

RAC AGENDA – July/August 2013



- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair | |
| 2. | Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair | |
| 3. | Wildlife Board Meeting Update
- RAC Chair | |
| 4. | Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor | INFORMATIONAL |
| 5. | Turkey Depredation
- Jason Robinson, Upland Coordinator | INFORMATIONAL |
| 6. | Waterfowl Guidebook and Rule R657-09
- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. | R657-66 Military Installations Permit Program
- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 8. | Proposed Fee Schedule FY 2015
- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 9. | R657-60 AIS Rule Amendments
- Jordan Nielson, AIS Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. | Cougar Recommendations
- John Shivik, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. | Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations
- John Shivik, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. | Goat Management Plans – Mt. Dutton and La Sal
- Guy Wallace, Dustin Schaible, Wildlife Biologists | ACTION |

Regional Presentations Only

- | | | |
|-----------|---|----------------------|
| NRO & CRO | R657-52 Brine Shrimp Rule Amendments
- John Luft, Brine Shrimp Coordinator | ACTION |
| NRO | Aquatics Informational – Willard Bay | INFORMATIONAL |

Meeting Locations

- | | | | |
|------------------|---|------------------------|--|
| SR RAC – | July 30 th 7:00 PM
Belknap Elementary School
510 N. 650 E., Beaver | CR RAC – | Aug. 6th 6:30 PM
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville |
| SER RAC – | July 31st 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main St., Green River | NR RAC – | Aug. 7th 6:00 PM
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 W., Brigham City |
| NER RAC – | Aug. 1st 6:30 PM
NERO Office
318 N. Vernal Ave., Vernal | Board Meeting – | August 22nd 9:00 AM
DNR - Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT |



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

July 12, 2013

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members
FROM: Blair Stringham
Waterfowl Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2013-14 Waterfowl Season Recommendations

The results of this year's North American Duck Breeding Pair Survey and May Pond Survey have been released and generally indicate average to above-average habitat conditions and average to above-average duck breeding populations for this year. Overall, the total pond estimate (a measure of habitat quantity) was 24% higher than last year and 35% higher than the long-term average.

The total duck breeding population estimate decreased by 6% from 2012 and was 33% above the long-term average. Mallard, shoveler, gadwall, green-winged teal, redhead and canvasback were all above their population objectives. Scaup are down 20% from 2012 and below their long-term average. Pintail were similar to last year and are still below population objectives.

Canada goose breeding populations and production in Utah increased from last year and are slightly below the long-term average. The Rocky Mountain Population as a whole continues to do well throughout its entire range and remains well above population objectives. This year the Division is recommending a change to the Canada goose hunting zones. The Northern Zone will be modified to only include Box Elder county and the Urban Zone will be created to address nuisance goose issues in Davis, Salt Lake, Weber, Utah, and Washington Counties. This zone will have a later ending date to increase harvest of geese utilizing urban areas.

White goose populations in the Pacific Flyway continue to do well and exceeded 820,000 geese during the December survey in 2012. In response to growing populations, and to increasing agricultural damage complaints, the Division will be recommending increasing the daily bag to 20/day. We will also be recommending the use of electronic callers during the February and March portions of the light goose season. Additionally, the light goose season outside the Northern and Urban Zone will begin and end a week later than last year.

General season duck harvest frameworks are driven by the status of mallard breeding populations. In 2008, a Western Mallard Harvest Strategy was implemented to determine harvest regulations in the Pacific Flyway. Based on mallard population data in 2013, it is anticipated that the "Liberal" season package will be recommended again by the Pacific Flyway Council. Pintail, canvasback, and scaup regulations are determined by species-specific harvest strategies. Based on 2013 status information, it's anticipated that seasons and bag limits for pintail and canvasback will remain the same for 2013 and scaup will be reduced to an 86-day season and bag of three; however, the final details are not currently available. The Division will bring a modified set of regulation proposals for these species to the RAC's if things change from our current recommendations.



Page 2
July 15, 2013
Subject:

There has been a considerable amount of effort to increase wood duck populations in the state. We have seen an increase in wood duck abundance and an increase in hunting pressure. In order to reduce the impact of hunting on wood ducks, the Division is recommending a reduction in the bag from 7 to 2.

Swan populations continue to do well and the Division is not recommending any changes to swan harvest regulations.

It is anticipated that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will allow states the option of increasing their migratory game bird species possession limits to three-times the daily bag for the 2013 hunting seasons. Therefore, the Division recommends increasing the possession limit for all migratory game bird species to three-times the daily bag.

The Division is recommending these changes on our waterfowl management areas:

Clear Lake: entire WMA will be recommended as a motorless-only area due to extremely shallow water depths and reduced water flows.

Public Shooting Grounds: Pintail Unit will be open to mud motors and Widgeon Unit will become a motorless-only unit.

Specific season and bag recommendations for the 2013-2014 Utah waterfowl season are as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Date</u>
Youth Day	9/28/2013
Duck, Merg., Coot (7/21)	10/5/2013 – 1/18/2014; 7/21 (2 fem. mall, 2 pin, 2 red, 1 can, 3 scaup, 2 wood ducks)
Scaup Season	10/5 – 12/28/2013
Dark Goose (3/9)	
Northern Zone	10/5/2013 – 1/18/2014
Urban Zone	10/5/2013 – 10/17/2013; 11/2/2013 – 2/2/2014
Rest of the State	10/5/2013 – 10/17/2013; 10/26/2013 – 1/26/2014
Light Goose (20/60)	
Northern/Urban Zone	10/25/2013 – 1/18/2014; 2/18/2014 – 3/10/2014
Rest of the State	10/22/2013 – 1/26/2014; 3/1/2014 – 3/10/2014
Snipe (8/24)	10/5/2013 – 1/18/2014
Falconry (3/9)	10/5/2013 – 1/18/2014
Swan (1 with permit)	10/5/2013 – 12/14/2013; 2000 Permits

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-9. Taking Waterfowl, Common Snipe and Coot.

R657-9-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 50 CFR 32.64 and 50 CFR 27.21, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking waterfowl, Common snipe, and coot.

(2) Specific dates, areas, limits, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, Common snipe and coot.

R657-9-15. Amplified Bird Calls.

A person may not use recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds or recorded or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds[.] [except as authorized by the Wildlife Board and specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, Common snipe and coot.](#)

KEY: wildlife, birds, migratory birds, waterfowl

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: November 27, 2012

Notice of Continuation August 16, 2011

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-19; 23-14-18; 50 CFR part 20

Proposal



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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

Gregory Sheehan
Division Director

To: Regional Advisory Council

Re: Rule R657-66 Military Installations New Rule

The purpose of this rule is to allow the division to enter memorandum of understanding (MOU) with military installation units for the purpose of hunting big game. These agreements will open access to new hunting areas for qualified military personnel and the general public.

The military installation base commander will provide the division with a plan to allow hunting access including how many permits they are requesting, and how they plan to distribute them fairly and equitably to military personnel. When satisfied with the plan, the division will sign the MOU. One permit or 20% of the total requested for military personnel will be made available to the general public through the division's annual bucks and bulls online draw process.

Kenneth Johnson
Administrative Services
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-66. Military Installation Permit Program.

R657-66-1. Purpose and Authority.

Under the authority of Sections 23-14-1, 23-14-3, 23-14-18, and 23-14-19, this rule establishes the standards and procedures for providing hunting opportunity on military installations to military installation personnel and to members of the public.

R657-66-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Military Installation" means real property in excess of 10,000 contiguous acres that is:

(i) Owned and managed by a military branch of the Department of Defense, including the Utah National Guard;

(ii) Located within the State of Utah

(iii) Closed to the public for hunting access;

(iv) Has a clearly discernible and described property boundary; and

(v) Supports a huntable population of wildlife.

(b) "Commander" means base commander of a Military Installation.

(c) "Military Installation Unit" or "MIU" means a contiguous area of land located on a Military Installation that is open to hunting because of the Installation's participation in the Military Installation Permit Program.

(d) "Permit voucher" means a document issued by the Division to the Commander which may be assigned to qualifying military installation personnel authorizing that individual to purchase a permit to hunt wildlife on the military installation.

R657-66-3. Creation of a Military Installation Unit.

(1) The Commander may request to create an MIU by submitting a written request to the Division.

(2) If the Division determines that the creation of an MIU will not endanger the wildlife resource and is otherwise in the best interest of the Division and its constituents, the Division and the Commander may enter into a cooperative agreement describing the procedures and restrictions for the creation of the MIU.

(3) The cooperative agreement shall define the following items:

(a) the boundaries of the MIU;

(b) the species which may be hunted;

(c) a description of how Division input and guidance will be used in establishing the requested number of MIU permits;

(d) the weapon types allowed;

(e) the season dates during which the MIU will be open to hunting;

(f) a description of eligibility requirements for military personnel to receive a permit voucher;

(g) the means by which the Commander will distribute permit vouchers;

(h) measures necessary to ensure security of the Military Installation during the hunt; and

(i) other measures necessary deemed appropriate by the Division and the Commander.

(4) An MIU may not be established without the guarantee of public hunting opportunity on the MIU.

(5) The Military Installation, Commander, and agents, employees, personnel and contractors of the same shall not profit off of the creation or operation of an MIU.

R657-66-4. Military Installation Permit Numbers, Permit Boundaries, Season Lengths, and Legal Weapons.

(1) The Commander shall submit requested permit allocations to the Wildlife Board by September 1 annually.

(2) The Wildlife Board shall have authority to approve, reduce, or deny the number of MIU permits available from the number requested by the Commander, consistent with the following:

(a) The number of permit vouchers available shall be based on the species population trend, size, and distribution to protect the long-term health of the population; and

(b) For each MIU having permit vouchers approved by the Wildlife Board, at least one (1) permit per approved species, or 20% of the total number of permits approved per species rounded up to the nearest whole number, whichever is greater, shall be made available to members of the general public via the Division's permit drawing.

(3) The boundaries of the MIU dictated in the cooperative agreement shall be clearly described and discernible on the ground of the military installation and shall be considered the general permit boundaries for hunting permits issued pursuant to this Rule.

(4) The season dates for hunting under a Military Installation Permit shall include a maximum of September 1 to October 31 annually.

(5) Season dates may be shortened and boundaries of the MIU may be modified by definition in the cooperative agreement or by written declaration of the Commander prior to issuance of a Military Installation Permit for the season date in question.

(6) The Commander may further restrict the weapon types allowed on the MIU from what is identified in the cooperative agreement prior to the distribution of the permit vouchers.

(7) All weapons allowed for a Military Installation hunt shall conform to the rules and regulations describing legal weapons used in the taking of protected wildlife.

(8) The Commander is responsible for communicating all modifications of season dates, MIU boundaries, and legal weapon choices to the Division and those participating in an MIU hunt.

R657-66-5. Distribution of Military Installation Permit Vouchers and Permits.

(1) The Division shall distribute permit vouchers approved by the Wildlife Board to the Commander, retaining the number of permits as defined in Utah Administrative Rule R657-66-4(2)(b) to distribute via the Division's annual permit drawing.

(2) The Commander shall assign permit vouchers received from the Division using the scheme described in the cooperative agreement outlining the creation of the MIU.

(3) The distribution scheme used by the Commander shall be fair and equitable and shall comply with state and federal laws.

(4) Neither the Commander nor the Military Installation may sell or receive compensation of any kind for a permit voucher or for allowing hunting access on the Military Installation under this Rule.

(5) MIU permits and permit vouchers may not be donated, auctioned, sold, traded, or otherwise transferred to third parties, except as provided for by state law, administrative rule, or proclamation of the Wildlife Board.

(6) An individual receiving a Military Installation Permit Voucher may redeem the voucher for a Military Installation Permit by:

- (a) Paying the appropriate permit fee to the Division;
- (b) Possessing a valid Utah hunting or combination license; and
- (c) Being otherwise legally qualified to hunt in Utah.

(7) An individual may apply for a Military Installation Permit made available to the public by:

- (a) Submitting an application in the permit drawing administered by the Division;
- and
- (b) paying the associated application fee.

(8) An individual who successfully draws a Military Installation Permit in the permit drawing may redeem their permit by:

- (a) Paying the appropriate permit fee to the Division;
- (b) Possessing a valid Utah hunting or combination license; and
- (c) Being otherwise legally qualified to hunt in Utah.

(9) As a condition of being issued an Military Installation Permit, the hunter recognizes the inherent risks associated with Military Installations, and agrees to comply with the terms and conditions established in the cooperative agreement, those issued by the Commander, and the laws and regulations pertaining to hunting in the state of Utah.

(10) Waiting periods and bonus points do not apply to military personnel participating in the distribution scheme administered by the Commander, nor are waiting periods incurred or existing points lost upon obtaining a permit.

(11) Waiting periods and bonus points apply to military personnel and members of the public who apply for a Military Installation Permit through the permit drawing.

(12) A member of the military who may otherwise qualify to receive a Military Installation Permit voucher may apply for a Military Installation Permit through the permit drawing, but becomes subject to the rules and regulations applicable to a member of the general public in the event that they successfully draw a permit.

(13) An individual who harvests an animal during a Military Installation hunt may not harvest another animal of the same species during that license year, except as described in the cooperative agreement establishing the MIU or as provided for by the Wildlife Board.

(14) Either the Division or the Commander can discontinue participation in the Military Installation Permit Program by providing prior written notice to the other party.

R657-66-6. Replacement Vouchers and Permits; Refunds.

(1) Military Installation Permits shall be considered limited entry permits for the purposes of variances, permit surrender, refunds, and accommodations for people with disabilities in the event that a designated recipient of a voucher or permit is unable to participate in the hunting activity.

(2) The Division may reissue an assigned permit voucher to the Commander for issuance to another qualifying person, provided:

(a) The original recipient surrenders to the Division the permit voucher and any corresponding hunting permit; and

(b) The surrender is made prior to the permit holder undertaking any hunting activity.

(3) The Division shall not be responsible for interference with the public's hunt on the MIU by members of the military or other third parties.

(4) In the event that the individual receiving a permit voucher and/or permit under this Rule cannot participate in the hunt due to military service obligations, that individual may pursue a refund for fees paid consistent with Utah Code Ann. § 23-19-38.2.

R657-66-7. Administrative Access During Hunting Seasons; Collection of Harvest Data.

(1) Division law enforcement officers may access the military installation to regulate hunting related activities thereon.

(2) Those participating in the military installation permit program shall complete a harvest report within 30 days after the hunt ends.

(3) Harvest reporting is required even if an animal is not harvested.

KEY: wildlife, military installations

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: New Rule

Notice of Continuation: New Rule

Authorizing, and implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-1; 23-14-3; 23-14-18; 23-14-19



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

Gregory Sheehan
Division Director

To: Regional Advisory Council
Re: Proposed Fee Schedule FY2015

The purpose of this action item is to propose modifications to the current fee schedule. The division will be proposing a strategic adjustment in fees that will provide significant savings for youth hunters and anglers, senior hunters and anglers, and Veteran anglers with disabilities.

The division will also propose other adjustments to the structure and fees of hunting, fishing, and combination license categories. The division will also present slight modifications to fees for participation in its shooting centers. Finally, the division will propose fee increases in our real estate related applications, amendments, and other miscellaneous rates to align itself with those charged by other state agencies SITLA in particular.

Kenneth Johnson
Administrative Services
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources



Fishing	Current	Proposed	Difference	Quantity	New Revenue
Resident 365 day 18 over	\$ 26	\$ 34	\$ 8	156,024	\$ 1,248,192
Nonresident 365 day 18 Over	\$ 70	\$ 75	\$ 5	10,737	\$ 53,685
Resident Youth 365 day age 14-17	\$ 26	\$ 16	\$ (10)	16,000	\$ (160,000)
Resident 1 day any age	\$ 8	\$ -	\$ (8)	31,478	\$ (251,824)
Resident 3 day any age (replace 1 day)	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 16	29,678	\$ 474,848
Resident 7 day any age	\$ 16	\$ 20	\$ 4	8,432	\$ 33,728
Resident 365 age 65 over	\$ 21	\$ 25	\$ 4	15,429	\$ 61,716
Resident Multi Year (up to 5) 18 over	\$ -	\$33/Year	Up to 5yr	-	\$ -
Nonresident Multi Year (up to 5) 18 over	\$ -	\$74/Year	Up to 5yr	-	\$ -
Resident 2 Pole any age	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ (15)	18,314	\$ (274,710)
Nonresident 2 Pole any age	\$ 15	\$ -	\$ (15)	2,400	\$ (36,000)
Nonresident 1 day any age	\$ 12	\$ -	\$ (12)	61,663	\$ (739,956)
Nonresident 3 day any age (replace 1 day)	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 24	58,063	\$ 1,393,512
Nonresident 7 day any age	\$ 32	\$ 40	\$ 8	31,297	\$ 250,376
Nonresident Youth 365 day 14-17	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 25	400	\$ 10,000
Resident Fish Setline any age	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 5	194	\$ 970
Nonresident Setline any age	\$ 15	\$ 20	\$ 5	15	\$ 75
Resident Veteran Disability	\$ 21	\$ 12	\$ (9)	60	\$ (540)
Total Fishing New Projected Revenue					\$ 2,064,072

Hunting	Current	Proposed	Difference	Quantity	New Revenue
Resident 365 age 14 -17	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 16	265	\$ 4,240
Resident 365 age 18 over	\$ 26	\$ 34	\$ 8	5,617	\$ 44,936
Resident 365 age 65 over	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ 25	278	\$ 6,950
Nonresident 3 day Small Game	\$ 25	\$ 32	\$ 7	642	\$ 4,494
Resident Multi Year (up to 5) 18 over	\$ -	\$33/Year	Up to 5yr	-	\$ -
Nonresident Multi Year (up to 5)	\$ -	\$64/Year	Up to 5yr	-	\$ -
Nonresident 365 Youth 14-17	\$ -	\$ 25		160	\$ 4,000
Resident 365 Hunter Ed Hunting	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ (10)	11,781	\$ (117,810)
Nonresident 365 Hunter Ed Hunting	\$ 10	\$ -	\$ (10)	109	\$ (1,090)
Sportsmans Elk Premium (2/year)	\$ 280	\$ 508	\$ 228	2	\$ 456
Total Hunting New Projected Revenue					\$ (53,824)

Combination Fishing/Hunting	Current	Proposed	Difference	Quantity	New Revenue
Resident 365 day 18 over	\$ 30	\$ 38	\$ 8	147,887	\$ 1,183,096
Nonres 365 day 18 over	\$ 80	\$ 85	\$ 5	5,000	\$ 27,560
Resident Youth 14 - 17	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ (18)	5,500	\$ (99,000)
Resident 365 day 65 over	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ (9)	6,936	\$ (62,424)
Resident 365 day Hunter Ed Completion	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ 12	11,781	\$ 141,372
Nonresident 365 day Hunter Ed Completion	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ 12	109	\$ 1,308
Resident Multi Year (up to 5) 18 over	\$ -	\$37/Year	Up to 5 Yr	-	\$ -
Nonresident Multi year 18 over	\$ -	\$84/Year	Up to 5 YR	-	\$ -
Nonresident Youth 365 day under 18	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ (56)	500	\$ (28,000)
Total Combination New Projected Revenue					\$ 1,163,912

Misc. Shooting Range Fees	Current	Proposed	Difference	Quantity	New Revenue
Shooting Ranges 10 punch pass shotgun	\$ 45	up to \$95	\$ -	370	\$ -
10 Punch pass Adult Rifle/Archery/Handgun	\$ -	\$45 to \$95	\$ -	300	\$ -
10 punch pass Youth Rifle/Archery/Handgun	\$ -	\$15 to \$45	\$ -	20	\$ -
Annual Rifle/Archery/Handgun admission	\$ -	\$50 to \$100	\$ -		
Adult Rifle/Archery/Handgun admission	\$ 5	up to \$10	\$ -		
Youth Rifle/Archery/Handgun admission	\$ 2	up to \$5	\$ -		
Total Shooting Range New Projected Revenue					\$ -

Misc. Real Estate Fees	Current	Proposed	Difference	Quantity	New Revenue
Lease Application	\$ 50	\$ 250	\$ 200		
Easement Right of Way Application	\$ 50	\$ 750	\$ 700		\$ 25,125
Ammendment Right of Way Easement	\$ 25	\$ 400	\$ 375		\$ 1,800
Ammendment Right of Entry	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$ 25		
Assignments : Easements, Grazing Permits, Right of Entry, Special Use	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250		\$ 250
Easements Oil and Gas Pipelines	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250		
Pipeline Diameters <2"	\$ 6	\$ 9.40	\$ 3		
02" - 13"	\$ 12	\$ 19	\$ 7		
13.1" - 37"	\$ 24	\$ 38	\$ 14		
>37"	\$ 48	\$ 75	\$ 27		
Easement Pipeline Revenue Total			\$ -		\$ 52,415
Misc. Real Estate Fee Revenue					\$ 79,590
Total Projected Revenue Combined					\$ 3,253,750



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MICHAEL R. STYLER
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Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

DATE: July 1, 2013

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: John Luft

Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Program Manager

SUBJECT: Changes to R657-52 (Brine Shrimp Rule)

It has been some time since R657-52 otherwise known as the Brine Shrimp Rule has been revised. Despite this inactivity, there have been numerous changes within the brine shrimp industry as well as updates to the rule that are overdue.

Over the past year, the Division of Wildlife Resources has had several meetings with representatives from all brine shrimp companies to exchange ideas on improving the current rule. Those meetings resulted in suggested changes from both parties. Not all changes were agreed upon. However, only the mutually agreed upon changes have been recommended.

The following sections are identified where the changes occur. Nearly all are simple clarifications that help the industry with interpretation and a brief description is given following the identified section. Each one has been highlighted in the copy of the Rule.

R657-52-9(1)(c) This allows the harvesters to keep cards in a secure location at the sight rather than risk an individual losing it.

R657-52-9(2)(c) All of the bags leaving the lake must be labeled and accompanied by a landing receipt so there is no need for the driver to have a helper card.

R657-52-10(3)(b) This is an outdated system using facsimile and should be updated to include an online reporting system. It additionally helps to ensure a process is in place in case of malfunction or power loss.

R657-52-15(1)(e)(i) A label with the harvest date allows DWR personnel to verify daily harvest reports.

R657-52-15(1)(e)(ii) A label with the harvest date allows DWR personnel to verify daily harvest reports.

R657-52-16(1)(b) This section maintains consistency with the rule as stated in a following section. (R657-52-16(8))

R-657-52-17(1)(b) Boom may be left along the shore or dikes as well as open water if it meets the criteria mentioned in this section.

R657-52-17(3)(b) This specifically addresses the 300 yard protection on the shore from another company without changing the ability for DWR law enforcement to locate the harvester who is not engaged in harvesting activities.

R657-52-17(3)(c) This allows speed boats and shore harvesters to have the 300 yard encroachment protection without regard to harvest activity. They must only be present.

R657-52-18(1) It is no longer illegal to drive through a streak on the lake unless it is within the 300 yard radius of a harvest boat.

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-52. Commercial Harvesting of Brine Shrimp and Brine Shrimp Eggs.

R657-52-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-3, 23-14-18, 23-14-19, Sections 23-15-7 through 23-15-9, and 23-19-1(2), this rule provides the procedures, standards, and requirements for commercially harvesting brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs.

(2) The objective of this rule is to protect, manage, and conserve the brine shrimp resource based upon the best available data and information and adequately preserve the Great Salt Lake ecosystem while recognizing the economic value of allowing the harvest of brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs and maintaining a sustainable brine shrimp population.

R657-52-9. Use of Helpers.

(1)(a) Except as hereafter provided in Subsection (2), any person aiding the certificate of registration holder, a primary seiner, or alternate seiner in harvesting brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs shall be in possession of a helper card.

(b) Three individual helper cards are issued with the certificate of registration.

(c) A helper card shall be deemed to be in possession if it is on the person or on the boat [or at the harvest location](#) from which the person is working.

(2)(a) A helper card is not required of any person engaged only in the retail sale or transportation of brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs.

(b) A person directing harvest operations from a plane for a certificate of registration holder does not have to have a helper card.

(c) The driver of a truck transporting brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs from the lake to a storage or processing plant does not have to have a helper card. Any crew member loading brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs into a truck ~~[must]~~ [does not need to](#) have a helper card in possession.

(3) Helper cards are issued in the name of the certificate of registration holder and are transferable among individuals assisting the certificate of registration holder.

(4)(a) A helper may assist in the harvest of brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs only while working under the direct supervision of a primary or alternate seiner.

(b) For purposes of this rule, "direct supervision" means to be physically present, either on a boat with the helper or within close proximity so as to be able to provide direct instructions to the helper.

(5) Twelve additional helper cards for each certificate of registration may be obtained from the wildlife registration office at any time during the year.

R657-52-10. Records - Report of Activities.

(1) Any person or business entity issued a certificate of registration to harvest brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs shall keep accurate records of the weight harvested and to whom the product is sold.

(2) The records required under Subsection (1) shall be retained for at least five years and must be available for inspection upon division request.

(3) Certificate of registration holders shall submit the following reports to the Great Salt Lake Ecosystem Project office for each certificate of registration:

(a) A weekly harvest report documenting the total amount of brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs, by raw weight, harvested each day of the reporting week. The reports must be prepared by a person working for the reporting company, and the reports must be received or postmarked by Monday of each week.

(b) A daily harvest report documenting the total amount of brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs, by raw weight, harvested each day. The report shall be filed no later than 12 hours after the end of the previous calendar day. The report [~~may be filed utilizing a voice mail system linked to a dedicated phone number provided or the report may be filed by fax to a dedicated phone number~~]shall be filed utilizing an electronic communication medium approved by the Division after consultation with the certificate of registration holders. The report must be prepared or given by a person working for the reporting company.

(i) In the event the approved electronic communication medium malfunctions or is inoperable, daily harvest reports shall be filed no later than six hours after being notified that the system is operational.

(c) A weekly report of all landing receipts prepared pursuant to Section R657-52-14 during the reporting week. The report must be prepared or given by a person working for the reporting company, and must be received by the division or postmarked by Monday of each week.

(4) Report forms may be obtained from the division.

R657-52-15. Identification of Equipment.

(1)(a) Any boat used for harvesting operations must be identifiable from the air, water and land with either the company name, company initials or certificate of registration number. A camp or base of operations located on or near the shoreline must be marked so it is visible from the air and land with either the company name, company initials, or certificate of registration number. Boat markings denoting the company name, company initials or certificate of registration number, must be visible from a distance of 500 yards when on the lake.

(b) The letters or numbers shall be visible at all times, written clearly and shall meet the following requirements:

(i) letters or numbers on the top of a boat shall be at least 36 inches in height;

(ii) letters or numbers used on the sides of a boat shall be at least 24 inches in height, except that boats with inflatable hulls may use letters and numbers that are 12 inches in height;

(iii) letters or numbers used on a camp or base of operations sign shall be at least 24 inches in height; and

(iv) all letters and numbers used for identification purposes shall be of reflective white tape with a solid black background.

(c) Identification may be done with a magnetic sign placed on top of and the sides of the vehicle or boat.

(d) Each continuous segment of boom that may be coupled together shall be marked to denote the company's name, initials, or certificate of registration number. The markings shall consist of letters or numbers at least three inches in height.

(e) All containers filled or partially filled with brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs and left unattended on the shore or in a vehicle parked on the shore shall be individually

marked with [the harvest dates and](#) either the company name, company initials or certificate of registration number under which the product was harvested. Each container shall be marked as follows:

(i) the company name, company initials or the certificate of registration number shall be permanently and legibly marked at a visible location on the exterior surface of the container; [and](#)

[\(A\) the harvest dates marked on a durable, waterproof tag securely and visibly attached to the exterior surface of the container;](#) or

(ii) [the harvest dates and](#) the company name, company initials or the certificate of registration number shall be permanently and legibly marked on a durable, waterproof tag securely and visibly attached to the exterior surface of the container.

(f) "Shore" for purposes of this section, shall include all lands within one mile of the body of water where the product was harvested. "Shore" does not include permanent structures affixed to the land and operated for purposes of storing or processing brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs, provided the name of the structure's current owner or tenant is visibly marked on the exterior of the structure.

R657-52-16. Certificate of Registration Markers.

(1)(a) One certificate of registration marker corresponding to each certificate of registration shall be displayed at each harvest location as follows:

(i) on the boat with the certificate of registration on board;

(ii) on the harvest boat or attached to the boom;

(iii) in the water at the harvest location; or

(iv) on the shore while harvesting brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs from shore.

(b) No more than one certificate of registration marker shall be displayed at each harvest [location without permission from the company that first began harvesting at that location.](#)

(c) An original certificate of registration shall be present at the harvest location where the corresponding certificate of registration marker is displayed.

(2) A certificate of registration marker shall consist of a piece of equipment, furnished by the harvesters, constructed in accordance with the following specifications:

(a) A six foot long piece of tubing with a weight at one end.

(b) This piece of tubing shall have a fluorescent orange ball that is a minimum of eighteen inches in diameter, mounted in the approximate center of the length of tubing. The fluorescent orange ball shall have the certificate of registration number, corresponding to the certificate of registration decal attached to the marker pursuant Subsection R657-52-16(2)(c), marked in two places with indelible black paint. The painted certificate of registration numbers shall be a minimum of twelve inches in height.

(c) Mounted above the orange ball towards the un-weighted end of the tubing shall be a decal issued by the division which denotes the certificate of registration in use and corresponding to the certificate of registration marker device.

(d) Mounted on the tubing between the orange ball and the un-weighted end of the tubing, shall be an aluminum radar reflector that is a minimum of fifteen inches square.

(e) Mounted above the radar reflector shall be a three-inch wide band of silver reflective tape.

(f) Mounted on the un-weighted end of this tubing shall be an amber light that at night is visible for up to one-half mile and flashes 30 times per minute, minimum.

(3) The certificate of registration marker must be displayed in a manner that is:

(a) visible in all directions at a distance of 500 yards; or

(b) displayed above the superstructure of any vessel that a certificate of registration is being used from.

(4) The amber light on a displayed marker device must be operating at all times between sunset and sunrise.

(5) A brine shrimp harvester shall not display an amber light at night, or an orange ball or other device which simulates the certificate of registration marker device, without having the corresponding, original certificate of registration at the harvest location.

(6) Brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs may not be harvested in any manner, nor may a harvest location be claimed unless and until an original copy of the certificate of registration is at the harvest location and the corresponding certificate of registration marker is properly displayed as required in this section.

(7) The certificate of registration and corresponding certificate of registration marker shall not be transported to the harvest location by aircraft.

(a) "Aircraft" for purposes of this section, means any contrivance now known or in the future invented, used, or designed for navigation of or flight in the air.

(8) A person may not harvest any brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs within a 300 yard radius of a certificate of registration marker displayed at a harvest location without permission from the company that first began harvesting in that location.

R657-52-17. Use of Booms.

(1)(a) A primary seiner, alternate seiner, or helper must remain within one mile of any boom attached to the shore, whether open or closed, 24 hours a day so that an officer may easily locate the person tending the boom.

(b) A boom may be left unattended in the open water during the legal harvest season if:

(i) the boom is properly identified as provided in Subsection R657-52-15(1)(d);

(ii) the boom is closed;

(iii) the boom is marked with a certificate of registration marker as described in Subsections R657-52-16(2) and (3); and

(iv) the certificate of registration marker is lighted as described in Subsections R657-52-16(2)(f) and (4).

(2) On a causeway or dike where camping is not allowed, a primary seiner, alternate seiner, or helper must be stationed at the closest possible camping site, not more than 10 miles away, and that location must be clearly identified on a tag securely attached to the shore end of the boom.

(3)(a) A person may not harvest any brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs within 300 yards of any certificate of registration marker displayed at a harvest location as provided in Subsection R657-52-16(8) without permission from the company that first began harvesting in that location.

(b) ~~The~~ Notwithstanding Subsections (1) and (2), a primary seiner, alternate seiner, or helper must be located within 300 yards of the certificate of registration

marker [~~must be~~]deployed as provided in Section R657-52-16 [~~and accompanied by an individual at the harvest location~~]to receive the 300 yard encroachment protection.

(c) The 300 yard encroachment protection radius is enforceable when the COR marker is properly deployed, regardless of the presence or level of actual harvest activity.

(4) Brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs may be removed from another person's boom only with written permission from the person who owns the boom.

(5) A person may not deploy more than one continuous length of boom for each certificate of registration.

R657-52-18. Use of Equipment.

(1) A person may not intentionally drive a boat through or create a wake through the 300 yard encroachment protection area of a streak of brine shrimp eggs that another person is harvesting.

(2)(a) A person or business entity possessing a valid certificate of registration may test the equipment to be used in harvesting brine shrimp from March 1 through the official opening date of the brine shrimp harvest season, as declared by rule or the division.

(b) At least 48 hours before testing the equipment, the person must notify the division's Northern Regional Office.

(c) Any brine shrimp or brine shrimp eggs collected while testing the equipment must be immediately returned to the water, if collected from the water, or returned to the beach, if collected from the beach, within 1/4 mile of the location in which they were collected.

(3) Brine shrimp and brine shrimp eggs may not be taken to a storage facility, test site located greater than 1/4 mile from the location in which they were collected, or to shore, except as provided in Section R657-52-13(4).

KEY: brine shrimp, commercialization

Notice of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: December 12, 2006

Notice of Continuation: October 1, 2012

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-3; 23-14-18; 23-14-19; 23-15-7; 23-15-8; 23-15-9; 23-19-1(2)



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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

July 9, 2013

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional RAC Members

FROM: Jordan Nielson
Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator

SUBJECT: Changes to Administrative Rule R657-60

In the Spring of 2012, Quagga mussel veligers and DNA were detected in the south end of Lake Powell near Wahweap and Antelope Marinas. Subsequently, in March of 2013, adult Quagga mussels were discovered attached to boats and docks within the marinas. As a result, in May of 2013, a Utah Wildlife Board action listed Lake Powell as a *Dreissena* infested water body in the State of Utah. As such, any watercraft or equipment leaving Lake Powell is subject to the State's decontamination laws.

The Wildlife Board's determination that Lake Powell is an infested water body requires an amendment to Administrative Rule R657-60 that identifies it as an infested water and defines its boundaries. It is proposed that the definition of Lake Powell be added to Section 2 of R657-60 as follows:

- (iii) Lake Powell and that portion of the:
 - (A) Colorado River between Lake Powell and Spanish Bottom in Canyonlands National Park;
 - (B) Escalante River between Lake Powell and the Coyote Creek confluence;
 - (C) Dirty Devil River between Lake Powell and the Highway 95 bridge; and
 - (D) San Juan River between Lake Powell and Clay Hills Crossing.”

Changes are also needed in R657-60 to accommodate practical aquatic invasive species management activities on infested waters. Currently, the rule requires watercraft or conveyances leaving an infested water body to be decontaminated professionally or through the self decontamination process regardless of the next destination. Proposed changes to R657-60-5 relating to the transportation of equipment and conveyances that have been in infested waters will allow boaters the option of temporarily storing and subsequently returning to the same water body and take out site without decontaminating. Subsection (5) of R657-60-5 will read as follows:

- (5) Decontamination is not required when a conveyance or equipment is removed from an infested water or other water body subject to decontamination requirements, provided the conveyance and equipment is:
 - (a) inspected and drained at the take out site, and is free from attached mussels, shelled organisms, fish, plants, and mud as required in Subsections (1) and (2);
 - (b) returned to the same water body and launched at the same take out site; and
 - (c) not placed in or on any other Utah water body in the interim without first being decontaminated.

The Division recommends these changes to Administrative Rule 657-60 as they will significantly aid in the management of *Dreissena* mussels on infested water bodies.



R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.
R657-60. Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction.

R657-60-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) The purpose of this rule is to define procedures and regulations designed to prevent and control the spread of aquatic invasive species within the State of Utah.

(2) This rule is promulgated pursuant to authority granted to the Wildlife Board in Sections 23-27-401, 23-14-18, and 23-14-19.

R657-60-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2 and 23-27-101.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Conveyance" means a terrestrial or aquatic vehicle, including a vessel, or a vehicle part that may carry or contain a Dreissena mussel.

(b) "Decontaminate" means to:

(i) Self-decontaminate equipment or a conveyance that has been in an infested water in the previous 30 days by:

(A) removing all plants, fish, mussels and mud from the equipment or conveyance;

(B) draining all water from the equipment or conveyance, including water held in ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, and motors; and

(C) drying the equipment or conveyance for no less than 7 days in June, July and August; 18 days in September, October, November, March, April and May; 30 days in December, January and February; or expose the equipment or conveyance to sub-freezing temperatures for 72 consecutive hours; or

(ii) Professionally decontaminate equipment or a conveyance that has been in an infested water in the previous 30 days by:

(A) Using a professional decontamination service approved by the division to apply scalding water (140 degrees Fahrenheit) to completely wash the equipment or conveyance and flush any areas where water is held, including ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, and motors.

(c) "Detects or suspects" means visually identifying:

(i) a veliger Dreissena mussel through microscopy and confirming the identity of the organism as a Dreissena mussel through two independent polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests; or

(ii) a juvenile or adult Dreissena mussel.

(d) "Dreissena mussel" means a mussel of the genus Dreissena at any life stage, including a zebra mussel, a quagga mussel and a Conrad's false mussel.

(e) "Controlling entity" means the owner, operator, or manager of a water body, facility, or a water supply system.

(f) "Equipment" means an article, tool, implement, or device capable of carrying or containing water or Dreissena mussel.

(g) "Facility" means a structure that is located within or adjacent to a water body

(h) "Infested water" includes all the following:

(i) all coastal and inland waters in:

(A) Colorado;

- (B) California;
- (C) Nevada;
- (D) Arizona;
- (E) all states east of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico;
- (F) the provinces of Ontario and Quebec Canada; and
- (G) Mexico;
- (ii) Sand Hollow Reservoir in Washington County, Utah; [~~and~~]

(iii) Lake Powell and that portion of the:

(A) Colorado River between Lake Powell and Spanish Bottom in Canyonlands

National Park;

(B) Escalante River between Lake Powell and the Coyote Creek confluence;

(C) Dirty Devil River between Lake Powell and the Highway 95 bridge; and

(D) San Juan River between Lake Powell and Clay Hills Crossing.

(iv) other waters established by the Wildlife Board and published on the DWR website.

(i) "Juvenile or adult Dreissena mussel" means a macroscopic Dreissena mussel that is not a veliger.

(j) "Veliger" means a microscopic, planktonic larva of Dreissena mussel.

(k) "Vessel" means every type of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

(l) "Water body" means natural or impounded surface water, including a stream, river, spring, lake, reservoir, pond, wetland, tank, and fountain.

(m) "Water supply system" means a system that treats, conveys, or distributes water for irrigation, industrial, wastewater treatment, or culinary use, including a pump, canal, ditch or, pipeline.

(n) "Water supply system" does not included a water body.

R657-60-5. Transportation of equipment and conveyances that have been in infested waters.

(1) The owner, operator, or possessor of any equipment or conveyance that has been in an infested water or in any other water subject to a closure order under R657-60-8 or control plan under R657-60-9 that requires decontamination of conveyances and equipment upon leaving the water shall:

(a) immediately drain all water from the equipment or conveyance at the take out site, including water held in ballast tanks, bilges, livewells, motors, and other areas of containment; and

(b) immediately inspect the interior and exterior of the equipment or conveyance at the take out site for the presence of Dreissena mussels.

(2) If all water in the equipment or conveyance is drained and the inspection undertaken pursuant to Subsection (1)(b) reveals the equipment and conveyance are free from mussels or shelled organisms, fish, plants and mud, the equipment and conveyance may be transported in or through the state directly from the take out site to the location where it will be:

~~(a)~~ (a)(i) professionally decontaminated; ~~(or)~~

~~(b)~~ (ii) stored and self-decontaminated; or

(b) temporarily stored and subsequently returned to the same water body and take out site as provided in Subsection (5).

(3) If all the water in the equipment or conveyance is not drained or the inspection undertaken pursuant to Subsection (1)(b) reveals the equipment or conveyance has attached mussels or shelled organisms, fish, plants, or mud, the equipment and conveyance shall not be moved from the take out site until the division is contacted and written or electronic authorization received to move the equipment or conveyance to a designated location for professional decontamination.

(4) [A] Except as provided in Subsection (5), a person shall not place any equipment or conveyance into a water body or water supply system in the state without first decontaminating the equipment and conveyance when the equipment or conveyance in the previous 30 days has been in:

(a) an infested water; or

(b) other water body or water supply system subject to a closure order under R657-60-8 or control plan under R657-60-9 that requires decontamination of conveyances and equipment upon leaving the water.

(5) Decontamination is not required when a conveyance or equipment is removed from an infested water or other water body subject to decontamination requirements, provided the conveyance and equipment is:

(a) inspected and drained at the take out site, and is free from attached mussels, shelled organisms, fish, plants, and mud as required in Subsections (1) and (2);

(b) returned to the same water body and launched at the same take out site; and

(c) not placed in or on any other Utah water body in the interim without first being decontaminated.

KEY: fish, wildlife, wildlife law

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: August 9, 2010

Notice of Continuation: New Rule

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-27-401; 23-14-18; 23-14-19

MEMORANDUM

Date: 12 July, 2013
To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members
From: John Shivik, Mammal Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2013—2016 Furbearer Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division recommends the following regarding the management of furbearers in Utah:

I. Beaver

A. Some areas of the state had greater nuisance issues than others. We can increase public knowledge of area where beaver are unwanted and minimize conflict by adding information into the furbearer guidebook:

Recommended areas for beaver trapping:

Panguitch Valley (Garfield County) - Irrigation canals operated by East Panguitch Irrigation Company, Long Canal Irrigation Company (contact Greg Excell 435-616-8079), and West Panguitch Irrigation Company (contact Mack Hatch 435-691-0848). Trappers are reminded to gain written permission to access private property.

Kanab Creek (Kane County) - Irrigation water flowing on BLM lands north of Kanab, UT; extending north from the collection pond north of Kanab on the west side of US89 to the point where Kanab Creek crosses US89 back to the east.

B. Wording Clarification in Rule R657-11-23. Beaver can become a nuisance and removal ought to occur before significant damage is caused. This minor change in the rule adds the term *nuisance*.

(1) Beaver doing damage or other nuisance behaviors may be taken or removed during open and closed seasons with either a valid furbearer permit or a nuisance permit
and

(2) A nuisance permit to remove beaver must first be obtained from a division office or conservation officer.

C. Wording Clarification in Rule R657-11-23. Areas of closure were designed to be areas where beaver are desired for habitat/water or other benefits. The current rule prohibits trapping, but some people will still shoot beaver in these areas. This minor change in the rule replaces the word *trapping* with *take*.

“Areas closed to beaver and mink trapping” becomes “closed to beaver and mink take” in the Guidebook.

D. Closed drainages. Additional drainages and clarifications on drainage boundaries are recommended for some areas.

- Box Elder County:
 - Basin Creek drainage
 - For translocation and establishment
- Emery County
 - San Rafael River
 - Beaver are potentially becoming an important component of the BLM/DWR restoration efforts there
- Cache County :
 - Right Hand Fork Drainage
 - Important long-term monitoring sites and large scale DWR brown trout removal experiment
 - Temple Fork drainage (tributary of Logan River)
 - Long-term fish/dam interaction study
 - Rock and Curtis Creek drainages (tributaries of Blacksmith Fork).
 - Demonstration project site
 - Beaver Creek
 - Long term study site
- Rich County:
 - Big Creek above ranches, Randolph Creek, Woodruff Creek above Woodruff Reservoir and Pine Creek, Dip Hollow and Peggy Hollow within the U.S. Forest Service boundary
 - For translocation and establishment
 - Summit County—All lands east of SR-150 and south of U.S. Forest Service roads 017, 058, 072 and 077 (commonly known as the North Slope Road)

III. Furbearer Seasons by Species:

Beaver and Mink:

Consistent with previous years.

Sept 28, 2013 to April 7, 2014

Badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk, and weasel:

Consistent with previous years.

Sept 28, 2013 to February 2, 2014

Marten

Consistent with previous years.

Sept 28, 2013 to February 2, 2014

IV. Bobcat

RECOMMENDATION

The Division recommends the following bobcat permit numbers and season lengths for 2013-2014:

Permits:

Maximum number of permits is 4,600. Limit of three permits per individual.

Season:

From Nov 27, 2013 to Feb 2, 2014

JUSTIFICATION

These permit numbers and season dates are recommended because although the Bobcat Management Plan's population performance targets have not been achieved for all variables, some are better than targets, some are worse than targets, but most the performance variables are moving in the desired direction relative to the previous year. According to the plan, when variables are moving in the desired direction, it is recommended that permit numbers remain consistent with the previous year.

The recommended permits for 2013-2014 are consistent with those that were adopted in previous years.
Source Data and Target Ranges:

<u>Variable</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Mean</u>
% Juvenile	31	35	35	42-56	32
% Survival	69	70	75	65-72	71
% Female	43	45	48	41-45	45
Set-day/bobcat	492	400	392	171-220	428

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-11. Taking Furbearers.

R657-11-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking furbearers.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking furbearers.

R657-11-23. Depredation by Nuisance Beaver.

(1) Beaver doing damage or other nuisance behaviors may be taken or removed during open and closed seasons with either a valid furbearer license or a nuisance permit.

(2) A nuisance permit to remove[~~-damaging~~] beaver must first be obtained from a division office or conservation officer.

KEY: wildlife, furbearers, game laws, wildlife law

Date of Enactment or Last substantive Amendment: October 24, 2011

Notice of Continuation: August 16, 2010

Authorizing, and Implementing or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19; 23-13-17

MEMORANDUM

Date: 12 July, 2013
To: Wildlife Board and Regional Advisory Council Members
From: John Shivik, Mammal Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2013—2016 Cougar Recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Division recommends the following regarding the management of cougars in Utah:

I. Boundary Adjustments

The following boundary descriptions clarify cougar unit boundaries. Changes are needed to align adjacent borders and to be more consistent with current deer unit boundaries):

Northeast Region

South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal 9b,c,d (Cougar)

Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah counties—Boundary begins at the Utah-Colorado state line and the White River; west along this river to the Green River; north along this river to the Duchesne River; north along this river to the Uinta River; north along this river to Whiterocks river; north along this river to the East Fork of the Whiterocks River; north along this river to Whiterocks Lake and USFS Trail #025; northeast on this trail to the Dry Fork-Whiterocks drainage divide; north atop this divide to the Daggett-Uintah county line (summit of the Uinta Mountains); east along the summit of the Uinta Mountains to US-191; north on US-191 to Cart Creek; north along this creek to Flaming Gorge Reservoir; east along the south shoreline of Flaming Gorge Reservoir to the Green River; east along this river to the Utah-Colorado state line; south on this state line to the White River. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Dutch John, Kings Peak, Seep Ridge, Vernal. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 435-781-9453.

South Slope, Yellowstone 9a (Cougar)

Wasatch, Summit, Duchesne, Uintah counties -- Boundary begins at SR-87 and US-40 in Duchesne; north on SR-87 to SR-35; northwest on SR-35 to the Provo River; north along this river to North Fork Provo River; north along this river to SR-150; east and north on SR-150 to the Summit-Duchesne county line (summit of the Uinta Mountains) at Hayden Pass; east along the summit of the Uinta Mountains to the Dry Fork-Whiterocks drainage divide; south atop this divide to USFS Trail #025; southwest on this trail to Whiterocks Lake and the East Fork of the Whiterocks River; south along this river to the Whiterocks River; south along this river to the Uinta River; south along this river to the Duchesne River; west along this river to US-40 at Myton; west on US-40 to SR-87 in Duchesne. EXCLUDES NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Duchesne, Dutch John, Kings Peak, Vernal. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 801-781-9453.

Wasatch Mountains, Avintaquin 17c (cougar)

Carbon, Duchesne, Utah and Wasatch counties—Boundary begins at the Soldier Creek dam road and Highway 40; south along this road to the Strawberry River; west along this river to Beaver Creek; southwest along Beaver Creek to Big Beaver Spring and USFS Road 081 (Reservation Ridge Road); southeast on this road to the Right Fork of White River Road; southwest on this road to US-6; southeast on US-6 to US-191; north on US-191 to Duchesne Hwy 40; west along this Highway to the Soldier Creek dam road. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Duchesne, Nephi, Provo. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 435-781-9453.

Wasatch Mountains, Currant Creek 17b (cougar)

Duchesne and Wasatch counties--Boundary begins at US-40 and SR-87 at Duchesne; north on SR-87 to SR-35; northwest on SR-35 to USFS Road 054 (Mill Hollow Road); southwest on this road to USFS Road 083 (Lake Creek Road); southeast on this road across Roundy Basin to the new Co-op Creek road; south on this road to US-40; east on US-40 to SR-87 at Duchesne. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Duchesne, Provo, Salt Lake City. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 435-781-9453.

Southeast Region

La Sal (13) - Cougar only

Grand and San Juan counties - Boundary begins at the junction of I-70 and the Green River; south on the Green River to the Colorado River; north on the Colorado River to Kane Springs Creek; southeast along this creek to Hatch Wash; southeast along this wash to US-191; south on US-191 to the Big Indian Road; east on this road to the Lisbon Valley Road; east on this road to the Island Mesa Road; east on this road to the Colorado State Line; north on this line to I-70; west on I-70 to the Green River. Excludes all National Parks. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: La Sal, Moab, San Rafael Desert, Westwater. Boundary questions? Call Price office, 435-613-3700.

San Juan (14) - Cougar only

Grand and San Juan Counties - Boundary begins at the confluence of the San Juan and Colorado rivers; north along the Colorado river to Kane Springs Creek; southeast along this creek to Hatch Wash; southeast along this wash to US-191; south on this road to the Big Indian road; east on this road to the Lisbon Valley road; southeast on this road to the Island Mesa road; east on this road to the Colorado state line; south on this line to the Navajo Indian Reservation boundary; southwest along this boundary to the San Juan River; west on this river to the Colorado River. Excludes all National Parks. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Blanding, Bluff, Hite Crossing, Navajo Mountain, La Sal, Moab. Boundary questions? Call Price office, (435) 613-3700.

Book Cliffs Rattlesnake (10C) - Cougar only

Grand County—Boundary begins at I-70 and exit 164 near the town of Green River; east along I-70 to the Thompson Canyon road at Thompson; north on this road to the Sejo Canyon road; north along this road to the Ute Indian Reservation boundary; west along this boundary to the Green River; south along this river to Swasey's Boat Ramp and the Hastings Road; south on this road to SR-19; south and east on SR-19 to Exit 164 on I-70 near the town of Green River. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Huntington, Moab, Westwater. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 435-781-9453 or Price office, 435-613-3700.

Nine Mile (11) - Cougar, deer

Carbon, Duchesne, Emery and Uintah counties--Boundary begins at US-40 and US-191 in Duchesne; southwest on US-191 to US-6; southeast on US-6 to I-70; east on I-70 to Exit 164 and SR-19 near the town of Green River; north and west on SR-19 to Hastings Road; north on this road to the Swasey boat ramp and the Green River; north along this river to the Duchesne River; west along this river to US-40 at Myton; west on US-40 to US-191 in Duchesne. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY.

San Rafael (12) - Cougar

Emery, Sevier, and Wayne counties— Boundary begins at the crossing of I-70 over the Green River; south along the Green River to the Colorado River; south along the Colorado River and the west shoreline of Lake Powell to SR-95; north on SR-95 to a point two miles south of Hanksville and the SR-95/SR-24 Jct; west along a line two miles south of SR-24 to a point on the Notom road two miles south of SR-24; north on this road to SR-24; east on this road to Caineville and the Caineville Wash road; north

along this road to the Cathedral Valley road; west on this road to Rock Springs Bench and the Last Chance Desert road; north on this road to the Blue Flats road; north and east on this road to the Willow Springs road; north on this road towards Windy Peak and the Windy Peak road; west on this road to SR-72, I-70, and the SR-10 junction; north on SR-10 to SR-6 at Price; east on SR-6 to I-70; east on this road to the crossing of the Green River. EXCLUDES ALL NATIONAL PARKS. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Escalante, Loa, Hanksville, Hite Crossing, Huntington, Salina, San Rafael Desert. Boundary questions? Call the Price office, (435) 613-3700.

Henry Mountains (15) - Cougar, deer

Garfield, Kane and Wayne counties—Boundary begins on SR-95 at a point two miles south of Hanksville; south on SR-95 to the west shoreline of Lake Powell; south along this shoreline to SR-276 at Bullfrog; north on SR-276 to the Burr Trail-Notom road; north on this road to the Capitol Reef National Park boundary; north on this boundary to the Burr Trail-Notom road at The Narrows and Divide Canyon; north along this road to a point two miles south of SR-24; east along a line that is two miles south of SR-24 to SR-95. EXCLUDING CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Escalante, Hanksville, Hite Crossing, Loa. Boundary questions? Call the Price office, 435-613-3700.

II. Season Dates

Limited entry hunt units

11/13/2013-2/26/2014

Split hunt units

11/13/2013-2/26/2014 (Limited entry portion)
3/5/2013-5/30/2014 (Harvest objective portion)

Harvest objective hunt units

11/13/2013-11/9/2014

Pursuit units

11/13/13-5/30/14

III. Permits and Hunt Strategies

Bighorn Sheep Cougar Management Area

Predator Management Units

Harvest Quota	Female Subquota
Unlimited	Unlimited

Unit

Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake
Kaiparowits
San Rafael

Book Cliffs Cougar Management Area

Predator Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
40	20

Harvest-objective units

	Minimum Harvest
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	-
Nine Mile	20

Cache Cougar Management Area

Standard Management Units

Harvest Quota	Female subquota
45	11

Limited-entry units

	Permits	
	Resident	Nonresident
East Canyon	4	-
Morgan-South Rich	5	1

Split units

Unit Name	Permits	
	Resident	Nonresident
Cache*	12	2
Ogden*	12	2
East Canyon, Davis	4	1

*Plus 1 convention permit

Monroe Cougar Management Area

Standard Management Units

Harvest Quota	Female subquota
76	19

Split units

Unit Name	Permits	
	Resident	Nonresident
Beaver	9	1
Fillmore, Pahvant	8	1
Mt Dutton*	10	1
Monroe	7	1
Panguitch Lake	9	1
Plateau, Boulder#	9	1
Plateau, Fishlake	9	1
Plateau, Thousand Lks	4	1

*plus 1 convention permit

#plus 2 convention permits

Oquirrh-Stansburry Cougar Management Area

Standard Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
30	8

Limited-entry units

	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Oquirry-Stansbury	5	1	-
West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	4	-	-

Split units

	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Box Elder, Desert	5	1	-
Box elder, Pilot Mountain	4	-	4
Box Elder, Raft	5	1	-
West Desert, Mtn Ranges	4	-	-

Predator Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
12	5

Split units

	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Fillmore, Oak Creek	11	1	-

Pine Valley Cougar Management Area

Standard Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
24	6

Split units

Unit Name	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Paunsaugunt	6	1	-
Pine Valley*	10	1	-
Southwest Desert	4	1	-

*Plus 1 convention permit

Predator Management Units

Harvest-objective units

Zion	Minimum Harvest
	18

San Juan Cougar Management Area

Predator Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
52	26

Harvest-objective units

Unit Name	Minimum Harvest
Henry Mtns	12
La Sal	10
San Juan	20

Uintas Cougar Management Area

Standard Management Units

Limited-entry units

	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Chalk Creek/Kamas*	6	1	-
Wasatch Mtns, Currant Creek	5	1	-

*Plus 1 convention permit

Predator Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
48	24

Harvest-objective units	Minimum
South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond/Vernal	-
North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	10
North Slope, Three Corners	10
South Slope, Yellowstone	-

Wasatch Manti Cougar Management Area

Standard Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
45	15

<u>Limited-entry units</u>	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Central Mtns, Southwest Manti	5	1	-
Wasatch Mtns, West	8	1	-

Split units

	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Central Mtns, Northeast Manti	9	1	-
Central Mtns, Northwest Manti*	8	1	-
Central Mtns, Southeast Manti	9	1	-

*Plus 1 convention permit

Predator Management Units

Harvest quota	Female subquota
44	18

<u>Split units</u>	Permits		Minimum Harvest
	Resident	Nonresident	
Central Mtns, Nebo*	12	2	-
Central Mtns, Nebo-West Face#	20	3	24

<u>Harvest-objective units</u>	Minimum Harvest
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin	13
Wasatch Mtns, Cascade	12
Wasatch Mtns, Timpanogos	12
*Plus 1 convention permit	
#Plus 2 convention permits	

IV. Other Recommendations for language in guidebook or rule

- No take of radio-collared cougars on Oquirrh-Stansbury or Monroe Unit due to ongoing research studies
- The Division requests GPS location from where cougars were harvested
- Change to R657-10-28 to now state:
“(2) Any cougar permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until three days after the date of purchase unless specifically authorized by the Division”
--This changes the waiting period on a harvest objective permit to three days as the previous seven was unnecessarily long, and allows for authorization of hunters to purchase immediately valid permits for depredation situations

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-10. Taking Cougar.

R657-10-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking and pursuing cougar.

(2) Specific dates, areas, number of permits, limits, and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

R657-10-28. Harvest Objective Permit Sales.

(1) Harvest objective permits are available on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on the date published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking cougar.

(2) Any cougar permit purchased after the season opens is not valid until ~~seven~~ three days after the date of purchase unless specifically authorized by the division.

(3) A person must possess a valid hunting or combination license to obtain a Harvest objective permit.

KEY: wildlife, cougar, game laws

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: October 24, 2011

Notice of Continuation: August 16, 2011

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19

MOUNTAIN GOAT HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Wildlife Management Unit #13
La Sal Mountains
June 2013

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Grand and San Juan counties - Boundary begins at the junction of I-70 and the Green River; south on the Green River to the Colorado River; north on the Colorado River to Kane Springs Creek; southeast along this creek to Hatch Wash; southeast along this wash to US-191; south on US-191 to the Big Indian Road; east on this road to the Lisbon Valley Road; east on this road to the Island Mesa Road; east on this road to the Colorado State Line; north on this line to I-70; west on I-70 to the Green River.

LAND OWNERSHIP

**RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP OF POTENTIAL MODELED
MOUNTAIN GOAT HABITAT \geq 9000 FT ELEVATION**

LAND OWNERSHIP	AREA (Acres)	PERCENT OWNERSHIP
Forest Service	33,294	83.7%
Private	2,942	7.4%
SITLA	3,526	8.9%
TOTALS	39,792	100%

UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage for a population of healthy animals capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing. Maintain the population at a sustainable level that is within the long-term capability of the available habitat to support. Balance impacts of the mountain goat herd on other land uses and public interests, including private property rights, recreational activities and local economies.

CURRENT STATUS

Mountain goats do not currently exist on the La Sal Mountains.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Target Summer Herd Size: Achieve a target population objective of 200 total mountain goats (summer helicopter count) on the unit.

Herd Composition: Maintain older age class billies (2+) in the population each year.

Harvest: Maintain any weapon season success rate at a minimum of 90%.

Potential Habitat: Population objectives for mountain goats on the La Sal Mountains were determined by analysis of potential habitat and comparison of mountain goat densities on other mountain ranges in Utah.

Potential mountain goat habitat on the La Sal Mountains was modeled using a simplified GIS analysis approach, based on a 10 meter Digital Elevation Model (DEM) as described by Gross et al. (2002, Appendix 1). Mountain goats are highly associated with escape terrain, which has been defined as slopes from $>25^{\circ}$ (Varley 1994) to $\geq 33^{\circ}$ (Gross et al. 2002). Potential mountain goat escape terrain on the La Sal Mountains was modeled at slopes $\geq 30^{\circ}$. Gross et al. (2002) found that applying a 258 m (846 ft) buffer to escape terrain correctly classified 87% of active mountain goat habitat. The 258 m buffer was applied to all slopes $\geq 30^{\circ}$ on the La Sal Mountains and potential habitat acreage was calculated at the $\geq 9,000$ ft and $\geq 10,000$ ft elevations resulting in 62.1 mi² (39,762 acres) and 41.2 mi² (26,353 acres), respectively. These elevations were chosen based on observations of alpine and subalpine habitats on the La Sal Mountains.

Although Gross et al. (2002) developed their model based on observations in alpine and subalpine habitats between 11,000 – 14,000ft elevations, mountain goats will use lower elevation habitat with good visibility and escape terrain (Brandborg 1955). For example, on Willard Peak in Utah, mountain goat winter habitat has been defined as west-facing slopes above the 6,200-foot elevation line.

The mountain goat population on the Uinta Mountains in northern Utah has been proposed to be managed so as not to exceed the densities found in wild populations of Southeastern Alaska (6.0 goats/sq. mile). The mountain goat population objective for the La Sal Mountains is estimated based on a density of 4.9 goats/sq. mile and 41.2 square miles of habitat above 10,000 feet elevation (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of Mountain Goat Densities in Utah. All populations were modeled using methods derived from Gross et al. (2002).

Unit	Population Objective	Square Miles of Goat Habitat	Goats per Square Mile
Willard Peak	160	36	4.2
Uinta Mountains	1500	821	1.8
Mt Timpanogos	125	13	9.4
Lone Peak	125	54	2.3
Box Elder Peak	125	24	5.1
Provo Peak	125	23	5.4
Tushar Mountains	150	63	2.4
La Sal Mtns >9,000ft	200	62	3.2
La Sal Mtns >10,000ft	200	41	4.9

HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Habitat Use: Examine potential use areas by mountain goats to establish alpine vegetation monitoring sites prior to goat release. Identify seasonal use areas established by goats after release through radio-telemetry data and field observations, and set up additional range monitoring sites to evaluate possible impacts to vegetation. Monitor and maintain mountain goat forage use at desirable levels according to appropriate range use standards.

Recreation: Monitor mountain goat activities in high use recreation areas to determine any potential and/or actual conflicts. Increase public awareness of mountain goat presence and behaviors to promote safe viewing opportunities and avoid potential conflicts.

Livestock Grazing / Private Lands: Support regulated livestock grazing on potential mountain goat habitat within approved federal and state grazing allotments. Identify and address any mountain goat/livestock conflicts with appropriate management actions. Work with private landowners to alleviate depredation concerns and/or situations. Investigate and participate in the development and execution of proposed habitat enhancement projects and necessary monitoring efforts with land management agencies and other groups.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Research Natural Area (RNA): The Mt. Peale RNA is located on the middle group peaks, including the highest elevations of the La Sal Mountains. RNAs are areas designated by USFS to protect ecosystem structure and function, and preserve genetic diversity in the alpine/subalpine communities. Mountain goats occur in several RNAs throughout Utah (Bullion Canyon - Tusher Mountains, Pollen Lake and Uinta Shale Creek - Unita Mountains, and W. F. Mueggler Butler Fork - Mount Olympus). Forage use by mountain goats in RNAs has not been thoroughly examined.

Sensitive / Endemic Plants: There are sensitive plant species, most notably the La Sal daisy (*Erigeron mancus*), that occur within modeled mountain goat habitat on the La Sal Mountains. Mountain goats are considered generalist herbivores and will likely consume sensitive plant species, if they are available, but will not necessarily target such plants (Laundre 1994). Vegetative monitoring will occur as determined by the coordination between UDWR and USFS to evaluate effects to sensitive and endemic plant species utilized by mountain goats, and to determine necessary management actions to address adverse impacts.

Range Conflicts / Interspecific Competition: Dietary overlap between livestock and mountain goats does not appear to be an adverse factor on other mountain goat ranges in Utah, and therefore is not expected on the La Sal Mountains. Similarly, mule deer and elk may also have interactions with mountain goats but adverse impacts are not expected due to habitat quality and quantity, as well as the likely spatial and temporal

differences in habitat use. If seasonal altitudinal migration occurs, it is still very likely that most areas frequented by mountain goats will be unavailable to livestock, deer, and elk due to terrain attributes. Observations of mountain goats on other ranges in Utah are in areas too steep for most other ungulates and livestock to access.

Pikas are also known to inhabit areas within the potential habitat of mountain goats on the La Sal Mountains. Pikas and mountain goats share ranges over much of the western US and Canada, and mountain goats are not known to adversely impact pika populations. Pika surveys conducted on the La Sal Mountains in 2011 found that pikas were well distributed and had high occupancy rates.

Disease: Mountain goats have been established in Utah since 1967, and have not experienced any known disease related die-offs during that time. There are no known disease transmission issues between livestock and mountain goats in Utah.

Resource Use: There is some concern about what impacts, if any, mountain goats might have on alpine and subalpine habitats that were historically used by bighorn and domestic sheep, but have not been actively grazed since the 1930's - 1950's. Mountain goats were not found on the La Sal Mountains post European settlement; however, bighorn sheep were native to this area. In 1949, Charles Hunt, who worked for the USGS, observed several bighorns near the top of Mount Peale (Buechner 1960). Other sightings of bighorns were reported by Forest Service personnel on this range throughout the 1950's (Buechner 1960). Bighorns are now extirpated from the La Sal Mountains, and the DWR has no plans to restore native bighorn sheep to their historical range on this unit because of potential disease conflicts with domestic sheep.

Laundre (1994) compiled 34 separate studies on the resource use (food habits and habitat needs) of bighorn sheep and mountain goats. He found high dietary overlap in forage classes during summer and winter seasons (98% and 99% respectively). The percentage of grass, forb, and browse consumption throughout the year was similar between mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Furthermore, Laundre (1994) found that both species used steep slopes as escape terrain; although, mountain goats would wander further from escape terrain and occupy steeper slopes. Overall, he classified both species as generalist herbivores and reported high resource overlap between mountain goats and bighorn sheep.

The documented presence of bighorn sheep in alpine habitats on the La Sals demonstrates that native forbs were browsed, and certainly evolved with grazing pressure. How plant communities in these high elevation areas have adjusted to a lack of browsing by a constant, high elevation ungulate is unknown. Vegetative monitoring data in these habitats is not available. However, given the similarities in diet and habitat use between mountain goats and bighorns, mountain goats would likely have a similar impact on the landscape as bighorn sheep and serve as an acceptable species to fill the niche left void by the extirpation of bighorn sheep.

Habitat Monitoring: Little is known regarding the vegetative communities in alpine and subalpine habitats on the La Sals, and how these communities will respond to browsing by mountain goats. The Ashley National Forest, however, has monitored hundreds of sites in alpine habitat on the Uinta Mountain Range, which has had mountain goats since 1989, and is the largest population of mountain goats in Utah. In 2005, Sherel Goodrich, who was an ecologist for the USFS, sent the DWR a letter stating that they found no apparent trend in habitat associated with mountain goats. More recently, the DWR received a letter from the same Forest stating "At this time, monitoring does not show downward trend in ground cover, plant species composition, or shrub canopy cover in areas where mountain goats are present" (Appendix 2).

Recreation Conflicts: Seasonal use of potential mountain goat habitat by recreational hiking, biking, and skiing activities can be high on the La Sal Mountains. Generally, as with most large ungulates, mountain goats will avoid areas with high levels of human activity and seek out areas of solitude in difficult terrain. There is always the possibility of mountain goat/human interactions, but proactive educational information through various media resources on maintaining safe distances, discouraging goat feeding incidents, etc. can prevent negative interactions from occurring. There have been no known restrictions placed on national forest recreational activities in Utah due to the presence of mountain goats.

There is great public interest in mountain goat viewing opportunities that has been demonstrated on other goat units within Utah. On the Tushar Mountain range, an average of approximately 100 people annually attend the UDWR sponsored "goat-viewing day" in August. The increase of tourism for mountain goat viewing on the La Sal Mountains is very likely given the proximity of national and state parks, monuments, and other outdoor activities in the Moab area.

Private Lands Depredation: A small percentage of modeled mountain goat habitat includes private lands on the La Sal Mountains. Mountain goats on other ranges in Utah are typically found in areas too steep and rugged for livestock to access. If these high elevation private lands are of usable attributes for cattle grazing, it is likely that mountain goats would avoid using these areas while cattle are present on the range.

Predation: Cougars would likely be the main predator of goats on the La Sal Mountains; however, mountain goat populations do not appear to be limited by cougars in Utah.

Native Status: The native status of mountain goats is discussed in detail in the current statewide management plan. The following is an excerpt from this plan: "The Division of Wildlife Resources adopts the position that mountain goats are an appropriate species in suitable habitats within Utah. As with any ungulate species, proactive management is obligatory in a landscape unalterably touched by man. Careful management of the species is mandated by its requisite occupancy of fragile environments. However, the benefits to accrue from the presence of such a charismatic animal are enormous. Mountain goats provide a unique addition to the biota of our

state, and are an inspiration to those who know them or know of them. They are and should continue to be a valued part of our wildlife resource.”

A discussion is also provided within the statewide plan in Appendix 1, which suggests that historical goat distribution may likely have included much of Utah during dramatic glacial events.

POPULATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Monitoring: Aerial and/or ground classification of mountain goats will be conducted annually to determine kid recruitment, population status, billy/nanny ratios, and range distribution. GPS and VHF radio collars will be attached to adult goats when released and telemetry flights will be conducted to evaluate survival, movements and range establishment.

Harvest: Permits for hunting mountain goats on the La Sal Mountains will be recommended when the estimated population reaches 50 animals. Regulated hunting for billy and/or nannies will be recommended annually as needed to meet management goals and maintain the population objective at a maximum of 200 mountain goats. Permit recommendations will be reviewed by the Regional Advisory Council and acted upon by the Utah Wildlife Board. Hunter surveys will be administered each fall to determine harvest success.

Predation: Predation will be monitored on any radio-collared mountain goats, but can often be difficult to assess. If predation is identified as a limiting factor, predator control work will be administered within the guidelines of the DWR predator management policy and the authorized plan of the administering land management agency.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Initial Release: Twenty to 40 mountain goats will be released on the La Sal Mountains near the north block of mountain peaks in the Beaver Basin and Burro Pass areas. These release sites are intended to encourage mountain goat inhabitation of the northern portion of the mountain range and avoid immediate use of Mount Peale RNA. This action will hopefully allow sufficient time for mountain goats to establish use patterns on this portion of the mountain which can be monitored and evaluated before dispersal to the south.

Monitoring: UDWR and USFS will jointly develop a specific habitat and vegetative monitoring plan for the La Sals, which will include monitoring of sensitive plant species and use of the Mount Peale RNA. Prior to releasing mountain goats on the La Sals, monitoring sites will be established. Post release of mountain goats, telemetry and observational data will be used to identify core use areas to determine where additional monitoring sites are needed to assess the effects of mountain goats on their habitats. This plan will identify specific results that would trigger management actions,

which may include reducing goat densities in given areas. UDWR and USFS will coordinate annually to discuss monitoring of mountain goat habitat.

Range Conflicts: Should adverse impacts to vegetation resources, sensitive plant species, or special management areas occur, UDWR will coordinate with the appropriate land management agency to determine the necessary management action to alleviate the impact. UDWR will consider existing range uses and design management actions to avoid affecting those uses, when possible. Various appropriate harvest strategies may be recommended to the RAC and Wildlife Board to reduce specific goat numbers and/or change goat distribution on the mountain range.

Appropriate timber management practices, controlled burns, maintaining or developing remote water sources, and other range enhancement projects that benefit mountain goat habitat are encouraged. Additionally, DWR will respond to depredation complaints on private land according to state law and policies on big game depredation.

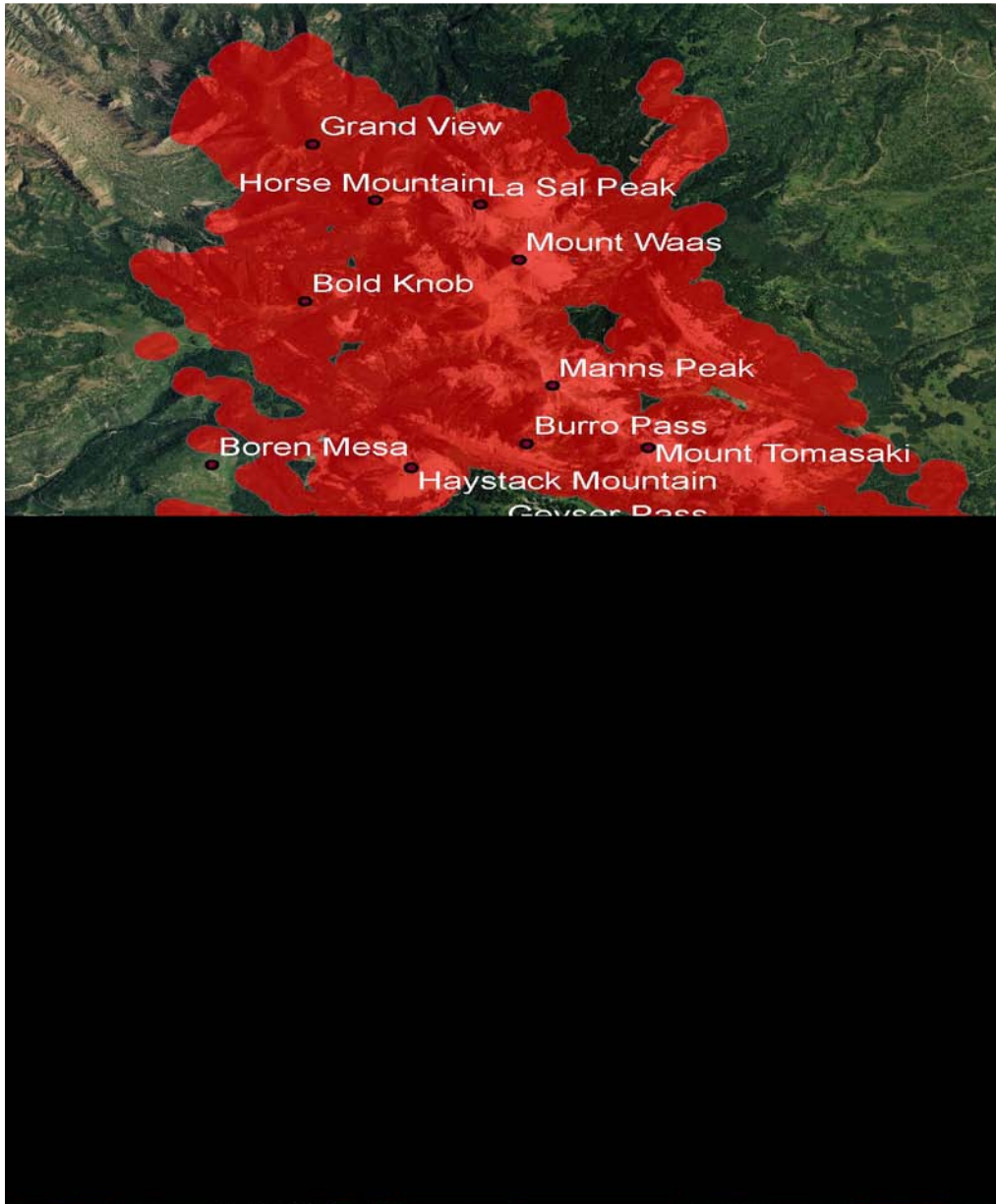
Recreation Conflicts: DWR will monitor mountain goat movements and dispersal through radio telemetry and field observations to evaluate recreation/goat interactions. Additionally, DWR will investigate human/goat issues and seek to resolve conflicts when possible with appropriate management actions. Establishment of a mountain goat population on the La Sal Mountains will not require restrictions on current recreational use on public lands. DWR and USFS will coordinate management strategies to minimize conflicts, if possible, when considering new or expanded recreational uses and activities.

Having mountain goats on the La Sals will provide opportunities to expand mountain goat viewing events for the public. Coordination between DWR and the Forest Service will take place to provide informational signs or kiosks near areas frequented by goats to promote viewing opportunities and educate public land users about mountain goat biology and behavior.

Literature Cited

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- Laundre, J. W. 1994. Resource overlap between mountain goats and bighorn sheep. Great Basin Naturalist 54(2):114-121.
- Varley, N. C. 1994. Summer-fall habitat use and fall diets of mountain goats and bighorn sheep in the Absaroka Range, Montana. Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council 9:131-138.

Appendix 1. Model of potential mountain goat habitat on the La Sal Mountains above 9,000 ft. Methods were derived from Gross et al. (2002) and show an estimated 39,762 acres (62.1 square miles) of potential mountain goat habitat.



Appendix 2.

Randall Thacker
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Vernal, Utah

Randall:

Since 2005, the number of long-term studies has increased in the alpine areas across the Uinta Mountains, adding to the numerous studies that existed prior to that time. These studies are found in every major drainage on the south slope of the Uintas from Marsh Peak to Granddaddy Lake Basin and many if not most are located within existing or potential mountain goat habitat. Repeat photography is the most common sampling method used to determine trend, but other sampling methods used include ocular macroplot, line intercept, and point ground cover. Data from these studies continue to show ground cover meeting or surpassing desired condition with trends typically stable. Low willows in alpine settings continue to show no change or increase in canopy cover, which indicates desired condition. Plant species composition in a variety of vegetation communities remains unchanged. At this time, monitoring does not show downward trend in ground cover, plant species composition, or shrub canopy cover in areas where mountain goats are present.

The Ashley National Forest believes that there are adequate number and distribution of studies in alpine to track future mountain goat impacts, but more monitoring sites are expected to be established in the years to come. Current studies are located in areas where mountain goats are currently not found or rarely frequent, in areas where goats are commonly found and populations continue to show increase, and in areas that are near or adjacent to existing goat populations, but receive limited use. We believe that we are prepared to track future and possible expanding impacts of mountain goats. As stated above there appears to be no apparent trend associated with mountain goats in the Uinta Mountains as of this date.

/S/ Allen Huber

Allen Huber
Ecologist
Ashley National Forest

6 June 2013

MOUNTAIN GOAT HERD UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN
Wildlife Management Unit #24
Mt Dutton (2013)

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Garfield and Piute counties - Boundary begins at US-89 and SR-62; south on US-89 to SR-12; east on SR-12 to the Widtsoe-Antimony road; north on the Widtsoe-Antimony road to SR-22; north on SR-22 to SR-62; west on SR-62 to US-89.

LAND OWNERSHIP

**RANGE AREA AND APPROXIMATE OWNERSHIP OF POTENTIAL MODELED
MOUNTAIN GOAT HABITAT ≥ 9000 FT ELEVATION**

LAND OWNERSHIP	AREA (Acres)	PERCENT OWNERSHIP
Forest Service	47,243	100%
Bureau of Land Management	0	0.0%
Utah State Institutional Trust Lands	0	0.0%
Native American Trust Lands	0	0.0%
Private	0	0.0%
Department of Defense	0	0.0%
USFWS Refuge	0	0.0%
National Parks	0	0.0%
Utah State Parks	0	0.0%
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources	0	0.0%
TOTALS	47,243	100%

UNIT MANAGEMENT GOALS

Manage for a population of healthy animals capable of providing a broad range of recreational opportunities, including hunting and viewing. Balance mountain goat herd impacts with other uses such as authorized livestock grazing and local economies. Maintain the population that is sustainable within the available habitat as determined by acreage delineated from actual mountain goat utilization.

CURRENT STATUS

Mountain goats have been documented on the Mt Dutton WMU #24 since at least the early 2000's. It is suspected that these goats dispersed from the adjacent Tushar population on the Beaver WMU #22. Most recently, up to 7 different goats

were reported on Mt Dutton in 2011 with observations on Mt Dutton, Lost Creek, Marshall Meadows, Pearson Peak, and Showalter. In July 2012, 1 nanny and 2 kids were observed by UDWR biologists near the radio tower on Mt Dutton. Additionally, deer and elk hunters have reported seeing several mountain goats during their hunts on Mt Dutton.



Mt Dutton Mountain Goats, July 2012.

Since mountain goats have naturally established on Mt Dutton, we have drafted this plan to augment this population and increase wildlife diversity in the area. This will in turn expand public opportunity for hunting and viewing. Movements between the Mt Dutton and Beaver goat populations are highly likely and should be considered advantageous to promote genetic diversity.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Native Status: The native status of mountain goats is discussed in detail in the current Utah Mountain Goat Statewide Management Plan in Appendix A. The following is an excerpt from this plan: "Regardless of their native status to Utah, they are certainly native to the North American continent and the Northern Rocky Mountains. The DWR's position is that mountain goat habitat exists in Utah, as indicated by the success of introduced populations. As such, the DWR believes mountain goats are a valuable addition to our wildlife resource diversity and are a legitimate part of our modern Utah faunal landscape. As with any other ungulate species in our now pervasively human-altered ecosystem, they require pro-active management."

Habitat Modeling: Since the extent of currently occupied mountain goat habitat is unknown, we modeled potential mountain goat habitat on Mt Dutton using a simplified GIS analysis approach as described by Gross et al. (2002). Mountain goats are highly associated with escape terrain, which has been defined as slopes from $>25^{\circ}$ (Varley 1994) to $\geq 33^{\circ}$ (Gross et al. 2002). On Mt Dutton, we used slopes $>30^{\circ}$ as potential mountain goat escape terrain. Gross et al. (2002) found that applying a 258m (846ft) buffer to escape terrain correctly classified 87% of active mountain goat habitat. We applied a 258m buffer to all slopes $\geq 30^{\circ}$ on Mt Dutton and calculated potential habitat acreage at the $\geq 8,000$ ft, $\geq 9,000$ ft, and $\geq 10,000$ ft elevations resulting in 100,286 acres, 47,243 acres, and 4,601 acres, respectively. These elevations were chosen based on observations of goats currently occupying Mt Dutton.

Although Gross et al. (2002) developed their model based on observations in alpine and subalpine habitats between 11,000 – 14,000ft elevations, mountain goats may use lower elevation habitat with good visibility and escape terrain (Brandborg 1955). On Willard Peak WMU #3 in northern Utah, mountain goat winter habitat has been defined as west-facing slopes above the 6,200-foot elevation line. The modeled acreage that is reported is likely inflated since the highest elevation on Mt Dutton is just over 11,000ft and areas with dense vegetation may reduce suitable habitat. However, the high visibility and connective ruggedness within Mt Dutton will likely mitigate for areas with dense vegetation. A map of the modeled goat habitat across Mt Dutton above 8,000ft is provided in Appendix A.

Interspecific Competition and Disease Concerns: Much of the Mt Dutton WMU was greatly improved for ungulates by the 78,000 acre Sanford fire in 2002, which promoted high forage productivity. Interactions of mountain goats with other ungulates are anticipated seasonally, but due to their specific habitat requirements, mountain goats are not likely to impact these other species.

Dietary overlap between livestock and mountain goats does not appear to be an adverse factor on the adjacent Tushar goat population, and therefore is not expected on Mt Dutton. Similarly, mule deer and elk may also have interactions with goats but as with livestock, adverse impacts are not expected due to habitat quality and quantity, as well as the likely spatial and temporal differences in habitat use. If seasonal altitudinal migration occurs, it is still very likely that most areas frequented by mountain goats will be unavailable to livestock, deer, and elk due to terrain. Observations of goats currently on Mt Dutton are in areas too steep for most other ungulates including livestock to access. Additionally, there are few disease transmission concerns amongst livestock and goats.

Non-Consumptive Use: There is great public interest in mountain goat viewing opportunities as has been demonstrated on other goat management units within Utah. On the adjacent Tushar Mountain range, an average of approximately 100 people annually attend the UDWR sponsored “goat-viewing day” which generally occurs at the beginning of August. The increase of tourism for mountain goat viewing on Mt Dutton is very likely given the proximity of national parks, monuments, and other outdoor attractants found in Garfield County and the surrounding areas.

Sensitive Plants: Rydberg's Milkvetch (*Astragalus perianus*) is a sensitive plant species that occurs within modeled mountain goat habitat on Mt Dutton. Vegetative monitoring will occur as determined by the coordination from UDWR and USFS to evaluate any adverse impacts to sensitive plants from goats.

Predation: Predation will be monitored on any radio collared transplanted goats, but can often be difficult to assess. Cougars are likely going to be the main predator of goats on Mt Dutton; however current resident mountain goats do not appear to be limited by cougars. If predation becomes a limiting factor, predator control work will be administered within the guidelines of the DWR predator management policy and the authorized plan of the administering land management agency. Predator reduction work already occurs in conjunction with livestock losses, and therefore any additional work that may be done would be mutually beneficial to both livestock and other big game species.

A. POPULATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The mountain goat population on the Uinta Mountains in northern Utah has been proposed to be managed so as not to exceed the densities found in wild populations of Southeastern Alaska (6.0 goats/sq. mile). Goats on Mt Dutton should also be managed within this recommended density.

Table 1. Summary of Mountain Goat Densities in Utah.

Unit	Population Objective	Acres of Goat Habitat	Acres per Goat	Square Miles of Goat Habitat	Goats per Square Mile
Willard Peak	160	17,280	108.00	27	5.93
Uinta Mountains	1500	332,000	221.33	514	2.92
Mt Timpanogos	125	9,984	79.87	15.6	8.01
Lone Peak	125	12,032	96.26	18.8	6.65
Box Elder Peak	125	11,008	88.06	17.2	7.27
Provo Peak	125	9,088	72.70	14.2	8.80
Tushar Mountains	150	10,368	69.12	16.2	9.26
Mt Dutton >8,000ft	125	100,286	802.3	156.7	0.80*
Mt Dutton >9,000ft	125	47,243	377.9	73.8	1.69*

1) Target Summer Herd Size: Achieve a target population objective of 125 total mountain goats (summer helicopter count) on the unit at all elevations.

*Estimated densities at >8000ft (0.80 goats/sq. mile) and >9000ft (1.69 goats/sq. mile) are conservative since it is unknown how much acreage goats actually occupy. It is suspected that the acreage calculated using the GIS model is the maximum available habitat for mountain goats. This total population number can be reevaluated as aerial survey and potentially transplanted radio-collared goat data reveals actual habitat use, as well as if adverse impacts to the range are documented.

Population Management Strategies

- a. Monitoring: Aerial and/or ground classification of current resident mountain goats will be conducted annually to determine kid recruitment, population status, billy/nanny ratios, and range distribution. Aerially monitor any transplanted goats with radio collars at least 8 times per year for the life of the collars to evaluate movements and range establishment. Census the entire unit every 1-3 years.
- b. Harvest: Regulated hunting for billy and/or nannies will be recommended annually as needed to meet management objectives. Nanny hunts or transplants will be the primary methods for maintaining the total population objective.

B. HABITAT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- 1) Livestock Grazing: Support and encourage regulated livestock grazing on all identified mountain goat habitat within approved grazing allotments.
- 2) Vegetation: Actively participate in the development and execution of proposed habitat restoration projects and monitoring efforts with agencies and other groups to improve wildlife habitat and increase forage.
- 3) Habitat Monitoring – As mountain goats continue to establish on Mt Dutton, UDWR and USFS should coordinate habitat monitoring efforts on areas utilized by goats. UDWR will seek opportunities to add a permanent range trend transect that will be read every 5 years by the UDWR range trend crew. If concerns are generated about adverse impacts to the habitat by goats, UDWR may initiate annual habitat monitoring to aid in goat management decisions.

Habitat Management Strategies

- a. Cooperation with land management agencies to monitor vegetation changes caused by mountain goats and determine how forage vegetation dynamics are affecting mountain goat populations. Use Division range trend data to identify range changes and possible overuse. Develop additional range trend transect that may be used to monitor habitat specifically used by goats.
- b. Recommend range improvement and restoration projects when deemed necessary. Maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit. Support timber management practices designed to improve habitat for wildlife and livestock.
- c. Encourage land management agencies and private landowners to monitor summer livestock grazing in established mountain goat ranges. Encourage and aid land management agencies and private landowners in identifying and eradicating invasive plant species.

- d. Provide improved habitat security and escapement opportunities for mountain goats by support and cooperation of approved Dixie National Forest Management Plans.
- e. Encourage the maintenance and development of water sources throughout the unit. Focus on providing water sources in remote areas or on abandoned / sources such as old water trough's, ponds, and tanks that can benefit both livestock and wildlife.

3. RECREATION MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

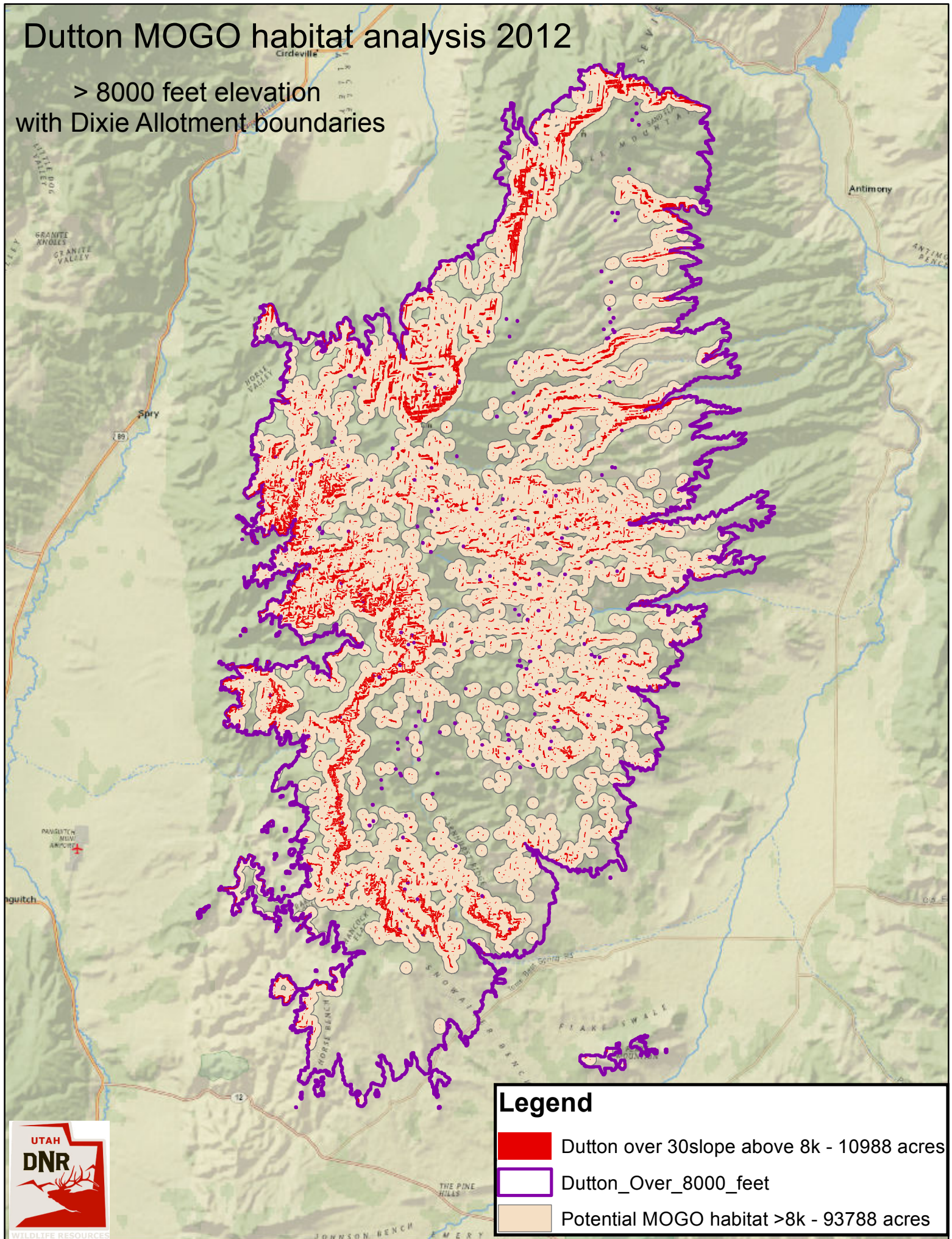
1. Harvest: Recommend any-goat permits to harvest 5-15% of the counted population when it is determined to hold a hunt on Mt Dutton. Maintain any weapon season success rate at a minimum of 90%.
2. Non-consumptive Use: Seek opportunities to expand the goat viewing outreach programs to Mt Dutton to promote these newly inhabited areas. A kiosk placed near areas frequented by goats should be created to promote these goat-viewing opportunities. As mountain goats establish on the unit, an appropriate place for a kiosk should be coordinated with USFS.

Literature Cited




- Brandborg, S. M. 1955. Life history and management of the mountain goat in Idaho. State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Bulletin 2:1-142.
- Gross, J. E., M. C. Kneeland, D. F. Reed, and R. M. Reich. 2002. GIS-Based habitat models for mountain goats. Journal of Mammalogy 83:218-228.
- Varley, N. C. 1994. Summer-fall habitat use and fall diets of mountain goats and bighorn sheep in the Absaroka Range, Montana. Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council 9:131-138.

Dutton MOGO habitat analysis 2012

> 8000 feet elevation
with Dixie Allotment boundaries



Legend

-  Dutton over 30slope above 8k - 10988 acres
-  Dutton_Over_8000_feet
-  Potential MOGO habitat >8k - 93788 acres

