We haven't had any further endangered listings, rather we have had a few delistings – even given the growth in Washington County. Melinda Bennion will talk more about this later in tonight's meeting. The WCFO also responds to numerous nuisance calls – 16 hours per day, seven days per week.</p> <p>Habitat Section: UDOT was awarded \$5.5 million dollars in funds for the Highway Crossings Pilot program for Phase II to extend fencing at Johnson Canyon, including three underpasses. Please refer to the slide presentation to review all current and ongoing projects.</p> <p>Outreach Section: Youth or beginning Pheasant hunts in Cedar City, Annabella, and Pahvant were successful with over 400 attendees. The Mule Deer viewing even was under-attended due to weather, but was beneficial to those who came. Bald Eagle viewing event is scheduled for Friday, January 26, 2024 at Rush Lake in Iron County. Snow Goose Festival will be held on February 23-24 at Gunnison Bend Reservoir near Delta. Dedicated Hunter program will move to online tag returns and project sign-ups will begin shortly.</p> <p>Law Enforcement: Currently understaffed, please be patient. We are in the hiring process and are 3- 4 years out before we are fully staffed.</p>
<p>06:23:25</p>	<p>5) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action) - Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator provided a brief update, presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members. The Division is in the third year of the three-year plan for the Black Bear Management cycle. No recommendation for permit changes at this time.</p> <p>Asking for a change in the rule to allow hunters to take their orientation course after they draw their permits. And second, there is still a stipulation in the plan that requires all the harvest parameters in the State to fall within the moderate</p>

	<p>range. We want to give more autonomy to District Biologists. District Biologists can use their own management strategy and permits.</p>
<p>06:25:32</p>	<p>RAC Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chuck Chamberlain: Not as familiar with Bear hunts as other hunts in the State. ● Does the hound hunt in November mainly target male Bear over female? ● Any concerns about the condition of the Bears chased by hounds? ● Darren DuBloois: More likely to harvest males, but you may find a few females as well. Most years females are denned up at that time of year. ● We haven't had many real issues with their condition from chase ● There aren't a lot of hunters focused on Bear hunting, they are primarily focused on Cougar hunting, but may chase a Bear if they come across one. ● Kevin Bunnell: There are few Bears harvested during that November hunt. ● Verland King: Asks the same question every year. The Black Bear committee seems underrepresented by some members of the community. Sees one Agriculture representative and one for Wool Growers. Where is the representative for the Farm Bureau? Where is the representative for the Cattleman's Association? ● I think Sierra is good, but Sportsmen and Wildlife, the committee looks the same every year. ● Darren DeBloois: Always struggle with who is on these committees. How many people do we have on the committee? How big does it need to be before it gets unwieldy? We try to make sure everyone's interests are represented, including Agriculture. ● Sierra Nelson is on the committee and she is not shy about letting everyone know what she thinks. ● We do have a process in place, the Board looks at those who are on the committees. Also, with Predators committees we have Sportsmen on these committees. ● A lot of the time, Agriculture and Sportsmen interests align. ● Mike Grant: How many units will the roll-out plan open up? Or sub-units or sections in the State? ● To clarify, the Biologists will be able to manage their specific units? ● Darren DeBloois: Same number of hunt units, that won't change.

	<p>First, the Biologists go through their districts and decide what their harvest strategy is going to be light, moderate or liberal for that specific unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the past, there was a requirement that there could only be a certain amount of light, a certain amount of moderate, etc. Last year, we changed to allow the Biologists to choose the harvest strategy based on their district, based on their experience. We overlooked the secondary requirement that we look at all of the permit recommendations, if you average all of the adult males above five and 10% of the females, they'll fall in the moderate category. Darren would need to call the Biologist and tell them that although they want 10 permits, they either need to increase or decrease permits based on statewide rule. We are asking to do away with that requirement and let the Biologists decide based on their experience. ● Russell Gardner: What is the success rate for those who hunt with bait and hounds? ● Darren DeBloois: High success rate for those who hunt with bait and hounds. It depends on the density of the unit. Spot and Stalk hunts are very successful on high density units.
<p>06:30:40</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None.
<p>06:30:46</p>	<p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kevin Bunnell (Online comments): Which best describes your position regarding the black bear proposals? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly agree: 2 (100%) ● Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) ● Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) ● Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) ● Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) ● Total votes: 2 ● Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 2 = 5$ ● Brayden Richmond: Sat on the Bear committee and agrees with Verland, we need to have more representation on the committee, especially with the Predator Management plans. Feels strongly that the that the Biologists should make the decisions. Frequently hears from landowners, Agriculture, Ranchers, etc. Sierra Nielson is awesome, but she is only one voice and we could have used more. There was a lot of discussion on this matter. One thing the committee felt strongly about is the need for local Biologists to make decisions, happy to see this is back. There are three Bear management strategies, even the high strategy

increased population. The medium and low strategies are definitely targeted toward increasing population. Unique to Bears and not other animals. Strongly encourages the RAC to support the Division's recommendations.

- **J.J. Brewer:** Utah Houndsman's Association. Thanked RAC, Wildlife personnel and the Bear Committee. Appreciates the opportunity to make comments.
- Understands the Bear Plan is not due for any changes this year. Has four units that their association believes should be addressed with the RAC. The Boulder, Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek and San Juan units. Those units have some trends right now. Less harvest, more Sow harvests (female harvests) and lower age class. The populations on these units have been brought down more so than in the past. The Houndsman's Association recommends the permits be decreased by 10 permits, specifically on those units. Happy everyone can come together to manage a healthy population.

06:35:00 RAC Discussion

- **Russell Gardner:** Question on depredation. Do we have any solid numbers on how the mule deer are affected as well as Agriculture?
- We talk quite a bit about the mule deer plan. Curious to see what's going to done about Elk (Inaudible)
- **Darren DeBloois:** Usually, once a deer is a year or older, they're able to escape Bears. About 15% of fawns are taken by Bears on the LaSals and San Juan units, varies from unit to unit. With Agriculture, most of the damage from Bears is to Sheep, which is why we have the Wool Growers represented on the committees. There are a few calves/cattle that are taken. A Bear can kill a lot of sheep in an evening. The number of reported incidents have dropped off in the past several years, but we keep an eye on it.
- We are looking into all of that. BYU has done a great job quantifying what causes a mortality and what things we ought to be concerned about. We'll keep working on that problem.
- **Kevin Bunnell:** We try to document every report of those incidents and there's an investigation done by Wildlife Services to confirm the damage was done by a Bear. We reimburse the owner.
- **Tammy Pearson:** Agreed with Verland. We need a higher representation of Agriculture on these committees. Sierra is not shy, but we need to look at having more representation on the committees. A lot of the commissioners and people she talks to are Agriculture producers. Hears a lot about depredation. We've worked hard on the Mountain

	<p>Lions and need to do the same with Bears. Bears don't leave much evidence behind. She support the Division's recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austin Atkinson: Questions mainly about what the Utah Houndsmen Association stated in the statement they sent us. Extreme winter conditions from 2023 lowered Bear populations. What mechanisms do we have in place to change permits within the three-year cycle? If there's something extreme, would you bring it before the RAC? • Darren DeBloois: We look at the numbers and prefer to keep it on a three-year cycle, unless there was a big emergency. Next year the Biologists will look at the last three years data and numbers and adjust accordingly. Trying to avoid annual jumping around and trying to be consistent over a period of time. If the public wanted to discuss the number of permits, it's not on the Agenda, so they may not have come to tonight's meeting.
<p>06:40:52</p>	<p>MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Dan Fletcher, seconded by Mike Grant.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation as presented.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>06:41:57</p>	<p>6) Elk Management Unit Plans (Action) - Daniel Sallee, Wildlife Coordinator</p> <p>Daniel presented the Divisions recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and public members. Reviewed the changes (increases and decreases) on each unit in the State.</p>
<p>06:45:14</p>	<p>RAC Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verland King: The units in our region are units that have livestock permits on them. Are the livestock permits increasing too? I'll bet the answer is no. • Is that right, Tammy? Have there been increases? • Daniel Sallee: I don't know, the local biologists may know? • Mike Wardle: I can speak on the Beaver unit. There have been increases. • The Beaver Elk objective hasn't changed since 2007. We did increase tags.

- **Tammy Pearson:** No, there are no increases. It's a heavy lift to get the Forest Service and BLM to approve increases – even to have prior permits reinstated.
- Did the Elk objective change – so we are where we were before? Or just increase tags?
- **Russell Gardner:** So when you increase with these proposals on units, do you contact the individual Cattlemen to get a feel of how this might impact them? Or what is the process?
- **Daniel Sallee:** To recommend a change in population objective, we have to have a local committee meet, with representatives on those committees. Agriculture, Cattlemen, Wool Growers and Farm Bureau representatives are usually on these committees. Also, Sportsmen, elected officials, members of the public at large and sometimes a local Biologist. But, yes, there is a process.
- **Austin Atkinson:** Sat on a couple of committees, mainly on the Southwest Desert and Beaver units when we went through the Elk Management plan. As a hunter and sportsman, if he sees 200 Elk he thinks that's not a lot of Elk. Understands Agriculture sees it from a totally different perspective. The committees he's been on it was discussed how much feed was taken away from Cattle by every Elk. The discussion is has the habitat improved? Do we have more water? Do we have more space? Are we working together so you can take advantage of your Forest Service and BLM permits and we can still have toleration for Elk. Feels consensus was that these numbers were debated and it came down to range where we could see where we were on the bad years versus the good years in toleration for Elk. Feels like representation was fair and balanced as far as participation in the meetings.
- **Daniel Sallee:** The Beaver and Southwest Desert committees set specific goals to reconvene in another 3-5 years to talk about how the potential changes have played out.
- **Verland King:** The Southwest Desert, Fillmore, the ones that have range in there and you quoted the drought. Is it stated in there that if there's a drought, like on the Southwest Desert, we could go from 1250 down to 1050? In the past, when we've tried to get the Division to reduce the numbers – whether it's Buffalo, Elk or whatever, we've been told you can't do it, we'll try, it will be a couple of years. By then, the habitat has been damaged. Does the plan stipulate that we can let enough permits out to get that number down?
- You can make those changes in the same year?
- Will you go below the quota that you've quoted here?

- **Daniel Sallee:** The point of having this range is to allow us to make those decreases when needed.
- Yes. The quotas are set early in the year, then the draw takes place around May. But, if there's a significant drought that occurs that Summer, the Statewide plan allows the August Wildlife Board to increase permits. We can put more tags in the hands of hunters to reduce those numbers the same year.
- We strive to maintain the population objective and stay within that range. Not sure if the numbers would go below that in the event of a severe drought.

- **Kevin Bunnell:** We are below objective on several of our units now. Because of the drought, we dropped below our population objective on several units.

- **Verland King:** So, one good year and we dropped below objective and we want to increase that objective because we had one good year? I think you are jumping the gun. It's common knowledge that there are a lot of Elk and it's the root of quite a lot of problems with the Mule Deer.

- **Chuck Chamberlain:** Was part of those discussions and that was brought up. One year doesn't make a recovery. The Fish Lake wasn't comfortable moving forward with increased numbers. That's why we came up with a range so that we can move forward and adjust within that plan. Rather than setting the numbers too low and not being able to adjust if needed.
- What is the metric we use to adjust up or down? Is it drought or watercycle? Range condition?

- **Jason Nicholes:** In the Southwest Desert plan specifically, we stated that if permittees are being asked to cut back or come off the range early then we would reduce and manage toward the lower end of the plan.

- **Tammy Pearson:** I was on the Beaver committee. There was a lot of discussion regarding the conflict with livestock, etc. There have been significant projects that have been completed – reseeds and different things. A recent fire and new habitat generated whether through water, GIP or water, WRI. We put a range in there, rather than just a top number. That leaves a place for management. Stay on the bottom end during a drought, but have the ability for expansion if needed. One year does not make a recovery on anything.

- **Riley Roberts:** There were quite a few of us from the RAC who were able to be on the Committees. Assured each of the RAC members that

	<p>they were well represented on every level. I was on the Panguitch Lake committee, which is under population. The range we went through with the livestock, Sportsman, Fish and Game and BLM. Rather than rehashing everything, everyone was well represented. These committees were put together with well intent. Trust in those that represented you. Lots of camaraderie and cohesiveness that went on in these committees. If we need to make changes in the future, we can do that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dan Fletcher: Can you explain how you are going to use the Elk collar data to make these decisions? In the Southwest Desert we talked about in the committee, there are areas within that unit where we will have Elk concentration as the population gets higher and we will have conflict with livestock, etc. Will you explain what we can do about those Elk concentrations as part of this plan? ● Daniel Sallee: With regard to depredation issues? We have quite a few tools on the Statewide plan to do that with. Ranging from private land only permits for an area to get hunters on private land. We have depredation tags and vouchers that can be issued directly to the landowner. We can hold depredation hunter pool hunts on public land around the private land. We have several tools to put pressure on problem areas. ● The GPS collared data was used when we split those units into two units. The data showed the Elk do cross over there. In Box Elder, we've used that data to give people depredation permits and also we use it for survival data.
<p>07:00:00</p>	<p>Public Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None
<p>07:00:31</p>	<p>Public Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kevin Bunnell (Online comments): Which best describes your position regarding the elk unit plan updates? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strongly agree: 2 (100%) ● Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) ● Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) ● Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) ● Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) ● Total votes: 2

• Weighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (2 * 5)] / 2 = 5$

- **Donnie Hunter:** Was on the SWD committee. We had great representation from Sportsmen and Livestock people. Jason provided a great presentation of what was there and what has happened the last five years. It was part of his job to make sure that those goals were met. A lot of it was habitat work, he believed there were 31,000 acres that were completed for Elk and Livestock. In the areas where there were conflicts, Jason was able to give landowners, or permittees, depredation permits to address those issues. Livestock people on our committee were pleased with what he did. We talked 3-4 hours about Elk and Livestock and what we could agree on. In the end, we had a unanimous decision to go with the number 1050 to 1250. We all left on the same page and happy.
- **Scott Stubbs:** I'm a Wool Grower and sat on the Panguitch Lake committee. It's been stated that we are under objective on that unit. In my mind, what makes this plan work is that we are targeting big groups. I work on the Panguitch Lake unit and even though we are under objective, for some reason all the Elk end up on my Summer country. Targeted hunts are a big issue and that's what is going to keep the livestock community behind it. It will take a long time to get to those numbers because you're going to have to kill a lot of those that are concentrating in certain areas. We all came together, supports the plan with those things in mind.
- **Brayden Richmond:** Sat on the Beaver Elk committee, it was a diversified group. Echoes what Donnie and Scott said. The last time I sat on this committee it wasn't as pleasant. This time it was vocal, with a lot of opinions. Our committee was also unanimous. Thanked Mike Wardle. He talked to Brayden several years ago about the strategy of getting to where we are now. Mike has put a lot of effort into keeping this unit at or near objective. Right now, we are quite a ways under objective. The local community is concerned there are not enough Elk on the unit. Mike hears from both sides – not enough Elk and too many Elk. Mike has shown that it can be managed and he'll do what he says he'll do. Asking for support for the Division's plan for an increase. Excited about seeing Sportsman and Cattlemen working together so well. He is concerned about some of the comments made on the RAC tonight. Sportsmen and Cattlemen both put in millions of dollars on the ground to help the habitat for cattle and wildlife. He has never seen Sportsmen or conservation groups ever solicit to take cattle off the mountain, but he has seen Cattlemen be pretty opposed. It's critical that we get on the same page. Sportsmen are not the enemy of Cattlemen. There are a lot of enemies of Cattlemen, but it's not the Sportsmen.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Troy Henrie: Utah Farm Bureau, Southern Region Manager: Stated to the RAC, especially Verland and Russell, that they were included in the process. Echoes the sentiments that have already been given and appreciates the ability to be part of this process. Expects to be part of the process in the future as well. The committee process works, no one got run over. Everyone was able to get something they wanted there. There was a consensus, everyone gave something so we were able to come up with an acceptable compromise. Changes are not being proposed to increase opportunities, it's because conditions allow it. Significant fire in 2017 on the Panguitch Lake unit and that country has changed, it's completely different. Those are some of the reasons we were able to get on board with this plan. Generally, the Farm Bureau would not support the increase of Elk numbers, but because conditions allow it, we support this process and the plan. ● Neuel Charlson: Sat on the Beaver committee and State Committee as well. Doesn't want to repeat everything that has been said. There have been increases on the Beaver mountain and it can happen. The forest service did say, Verland, that any Permittee that was willing to put forth the effort, when there's forage that's available, that they would work with them to do that. ● JJ Brewer: It's awesome to see Sportsmen and Agriculture be able to meet in the middle. Hat's off to that – and also to our Biologists. Thanked the Biologists, especially Mike. Recognizes the amount of time spent. Supports the Division's recommendations, it's a good way to go.
<p>07:10:12</p>	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chuck Chamberlain: Read a letter from the U.S. Forest Service, signed by Michael Elson, Forest Supervisor, Fishlake National Forest and Kevin Wright, Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest. The Forest Service supports the proposed changed to the Elk objectives on all units in the Southern region. (This letter is attached to the minutes for review) ● Pleased with the way the Division handled this and the committee process. ● Mike Grant: Grew up in the Cattleman's Association. Back then it was the Elk are coming in and we need to get them out. Great to see the comaraderie between Sportsmen and Cattlemen on these committees and it is second to none. They're willing to work together, the management and the money that goes in from the Cattleman's Association, the Wool Growers, Sportsmen to make the mountain and areas better for the animals. It's will be a success story moving forward.

- **Austin Atkinson:** Initially struggled with the range idea. Sportsmen are going to want the top end of the range and Cattlemen are going to want the bottom of the range. The range idea has grown on him a little bit. Believes it will help the RAC as permit numbers come up. The RAC will be able to see where we are in that range. They Biologists can speak on it, but everyone have everyone on the RAC speak on it as well. We can do that on an annual basis and not just say save all the Elk because we are below on numbers. It will allow some flexibility and a lot more public process – not just a hard number.
- **Tammy Pearson:** If Neuels numbers went up, he's the only one I know of. He's in Millard County, so it doesn't count. The Livestock, Wildlife, Sportsmen need to stick together. We all have common enemies and we need to stick together. It's happening in other industries, on public lands and under multiple use. You look at the timber industry for example. Happy with meetings she attended on the Beaver unit, that upper and lower range is going to be helpful in the end. Will give us a management tool that we haven't had before and goals to look forward too.
- **Verland King:** I've been on some of these committees too. Mainly the Bison committee on the Henry Mountains, which is maybe why I'm not invited anymore. Looks like the Ranchers got pushed pretty good, doesn't know if any of these bottom end of these units start at what the objective is now. You're top objective was certain and now you're starting that range up a hundred head or more and going 100 head to 500 head. Why are we going up higher to a range that's a lot higher? Why don't you at least start with the bottom end being the the top end of what you start at? I've never seen an increase in AUM permits on the forest or BLM that I know of. Sometimes you can talk them into extending the off date or something like that, which usually doesn't work for a person's operation. The Division is going to have more Elk. I've got to stay at the same number. As an example, I weaned, my calves were 50 pounds heavier than last year. So, I gained \$2.00, I gained a little more money. But, it I'd had another whole calf out there, maybe it didn't weigh that 50 pounds, but that a lot more money. The calves are bringing \$1500-1800 more dollars a head now. Versus the \$100 - \$200 dollars for the extra weight. Rubbed the wrong way that the Division is saying we've had a good year, there's a lot more forage out there. Thinks there's been one good year. You're getting the benefit from what we've done. There deer checked their calendar, the day my depredation tag expired, they showed up. The deer population outside of my field is a lot better, they're fat and shiny and look good. This range is great, we had to argue until we were blue in the face on the Buffalo to get them to go to a lower number during the drought. Bothered that the low end is a couple hundred over what the low end was last year. Tried to increase his herd, but ended up decreasing it because of the drought. After one

	<p>good year, he's still had to cull the herd. Down 100 head than what he could be and is allotted for. Doesn't sit well, starting at the low end a couple hundred above what the top end was last time. Elk get congregated on one place and you talk about breaking them up, good luck, let me know how that works.</p>
<p>07:21:30</p>	<p>MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Mike Grant, seconded by Tammy Pearson.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's proposals as presented.</p> <p>Motion passed 10-1 (Verland King opposed as for reasons he gave)</p> <p>Russell Gardner: I can vote for this proposal because most of the individuals involved with the plan were on board with it. Believes the RAC will be back to review this plan soon to determine how well it is working</p>
<p>07:24:05</p>	<p>7) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions (Action) - Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief</p> <p>Wyatt presented the Division's recommendations and answered questions from the RAC and community members. Currently, the Division issues permits to individuals who report poaching incidents; however, there have been a few situations that didn't fall cleanly into this rule. These issues are addressed in this presentation.</p> <p>There are four main items in this proposal:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal of Cougar permits from rule. 2. Provide greater protection for those who report poaching incidents, especially where their safety or livelihood could be jeopardized. 3. The rule doesn't address what to do if someone reports two or more poaching events per year. The proposal address this issue. 4. Broadening the scope of charges that would qualify for a poaching reward permit. Right now, it must be a Wanton Destruction of Wildlife (high level of severity) to qualify. This proposal allow a permit to be given for the report of Unlawful Take of a Trophy animal as well.
<p>07:26:37</p>	<p>RAC Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Austin Atkinson: The presentation stated there were between 0-11 permits. Please clarify someone possibly being awarded three or more permits? On average, how many permits are generally awarded each year statewide? ● Unlawful take, can that still be a state felony? ● Whoever turned that type of incident could be awarded a Spike permit?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How many people who call the poaching hotline give you their name rather than remain anonymous? Does this change help address some of that? Remaining anonymous? ● ● Wyatt Bubak: Between six to eight statewide. ● No. Wanton Destruction is the strongest law in Wildlife. Can result in longer suspension times as well as possible felony charges. Reserved for individuals truly abusing resources. Unlawful take usually tops out at a Class B Misdemeanor. Shorter suspension times and obviously no felony conviction on record. ● Wanton Destruction could be someone shoot a Deer in January without a license and using a spotlight. ● Unlawful Take might be someone hunting on a Spike unit and hurries or rushes a shot and shoots an Elk through the trees and it ends up being a branched antlered Elk. ● It wouldn't be under this rule because it must be a "trophy Bull". ● Remaining anonymous? Hard to answer. Not generally. We established a text tip line. All of the texts come in anonymously. So, unless we solicit it or voluntarily provide it, all those tips remain anonymous. Most tips that come through the poaching hotline people are more than willing to provide their name and information. ● The protection issues address spouses, ex-spouses, business partners, etc. where the reporting could potentially have a safety concern. This is mainly to encourage that type of reporting.
<p>07:30:10</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>07:30:26</p>	<p>Public Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Kevin Bunnell (Online comments): Which best describes your position regarding the proposed changes to Poaching-Reported Reward Permits? ● ● Strongly agree: 2 (100%) ● Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) ● Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) ● Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) ● Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) ● Total votes: 2 ● eighted average: $[(0 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (0 * 5)] / 2 = 5$
<p>07:30:39</p>	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <p>None.</p>

<p>07:30:55</p>	<p>MOTIONS The following motion was made by Chuck Chamberlain, seconded by Dan Fletcher.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we accepted the Division’s recommendations as presented.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>07:31:55</p>	<p>Researching Endangered Woundfin in the Virgin River (Informational) - Melinda Bennion, NER Native Aquatic Biologist</p> <p>Melinda presented the research regarding endangered Woundfin in the Virgin River. Answered questions from the RAC and public members. This has been 10 years in the making, Woundfin have been endangered for 53 years. Long-term recovery management species for the Division of Wildlife. The Division wants to be transparent throughout the process.</p>
<p>07:35:37</p>	<p>RAC Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chuck Chamberlain: In the proposal you stated that you are stocking this monthly? ● I got mixed up. So you’ll be checking monthly? For up to five years? ● ● Melinda Bennion: No, we would stocking will be annually for up to five years. They will not be treated as endangered. These fish be be a surplus population and will have no effect to any of the water users in the section. ● Woundfin have a short life cycle. Generally live one to two years in the wild. It will take multiple stockings to look at survival, retention and recruitment. ● Yes, we will be checking monthly. Five years for the stocking and up to 10 years for studying survival post stocking. ● Bart Battista: Water Conservancy being able to remove some of these fish? Can you elaborate? ● Can you guess as to why they might want the fish removed? ● Is it on demand or do they need a legitimate reason to ask that the fish be removed? ● Would that be a legitimate reason to remove the fish? ● Melinda Bennion: If at any point in the study there are concerns raise by any of the constituents and they want the fish removed, the Division has agreed to go in a mechanically remove the fish during this study period.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MOU was put in place to reassure all water users. The question was raised, what if the Woundfin do so well and they populated the stream and we want them gone? • Yes, it would have to be a legitimate reason. The concern would be brought to the Water District and then the Water District would sit down with Virgin River program and the Division of Wildlife to have a conversation about removing the fish. • Bart: Why might that occur? • there would be no • Austin Atkinson: Thanked Melinda for all her hard work, very interesting. Wished her good luck with the project.
07:39:14	<p>Public Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
07:38:27	<p>Public Comments (Not presented during the RAC meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kevin Bunnell (Online comments): Which best describes your position regarding the proposed Woundfin research study? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly agree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat agree: 0 (0%) • Neither agree nor disagree: 0 (0%) • Somewhat disagree: 0 (0%) • Strongly disagree: 0 (0%) • Total votes: 1 • Weighted average: $[(1 * 1) + (0 * 2) + (0 * 3) + (0 * 4) + (0 * 5)] / 1 = 1$
07:39:00	<p>RAC Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None.
07:39:21	<p>Austin Atkinson:</p> <p>NEXT WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING: January 04, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.</p> <p>NEXT SR RAC MEETING: April 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Cedar City, Utah.</p>
07:40:00	<p>MOTIONS</p> <p>The following motion was made by Russell Gardner, seconded by Verland King.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we adjourn the Southern Utah RAC meeting.</p> <p>Motion passed unanimously.</p>

07:40:17	Meeting adjourned.
-----------------	---------------------------

Attachment: Letter from the Dixie
National Forest

**RAC AGENDA
December 13, 2023**

The meeting will stream live at <https://youtube.com/live/W48K9w3oWE4>

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. Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 **ACTION**
- Darren DeBlois, Mammals Coordinator
6. Elk Management Unit Plans **ACTION**
- Daniel Sallee, Wildlife Coordinator
7. Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions **ACTION**
- Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief

Regional Presentations Only

Researching Endangered Woundfin in the Virgin River – SR Only **INFORMATIONAL**
– Melinda Bennion, NER Native Aquatic Biologist

Meeting Locations

CR RAC – Dec. 5th 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources Conference Room
1115 N. Main Street, Springville
https://youtube.com/live/oDTG0PX_fyQ

SER RAC – Dec. 13th 6:00 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River
<https://youtube.com/live/W48K9w3oWE4>

NR RAC – Dec. 6th 6:00
PM Weber County Commission Chambers
2380 Washington Blvd. Suite #240, Ogden
<https://youtube.com/live/qkQ3D3bDtuY>

SR RAC – Dec. 12th 6:00 PM
DNR Richfield City Complex
2031 Industrial Park Rd., Richfield
<https://youtube.com/live/5NoRx-JsKJc>

NER RAC – Dec. 14th 6:00 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave., Vernal
<https://youtube.com/live/oH-o7EHtWTo>

Board Meeting – January 4th 9:00 AM
Eccles Wildlife Education Center,
Farmington Bay
<https://youtube.com/live/b09caB9kv58>

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions**

1) Approval of agenda and minutes **(Action)**

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

Motion: To approve the agenda and minutes from last meeting.

2) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 10-1.

Motion: To approve as presented.

3) Elk Management Unit Plans **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously.

Motion: To pass as proposed.

4) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions **(Action)**

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve as presented.

Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
December 13, 2023
Attendance

RAC Members

Eric Luke – Chair
Dana Truman – Vice Chair
Chris Wood – Exec Secretary

Sunshine Brosi
Charles Fischer
Brad Richman
Joe Sacco
Kirk Player

Steven Duke
Scoot Flannery
Darren Olsen
Cash Stallings
Tyler Gilson

Board Member

Kent Johnson

RAC Excused

Jack Cantsee Jr.

Lynn Sitterud

Justin Ivins

Division Personnel

Mike Canning
Dustin Mitchell
Kade Lazenby
Daniel Sallee

Chris Wood
Brad Crompton
Cheyenne Hudson

Brandon Behling
Darren DeBloois
Wyatt Bubak

**Southeastern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
December 13, 2023
Minutes**

***Note** - The Electronic/Public Comment Report by Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor will not be addressed for each individual agenda item as only one member of the public posted a neutral vote for each item and there were no comments.

00:01:51 **1) Chairman Erik Luke called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. All RAC members introduced themselves.**

00:04:37 **2) Approval and Agenda of Minutes (Action)**

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

Motion: To approve the agenda and minutes from last meeting.

00:05:10 **3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update by Eric Luke (Informational)**

Available at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/news/utah-wildlife-news/1807-watch-the-november-2023-wildlife-board-meeting.html>

00:13:57 **4) Regional Update – Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor (Informational)**

Chris Wood updated the RAC on all regional activities.

00:19:49 **5) Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule R657-33 (Action)**

View Presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Darren DeBloois summarized the proposal. This is the third of the three year recommendation cycle for bears so no permit recommendations are being made. Changes to rule are being recommended to allow hunters to draw their bear tag before they take the mandatory orientation course. Also recommending a change to the plan regarding biologist management strategies and a statewide roll-up of all harvest statistics, recommending that we drop that requirement from the plan.

00:21:45 **Questions from RAC Members/Public**

Possibility to not issue the permit until the orientation has been completed.

Public Questions

Cody Webster with Utah Houndsmen – Explain the three-year backtracking process on the population totals and what's been seen on the La Sal and San Juan as far as numbers and population trends on those units.

Public Comment

Cody Webster with Utah Houndsmen – Understands that it's not the year for permit recommendations. Would like to ask for a 10 tag reduction on the Bookcliffs, Boulder, San Juan and La Sal as data comes from three years before.

Guy Webster – Can see that the density on the Bookcliffs has decreased. Thinks a tag reduction is not something to be set aside and not looked at, at this point in time.

00:30:55 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Possibility of making recommendations for tag reductions this year. Spot and stalk harvest data from last year. Appreciation for houndsmen concerns about the species and any group involved in the process. Some hesitation with orientation course and trusting people to be self-governing and impact on other orientation courses. Discussion on tag decrease for units mentioned. Bear impact on fawn survival and deer herd. Orientation course helpful for youth when applying.

The following motion was made by Scoot Flannery, seconded by Kirk Player and passed 10-1

Motion: To approve the recommendations as presented.

00:44:07 6) Elk Management Unit Plans (Action)

View Presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Daniel Sallee summarized that eight unit plans have recommended changes to population objective and two unit plans were separated. Central Mountain units were separated into the Nebo and Manti. South Slope separated into the Yellowstone and the Bonanza Vernal Diamond Mountain.

00:45:26 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Definition of liberal harvest strategies and effectiveness of such. Possibility of changing objective with changes that may push elk onto public land for Yellowstone for short-term issues. Morgan-South Rich loss on deer herd from overabundance of elk. Sacrificing deer herds to save CWMU elk units. Opposition to any of the proposals. Flexibility for ranges proposed. Yearly adjustments to go through RAC and Board. Possibility of more opportunity for hunters along with conflict for landowners regarding Moroni Hills area on the Nebo unit.

Public Questions

None

Public Comment

None

00:58:42 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Discussion comes back more to CWMU and could be addressed with that committee. Concerns on ability to harvest the amount of elk needed. Tools to be used/implemented to reach objective.

The following motion was made by Dana Truman, seconded by Cash Stallings and passed unanimously

Motion: To accept the division's proposal as presented.

01:03:29 7) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revisions (Action)

View Presentations at <https://wildlife.utah.gov/feedback.html>

Wyatt Bubak summarized the proposal with four updates for this rule. Repeal the cougar portion of the reward permit. With house bill 469 passing, there are no more cougar permits in the state so that portion of the rule is no longer relevant. Implement some allowances that afford protections for reporting parties. Fill in a gap in the rule if people report two or more eligible violations in a single year. Broadening the allowances for which someone can qualify for a reward permit with the difference between wanton destruction and unlawful take.

01:06:11 Questions from RAC Members/Public

Including current cases. Trophy definitions and eligibility for general season units. Dedicated hunters who already have general season tags. Difference between wanton destruction and unlawful take.

Public Questions

None

Public Comment

None

01:15:36 RAC Discussion/Division Clarification and Motions

Glad that this reward is offered and being made more inclusive to encourage good hunting practices. Consider opening up rewards for additional species.

The following motion was made by Charles Fischer, seconded by Dana Truman and passed unanimously.

Motion: To accept the proposal as presented.

01:18:36 Motion to Adjourn: Sunshine Brosi

DRAFT

RAC Members

Attending

Dusty Carpenter
Natasha Hadden
Rebekah Jones
Grizz Oleen-Chair
Nathan Crapo
Richard Buehler
Mark Chenoweth
Jake Huber
Ritchie Anderson
Eric Major

Absent

Brad Horrocks

Ute Tribe Present

Tim Ignacio

Board Members Present

Randy Dearth
Gary Nielsen
Paula Richmond

DWR Personnel

Miles Hanberg
Torrey Christophersen
Tonya Selby
Randall Thacker
Tom Platero
Levi Watkins
Dax Mangus
Dallon Christensen
Mike Christensen
Wyatt Bubak
Darren DeBloois
Daniel Sallee

Northeast Region RAC Meeting
December 14, 2023
Vernal, Utah
Summary of Motions

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Rebecca Jones, and passed unanimously:

MOTION: To approve the Agenda and Minutes as presented.

Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule-R657-33

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Rebecca Jones, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.

Elk Management Unit Plans

The following motion was made by Dusty Carpenter, seconded by Natasha Hadden, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.

Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revision

The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Nathan Crapo, and passed unanimously.

06:00:00	RAC Chair Grizz Oleen called the meeting to order. RAC members introduced themselves and the Chair explained the process that there will be no live presentations or public comments taken during the meeting.
06:03:41	<p>2) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)</p> <p>The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Rebecca Jones, and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda and minutes as presented.</p>
06:04:10	<p>3) Wildlife Board Meeting (Informational)</p> <p>RAC Chair Grizz Oleen updated the RAC.</p>
06:11:21	<p>4) DWR Update (Informational)</p> <p>Miles Hanberg updated the RAC on all regional activities.</p>
06:21:15	<p>5) <u>Utah Black Bear Management Plan Revision and Rule-R657-33</u></p> <p>-Darren DeBloois, Mammals Coordinator</p>
06:23:50	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>How much flexibility do you have in changing permit numbers?</p> <p>What is the purpose behind the orientation course? When does it need to be done?</p> <p>When are the next permit recommendations?</p>
<p>06:30:10</p> <p>6:33:20</p> <p>06:33:50</p> <p>06:36:09</p>	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>Jason Binder- What was the success percentage for the spring bear hunt? Sow, cub survival rate?</p> <p>Unknown-So you can go to the field without the course?</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <p>Miles Hanberg summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Jason Binder-Sow's harvest is too high. It feels like there is a lot of loss in cubs and sows. They take longer to recover.</p> <p>RAC Discussion</p>

	<p>Dallon Christensen and Darren Deblois elaborate on Sow numbers.</p> <p>Orientation courses should be across the board.</p> <p>Miles elaborates on bear numbers.</p> <p>Discussion on Bear units and numbers.</p>
06:51:11	<p>5) The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Rebecca Jones, and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.</p>
06:52:16	<p>6) <u>Elk Management Unit Plans</u></p> <p>-Daniel Sallee, Wildlife Coordinator</p>
06:54:00	<p>RAC Questions</p> <p>Curious about the Landowner Bull Hunt proposal for 2024.</p> <p>Dallon Christensen elaborates.</p> <p>Decreasing population, making an increase, Book Cliffs included?</p> <p>How many units are over/under-objective?</p> <p>Daniel Sallee elaborates.</p> <p>RAC discusses Wildlife moving on and off SS Yellowstone/ tribal lands.</p> <p>Randall Thacker elaborates.</p>
07:06:26	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>None</p> <p>Online Public Comments</p> <p>Miles Hanberg summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p> <p>Public Comments</p> <p>Jaran Hansen-Utah Farm Bureau- In support of recommendations</p> <p>Bob Christensen-Elk hunter-In support of recommendations.</p>
07:10:41	<p>RAC Discussion RAC members discussed ranchers' concerns/fairly supportive.</p> <p>Will Elk population increase help the Deer population?</p> <p>Daniel Sallee elaborates.</p>

07:24:55	<p>6) The following motion was made by Dusty Carpenter, seconded by Natasha Hadden, and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.</p>
07:26:55	<p><u>7) Poaching Reported Reward Permits Rule Revision</u> -Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief.</p>
07:30:00	<p>RAC Questions and RAC Discussion</p> <p>What are the consequences of poaching? Baiting rule question. Permit numbers change? How often do charges get dropped? What is the definition of a Spike? How does poaching reward work? Wyatt Bubak elaborates and gives examples.</p>
07:44:00	<p>Public Questions</p> <p>None</p> <p>Online Public Comments</p> <p>Miles Hanberg summarized public comments received from the online presentation.</p>
07:44:36	<p>7) The following motion was made by Natasha Hadden, seconded by Nathan Crapo, and passed unanimously.</p> <p>MOTION: To accept as presented by the Division.</p>
07:46:00	<p>Meeting adjourned.</p>



SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DIEDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Wyatt Bubak, Law Enforcement Chief

DATE: December 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Inedible byproducts

In May 2023, the Utah Wildlife Board passed a revision of the Big Game Rule (R657-5), prohibiting the sale of certain inedible byproducts derived from big game animals.

Due to the impact the rule change had on existing industry, the Senate's Rule Committee repealed this portion of rule in November and asked the DWR to work with industry to come up with an acceptable alternative; one that adequately addresses the concerns of both parties and allows for continued industry operation.

Since meeting with the Senate, the DWR has been in regular communication with industry members to identify potential compromises and feel that compromise is realistic and possible. Assuming such is the case, the Senate asked that a bill be presented this legislative session. This bill would be codifying agreed upon standards.



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Natural Resources

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 18, 2023
To: Utah Wildlife Board
From: Rusty Robinson, Once-in-a-lifetime Species Coordinator
Subject: Shed Antler Gathering Committee Update (Informational)

Committee recommendations on season dates and emergency closures

- Resident/non-resident
 - No season dates for residents.
 - Season dates for non-residents (May 1-December 31).
 - Special rules for bordering states with no restrictions on Utah residents.
- Emergency closures
 - Tie emergency closures to triggers set forth in emergency feeding plan.
 - Emergency closures statewide.

Permits or licenses

- Age and license requirements
 - No license or permit required for participants 11 and under.
 - Hunting or combination license required for participants ages 12-17.
 - Hunting or combination license **and** shed antler gathering permit required for participants 18 and older.
- Certificate of registration (COR) requirement for commercial shed antler buyers.

Additional recommendations

Legislative and rule changes will be required to assign restitution values for shed antlers, make changes regarding antler crafts and dog chews, define commercial shed antler buyer, etc.

Timeline

- Present informational to Wildlife Board in January.
- Legislative session concludes in March.
- Present action item to Wildlife Board in summer of 2024.
- Changes go into effect in spring of 2025.





SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DIEDRE M. HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

JOEL FERRY
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

J. SHIRLEY
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Craig Walker, Assistant Chief Aquatics Section

DATE: December 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Additional correction to prohibited fish species list

The DWR is requesting that Convict Cichlid be removed from the list of prohibited species outlined in R657-3c and R657-13-13.

The list of prohibited fish species under R657-3c and R657-13-13 was approved by the Utah Wildlife Board on November 28, 2023. At that time Convict Cichlid, a commonly sold ornamental fish species, was included on the prohibited list. In order to prevent conflict with the ornamental pet industry and any interference with interstate commerce, DWR is requesting that Convict Cichlid be removed from the prohibited list under R657-3c and R657-13-13. As with other commonly sold ornamental fishes, Convict Cichlid would be classified as non-controlled once removed from the prohibited list.

CAW