

**Northern Region Wildlife Board Advisory Council**

**April 29, 2008**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Place:** Brigham City Community Center

**RAC Present**

**DWR Present**

**Wildlife Board**

Brad Slater  
Lee Shirley  
Paul Cowley  
Mark Marsh  
Robert Byrnes  
Darwin Bingham  
Shawn Groll  
Ryan Foutz  
Jon Leonard  
Ann Neville  
James Gaskill

Jodie Anderson  
Justin Dolling  
Ron Hodson  
Kirt Enright  
Phil Douglass  
Randy Wood

Ernie Perkins

**RAC Absent**

Bret Selman  
Bill Fenimore

**Public Present** - See Attached Roll Sheet

**Meeting Begins:** 6:30 p.m.

**Number of Pages:** 5

**Introduction** - Brad Slater- Chair

**Agenda:**

Review of Agenda  
Review of March 26, 2008 Meeting Minutes  
Regional Update  
Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations for 2008  
Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008  
Mule Deer Planning Committee Nominations

### **Item 1. Review and Acceptance of Agenda**

**Motion**-Neville- Accept Agenda as proposed with amendment.

**Second**- Gaskill

**Motion Carries**- Unanimous

### **Item 2. Review and Acceptance of March 26, 2008, Meeting Minutes**

**Motion**- Byrnes Accept March 26, 2008 Meeting Minutes.

**Second**- Cowley

**Motion Carries**- Unanimous

### **Item 3. Regional Update**

Ron Hodson, Regional Supervisor

Ron updates the RAC members and the public on bitterbrush projects that have taken place on Cache Deer Unit on the Millville WMA. Ogden Bay WMA hosted controlled burns for Phragmites. Someone had started a burn that bordered the WMA on the northwest corner. This is still under investigation. Chaining and reseeding project took place in Grouse Creek. Sage Grouse, deer and elk will benefit from this chaining.

#### **Public Questions**

**Mike Dent**- How do you advertise these projects? I was not aware that took place.

**Hodson**- We advertised in the Ogden and Logan newspapers. We also release to the media but they may not run it.

#### **RAC Questions**

**Neville**- Was it advertised on the DWR web site?

**Hodson**- Yes it was.

### **Item 4. Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations for 2008**

Justin Dolling, Wildlife Manager

See Handout

#### **RAC Questions**

**Foutz**- Do you have data that shows when elk are harvested? We have a really long season that goes through January 31<sup>st</sup> which is really late. We are putting a lot of pressure on deer. Are we getting elk killed by December 31<sup>st</sup>?

**Dolling**- When we do our phone surveys, we don't ask for specific dates harvested.

**Foutz**- Do you take into account for winter loss? From what I hear, there are quite a few dead elk out there, not one or two, they are finding 15. Do you consider some of those?

Dolling- Our population estimate is prior to when winter loss occurs. It is a post-season estimate. We feel there has been an increase in mortality.

Cowley- I am going to follow up on Ryan's question. We don't have a real bounce up and down in the population.

Dolling- We lost a lot of mule deer during the winter; elk are more resilient and are able to bounce back. Those permit numbers gets back to mortality that Ryan was talking about.

Leonard- What is the normal success rate on the late deer hunts?

Dolling- For deer it is really high. On elk, the earlier hunts don't seem to be as successful. There are a lot of different things that factor in.

### **Public Comment**

Mike Dent- I am concerned about the decrease in elk around the Richmond area. Is Cache Valley being managed as one unit? There is not as many elk there as there used to be, where are they being taken? What is being done or what can we do to have a healthy population.

Dolling- The Cache Unit is a large unit. Your concern in Richmond, we did make note of the reduced number of animals in the unit. As a result, we decreased permits to allow numbers to build and maintain pressure on the south end of the valley.

Dent- Is there a specific area on the east side of the valley that a portion of these tags are attributed to for a certain area?

Dolling- Each one of these units are small little components of the overall unit. We try to design our hunts so that we can manage the distribution.

Dwain Hislop- Were depredation hunts influencing the amount of permits issued for 2008? If we manage through antlerless, why did we issue bull permits for depredation in Morgan County?

Dolling- The amount of depredation tags are factored in to that overall number. In past history, we have issued 50 of those tags and it appears that those problems have continued. As far as bucks and bulls depredation, it is not happening in this region. There are some very discrete areas that it has happened. That is not one of our practices, it is just not done.

Hislop- This past winter, approximately January, we did have a bull depredation taken out above Morgan this winter right off the side of the highway. We called because we thought it was poaching but it was reported as a depredation. That is why I am questioning that.

Dolling- I will pass this information on to our law enforcement.

Hodson- There was a bull depredation tag in the northeast end of the region this year. It takes unique circumstances for this to take place. I don't think that we would probably do two of them statewide in 5 years. I understand that our officers from Summit and Morgan got involved because someone showed up with a bull elk and it turned out to be that bull elk that had been taken from the northeastern region. It is possible that is what you are referring to.

Hislop- I actually saw it.

Hodson- If that is the case, it was not taken within this region. We would like to know more about it.

## **RAC Discussion**

Foutz- I am wondering if we don't need to go back and look at some of these areas where the hunts are taking place until January 31. Could we obtain these harvest objectives for cows by December 31<sup>st</sup> and give our deer a break? I have great concern about some of these areas where some of these animals are being hunted until January 31. We are starting in September and ending January 31<sup>st</sup>. Because of that, there is also a ripple effect that goes out to our deer.

Gaskill- Can that be addressed more on the basis of emergency closures. If we have a difficult winter, maybe close early to monitor that. It might be worth a consideration.

Marsh- Most of the time the elk aren't down where you can get to them in the winter time on private land. This year is different because of snow levels.

Foutz- When you harvest cow, do you have to fill out a report online?

Dolling- We do that all through phone survey. It is not mandatory.

Foutz- That would be nice to know when they are being harvested.

Dolling- We do have information on harvest data based on our phone survey.

Unfortunately, we do not get to see that when it comes out. All we get is the overall harvest success.

Foutz- Would that be important to know when they are being harvested.

Dolling- It would be nice to know if the harvest is occurring early or late in relationship to the overall season.

## **Motion**

**Motion- Byrnes**- Accept the antlerless addendum and rule and permit recommendation as presented by the division.

**Second-** Marsh

## **Discussion on the Motion**

Foutz- Concerns hunting elk through January 31. These additional pressures will compound the issue. This year is different because of the tough winter.

**Motion Carries-** 7 for with 3 against.

## **Item 5. Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008**

Justin Dolling, Wildlife Manager

See Handout

**Foutz and Neville recuse from voting.**

## **Motion**

**Motion-Marsh**- To Accept CWMU permit recommendations as presented.

**Second-** Leonard

**Motion Carries-** 8 for and 2 recusal

**Item 6. Mule Deer Planning Committee**

RAC Members

Foutz- I would like to throw my name into the hat.

Hodson- What is the expectation or duty?

Ron- I don't know the answer for sure but I expect it is going to be half a dozen meetings, that is my guess.

Hodson- Do you expect to meet in Salt Lake?

Ron- Probably Salt Lake because people will be coming from all over the state. So, they will probably meet in Salt Lake or possibly even Springville.

Marsh- Nominate Shawn Groll.

**Motion**

**Motion-**Gaskill- Appoint Ryan Foutz to represent Northern RAC primary and as alternates Robert Byrnes and Shawn Groll.

**Second-** Marsh

**Motion Carries:** Unanimously

**Meeting Ends:** 7:43 p.m.

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Jr. High  
165 S. 700 E. Springville  
April 29, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

## **Motion Summary**

### **Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations for 2008**

MOTION: To end the antlerless elk hunts on the Nebo unit November 30<sup>th</sup> (not including mitigation permits)

Failed 3 to 5

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented

Passed 5 to 3

### **Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008**

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented

Passed unanimously

### **Mule Deer Committee Member**

MOTION: To recommend John Bair, Richard Hansen and Gary Nielson as possible candidates for the mule deer committee

Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Jr. High  
165 S. 700 E. Springville  
April 29, 2008 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

John Bair, Sportsmen  
Calvin Crandall, Agriculture  
Richard Hansen, At Large  
George Holmes, Agriculture  
Doug Jones, Forest Service  
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen  
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Vice Chair  
Jay Price, Elected  
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive

**Members Absent**

Byron Gunderson, At Large  
Ed Kent, Chair  
Allan Stevens, At Large

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

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by John Bair to accept the agenda as written**

**Seconded by Gary Nielson**

**Motion passed unanimously**

2) **Approval of the March 25, 2008 summary (Action)**

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Doug Jones to accept the summary notes as transcribed**

**Seconded by John Bair**

**Motion passed unanimously**

3) **Regional Update (Information)**

- **John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor**

**Wildlife**

- Domestic sheep were observed on a 3000-acre parcel of private land on the north end of the Stansbury Mountains on April 17, within a half-mile of the bighorn sheep. We worked with the owner to move the sheep to a BLM allotment, currently in non-use, south of Stockton on the Oquirrh Mountains. We're working with FNAWS, the landowner, BLM and the current permit owner to make the move permanent.
- Turkey and Bear hunts on right now.
- Draw results will be available on-line tomorrow.

**Aquatics**

- Starting to monitor June sucker spawning run in Provo River

- Surveying for Columbia spotted frog egg masses in Heber Valley
- April gillnetting at Yuba showed a large increase in walleye in the 17-18" range. Fishing hasn't been good during the spawn, but should pick up in May.
- 50,000 additional rainbows will be stocked next week in Deer Creek, bringing the total for this upcoming season to 130,000. Should make for some good fishing this fall.

### Habitat

- The Division restricts vehicle access on wildlife management areas during the winter to minimize disturbance of big game. Each year, we unlock the gates on May 1st. If you're interested in learning more about these wildlife management areas pick up the publication, "Access to Wildlife Lands" at a DWR office or download sections on-line. Please stay on the established roads.

### Conservation Outreach

- I'd like to welcome a new employee, Katie Copple, the new volunteer coordinator. Katie has worked in seasonal positions for the Division at Hardware Ranch and for the Uinta National Forest.
- Reminder to all DHers to get your volunteer hours done while it's comfortable outside. Plenty of projects available. Look them up on our website or contact Katie.

### Law Enforcement

- Four new conservation officers have graduated from the Police Officers Safety Training Academy (P.O.S.T) and are now enrolled in a specialized training course administered by DWR field training officers. The COs will hit their districts later this summer. Holly Riddle will join our region as the new CO for the Strawberry District.

#### 4) **Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations for 2008 (Action)**

- **Regional Wildlife Program Coordinator or designee**

#### **Questions from the Public**

? – Would it be possible to relocate some moose instead of increasing the harvesting? I know we have traded moose in some cases. The Manti LaSal seems like a great place for moose but we never see any there. Could we move moose to that area?

Dennis Southerland - We do move moose and we have traded moose with Colorado. In the past years we have made several attempts to move moose onto the Manti but they haven't been successful for some reason. We are almost to the point that we are maybe giving up on that. They die off, not from poaching but from disease.

John Bair – Why are there antlerless elk hunts in January?

Dennis Southerland – To target depredation problem areas.

John Bair – Don't we worry about them. There is a lot of snow, they are easy pickins and it just don't seem right.

Dennis Southerland – We use hunters to reduce populations in areas we need them reduced but we also use hunters to herd them for us and get them away from problem areas. They are more effective at herding than reducing numbers.

Richard Hansen – On the Nebo unit the hunt goes through January 31<sup>st</sup>. I spend a lot of time up there and I see elk hunters harassing the deer. I think you are hurting the deer by hunting the elk



into January. It is legal harassment. Another issue is that half of the elk I saw taken were calves. I think there are some areas where you could fix the problem. Most of the hunting pressure for antlerless elk is on the west side. The east side is primarily private ground. The west side is being decimated. I would like to see the hunt between I-15 and the Nebo loop road cut off on November 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have agriculture problems it is on the east side. I am wondering why you won't address this. I have talked to Craig Clyde.

Dennis Southerland – We flew that Nebo unit in January 2007. We were right about at objective. If you look at our way point data, which is the points where we actually counted the elk around the unit, we count 57 percent of the elk that is on the Nebo. There are a lot of elk over there. This past winter we harvested 206 cows and 15 calves. The Nebo unit in general has a large population of mature bulls. We are at 27 bulls per 100 cows, which tells me that we could increase our bull tags and I have been trying to do that gradually over the years. If we can decrease that bull to cow ratio we will have greater reproduction in response. As far as chasing the deer on the winter range, it has been my observation that the deer displace themselves to the side. We have watched many elk hunters scooping the side of the mountain and they don't really pursue the elk unless there is a good possibility they can hit on the elk. We have our big horn sheep researchers down there in the winter two to three days a week and they very seldom see a lot of hunting pressure that would cause problems with the deer.

Richard Hansen – I have some data off your web site. There seem to be some inconsistencies.

Dennis Southerland – I don't have that data.

Richard Hansen – That is right on your web site. What it tells me is that there are fewer cows having calves than there were ten years ago. I talked to 20 camps during the spike hunt last fall and they said it is the worst they have ever seen it. Not only were they not finding spikes they were not find elk period.

Dennis Southerland – The data I find from Salt Lake is that we killed 95 spikes last year. If we can decrease that bull to cow ratio that will give us more cows to produce the calves that might turn into spikes.

Richard Hansen – Do you really believe there are 15,000 elk on that unit.

Dennis Southerland – The count in January of 2007 was 13,073. The number 15,000 you see is produced from a computer model based on the number of cows and calves that we counted and what the reproductive potential was.

Richard Hansen – You are killing a lot more cows than is what is reported.

Dennis Southerland – How do you measure that? We feel comfortable with the data we get from the hunter surveys that we manage our populations by.

Richard Hansen – I still have the hunters harassing the deer. Why can't we stop the hunt November 30<sup>th</sup>?

Dennis Southerland – The major problem period is in December and January.

Richard Hansen - On the west face of Nebo there is not agriculture there.

Dennis Southerland – There is that feed lot that Steven Kay has which gets hammered if we don't have hunters pushing the elk out. There is an area around Spring Lake that they come down almost to the interstate, which causes a very severe safety hazard.

Richard Hansen – Take the boundary to Santaquin but the agriculture problem is not that big on the west face.

Dennis Southerland – Where we count 57 percent of our elk it is a good place to reduce numbers too.

Richard Hansen – I disagree and wish you would stop the hunt November 30<sup>th</sup>. There was a petition signed by the local Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation chapter asking the division to do that very thing.

Dennis Southerland – That would be something for the RAC to address.

### **Comments from the Public**

Randy Loveless – We hunt the Wasatch mountains central region. We have archery hunted there for 15 years. That is a spike area with archery you can take a spike or cow. I could shot three or four mature bulls before I could shoot a spike or a cow. I would like to see the number of mature bulls tags increased substantially. You are doing a great job. We love to see the elk, thanks.

David Bailey – Utah Farm Bureau – We support the division’s recommendations. We appreciate the time that they take and their concern for agriculture. It is important for our producers that we be careful as far as the populations. We see we are getting close to objective. Some of the permit numbers are quite high but I think it is important that we take an aggressive stance on that. Thank you very much.

Mike Christensen – I just want to point out a disparity in our elk permit numbers. One of the problems we are having with the reproductively of our herd is that we shoot all our cows and we carry all our bulls. If we did that on our ranch our production would go down. On the San Juan you are giving 440 cow tags and only 95 bull tags. On southwest desert there are 95 bull tags and 305 cow tags. On the Pahvant, 110 bull tags and almost 600 cow tags. We can’t do anything about bull tags right now but I hope we remember this next spring when it is time to set bull permit numbers that we can’t keep killing all our cows off and expect to have bulls in the future. It is great to have huge bulls running all over to everybody can go out and film them, bugle them and hunt them but give it ten years and you will see a crash. We want quality but we want a healthy herd too.

### **RAC Discussion**

Doug Jones – I had a cow tag last year on the Nebo. The problem I have seen in the area is illegal ATV and snowmobile use. At first I thought they were hunters but my experience was that only 25 percent of them were hunters. I haven’t seen that the hunters out there are detrimental to the herd. As far as actual numbers, I don’t know but I did see a lot of elk. I saw a lot of bulls at first and it took a while to get a cow. It wasn’t an easy hunt.

John Bair – We had a conversation with Rick who manages the Deseret. He said they had cows coming into feedlots and dying in late winter early spring. They found that they had zero percent body fat. To address the problem they eliminated their late cow hunts. In some areas we are literally hunting the elk to death without shooting them. By the time we get done with the cow hunts in some areas they start dropping their horns and you have shed hunters on them and we never give these elk a break. If we could give only mitigation tags in some areas to keep elk out of a hay stack and give them a break on the mountain.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Richard Hansen to end the antlerless elk hunts on the Nebo unit  
November 30<sup>th</sup>  
Seconded by John Bair**

George Holmes - Would that include all depredation hunts too?

Richard Hansen – No, landowners could still get permits for their property.

George Holmes – The permits are not generally for hunters to come on the property.

Richard Hansen – Then the division could go shoot them.

George Holmes – Have you seen that happen?

Richard Hansen – Yes, in corn fields west of Nephi.

George Hansen – Cornfields west of Nephi, isn’t that where you said there are no problems.

Richard Hansen – I am talking about east of the freeway, the west face of Nebo. I know the division will go kill elk where they are causing depredation.

George Holmes – We do not have enough division people to do that in all areas. I think the best way to control the elk is the hunters and that is the recommendation we have. I really think January seems to be when the elk are in the areas that are problems. Actually, February and March too but we are not allowed to hunt them at that time.

Gary Nielson – The elk herd on the Nebo have been reduced from hundreds of elk down to several bunches of maybe 15. They may cause problems in one little feed lot but we are asking for a little bit of surgical intervention with problem elk and not just hunt the whole herd because a few of them are causing problems.

Fred Oswald – The motion on the floor with a second is

**To end the antlerless elk hunt on November 30<sup>th</sup> on the Nebo unit, not including mitigation permits**

**In Favor: Gary Nielson, Richard Hansen, John Bair**

**Opposed: Calvin Crandall, Doug Jones, Duane Smith, Jay Price, George Holmes**

**Motion failed 3 to 5**

**Motion was made by Jay Price to accept the division's recommendations as presented  
Seconded by George Holmes**

**In Favor: Calvin Crandall, Doug Jones, Duane Smith, Jay Price George Holmes**

**Opposed: Gary Nielson, Richard Hansen, John Bair**

**Motion passed 5 to 3**

- 5) **Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008 (Action)**  
- **Regional Wildlife Program Coordinator or designee**

#### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by Jay Price**

**In Favor: all**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 6) **Other Business – Mule Deer Planning Committee member (Action)**  
- **Ed Kent, RAC Chair**

Fred Oswald – If you would like to serve that would be great but keep in mind that it is fairly time consuming and we would like to have good representation from the RAC.

**Motion made by Calvin Crandall to recommend John Bair, Richard Hansen and Gary Nielson as possible candidates for the mule deer committee**

**Seconded by Doug Jones**

**In Favor: All**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.**

**200 in attendance**

**Next board meeting May 8<sup>th</sup> at the DNR Auditorium**

**Next RAC meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Springville Jr. High School**

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY-MOTIONS PASSED**  
**Western Park, Vernal/April 29, 2008**

1,2 & 3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA, MINUTES AND OLD BUSINESS

**MOTION:** to accept as presented  
Passed unanimously

5.MULE DEER PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**MOTION:** Rod Morrison preferred member  
Passed unanimously

**MOTION:** Kirk Woodward alternate member  
Passed unanimously

**MOTION:** Karl Breitenbach second alternate  
Passed unanimously

6.ANTLERLESS ADDENDUM, RULE AND PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008

**REVISED MOTION:** that we go with the DWR Antlerless recommendations as presented, except to reduce the Anthro Unit-wide Hunt 561 by 40 permits, to have 30 permits instead of 70.

Passed unanimously

7.ANTLERLESS CWMU PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008

**MOTION:** to accept as presented  
Passed unanimously

**NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

**Western Park, Vernal**

**April 29, 2008**

**Started at 6:30 pm; Adjourned at 7:40 pm**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Beth Hamann-Non-Consumptive  
Bob Christensen-Forest Service  
Kevin Christopherson-NER Supervisor  
Amy Torres-Chair  
Karl Breitenbach-At-Large  
Floyd Briggs-At-Large  
Rod Harrison-Elected Official  
Dave Chivers-Agriculture  
Rod Morrison-Sportsmen

**EXCUSED BOARD MEMBERS:**

Del Brady

**UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Randall Thacker-NER Wildlife Bio  
Clint Sampson-NER Law Enforcemnt  
Charles Greenwood-NER Pgm Mgr  
Ron Stewart-NER Conser. Outreach  
Gayle DeCamp-NER Office Mgr

**EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:**

Kirk Woodward-Sportsmen

**UNEXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:**

Carlos Reed-Ute Tribe

**1.REVIEW AND ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA: Amy Torres**

**MOTION** by Karl Breitenbach to accept agenda

Second by Rod Morrison

**Passed unanimously**

**2 AND 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND OLD BUSINESS: Amy Torres**

**MOTION** by Karl Breitenbach to approve

Second by Rod Morrison

**Passed unanimously**

**4.REGIONAL UPDATE Kevin Christopherson (INFORMATIONAL)**

UDWR is constructing up a barrier in West Fork of Duchesne in an attempt to stop the upstream spread of whirling disease. It will be completed this week

Derrick Ewell is our new Wildlife biologist replacing Charlie Greenwood

Matthew Breen is our new Native Fish biologist

Spring surveys are underway. If you would like to be involved, please contact us.

**5.LOCAL NONCONSUMPTIVE ISSUES/MULE DEER PLANNING  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (ACTION): Amy Torres**

The NER RAC needs to choose a member plus two alternates to be on the Mule Deer Planning Committee.

**MOTION by Dave Chivers to nominate Rod Morrison to be the preferred member**  
Second by Karl Breitenbach  
**Passed unanimously**

**MOTION by Karl Breitenbach to nominate Kirk Woodward to be the alternate**  
Second by Rod Morrison  
**Passed unanimously**

**MOTION by Karl Breitenbach who volunteered to be the second alternate**  
Second by Rod Morrison  
**Passed unanimously**

***NOTE:***

***Clay Hamann: I would like to have regular updates scheduled for public and RAC members on the progress the Mule Deer Planning Committee is making.***

**6.ANTLERLESS ADDENDUM, RULE AND PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR 2008: Charles Greenwood**

(See handout)

Deer production is down and has had an impact so permit numbers need to go down  
Elk populations are up so statewide permits would go up also.

***Northeastern Region 2008 antlerless recommendations:***

**Deer:**

Ashley Valley deer hunt – is the only area for which we’re recommending antlerless deer permits. It is a depredation hunt.

**Antelope:**

Lucerne Muzzleloader hunt - 22 permits to alleviate the impact on browse.

**Elk:**

West Daggett - 120 total permits to address depredation and help with populations on adjoining units like Three Corners, which has elk movement back and forth

Three Corners: Same permits numbers as last year to reduce to population objective. All three states are trying to get the herd here back to objective.

Yellowstone - 300 cow permits to address depredation situations in Arcadia UPALCO resident elk herd. Also, the Ute tribe will be reducing their permits, which is why we need to harvest elk.

Vernal/Bonanza - The elk range as far as Colorado or to the Monument and it's hard to harvest them. That's why we need to keep the number of permits high.

Book Cliffs - Increase to help with depredation in Willow Creek and also range concerns on McCook Ridge to keep the elk pressure off.

Little Creek - Keep numbers the same for recreational value

Nine-Mile Anthro - Numbers are high. Increasing permits to decrease population being over objective. We also need to make a clearer boundary to address law enforcement issues.

Wasatch Currant Creek – is over objective. Recommend increasing permits listed in handout and CWMU due to population concerns

Avintaquin – is over objective. Increase permits and CWMU to address population concerns.

### **Questions from Public:**

Brad Horrocks: On Diamond Mountain on 11/3, 11/18; 12/20 through 12/31; and January, are there elk on top of the mountain?

Charlie Greenwood: Yes.

Mitch Hacking: On all of Diamond?

Charlie Greenwood: There were elk wintering on Browns Park, some on the Monument. I had a hard time trying to decide where to draw a clear enough boundary that could separate the two areas.

Mitch Hacking: The animals pull off the top.

Brad Horrocks: We're concerned about hunters out there getting into the cabins.

Charlie Greenwood: We have a tri-state elk herd. Colorado and Wyoming want to match seasons and permit numbers so the elk can't go cross lines.

Kenny Labrum: On Anthro I'm questioning the numbers. You flew it last year, right? I'm not seeing that many numbers. The bull hunters were really disappointed last year. Why did it go to Nine Mile Road?

Charlie Greenwood: To make a clearer boundary. We've got to get cow elk off of there. The trend count says it's high.

Kenny Labrum: How accurate are your counts?

Charlie Greenwood: Typically about 85%.

Randall Thacker: I sat in on most of those flights, and we didn't fly Indian ground and the count was where we flew. The elk were still there. They were in different areas than they had traditionally been. The Tribe doesn't have elk anymore since they had all those wells. They've moved.

Kenny Labrum: Could I get more information from you on your flights?

Randall Thacker: We could look that up for you.

Brad Horrocks: On late hunts, couldn't we use the rim of Diamond for the boundary?

Charlie Greenwood: It could be rewritten to use the rim on the south and the north. It seemed like last year we had that discussion and it seemed like most of the elk were on the top anyhow.

Randall Thacker: We do have pieces of land in other areas that are almost all private that we allow elk hunters into.

### **Questions from RAC:**

Floyd Briggs: On the North Slope where we're below objective is the cow hunt north of the forest boundary?

Charlie Greenwood: It is north of forest in the Burnt Fork, Sheep Creek and Birch Creek country.

Floyd Briggs: It seems pressure has been driving the elk down more every year.

Charlie Greenwood: This last winter they pretty well stayed on Phil Pico, and we didn't have near the depredation problems.

Karl Breitenbach: On the plan objectives, I looked at North Slope/Three Corners and Nine-Mile Anthro showing 700. What is that based on? Habitat carrying capacity?

Charlie Greenwood: It's based on carrying capacity, sociological, political, depredation problems. Winter range concerns where you overlap with deer. We came up with these



numbers quite a few years ago. Last year we had the opportunity to review and we stayed where we were.

Bob Christensen: In 2001 or 2002, the way I understand, they talked about increasing the population. The Forest Service gave a presentation to the RAC about the aspen stands on Anthro. They were concerned about the population numbers of elk and what they were doing to the aspen stands. They opted to keep the elk numbers at 700 to help aspen regeneration.

Kenny Labrum: Did you ever complete the enclosure and how has the study gone?

Bob Christensen: We built a second enclosure at the top and there's data on both of them. On the first one, I have photos and they tell quite a story. There is a big difference between the enclosures and the surrounding area.

Kevin Christopherson: Those objectives were set for a variety of reasons, different for each unit. The Division has the goal to raise population objectives statewide, but to change them we must work through local elk committees that include local agriculture and the Forest Service. It could happen but it's unlikely. Part of the reason we're pushing the populations down to objectives so we can tell landowners we can keep elk at objective and demonstrate that we can manage them at these objectives so we can maintain credibility.

Kenny Labrum: How much depredation did you have?

Charlie Greenwood: We had 10 depredation permits, so not much on Nine Mile, Anthro

Dave Chivers: Last year it snowed so the elk pulled off of Diamond and then we had people breaking into cabins, poaching deer, etc. That concerns us about the late hunts. I wonder if in the future there would be some way to decide how much of that hunt was open. I know we've got to kill the elk. If at the first of December we could decide whether the whole unit was open and those people who have the tags in their possession could be directed to only places we're having depredation problems. Every year is so different. The year before the elk were there all winter.

Mitch Hacking: Even though it doesn't snow, don't the elk pull off the top anyway?

Charlie Greenwood: Our telemetry studies show that elk start moving due to the hunt. They know to go to the monument; they know to go to Colorado. Yeah. They move.

Mitch Hacking: It doesn't actually take a snowstorm, does it?

Charlie Greenwood: No.

Rod Morrison: Regarding the Anthro Unit, sportsmen have been disappointed in elk numbers. The count is done in January and the sportsmen hunting during the hunt season

are not seeing the elk. I would like to voice my concern that I think this number is high. Possibly they're there in the winter but there might be Nine-mile Range Creek elk coming in. I think we need to keep that in mind as we increase these numbers.

Charlie Greenwood: We may need to combine that unit with the Avintaquin.

Randall Thacker: We know a lot of elk get pushed east. We have elk clear from Strawberry Valley who winter on the west side of Anthro depending on how hard the winter is. The management plans call for a winter population count. Otherwise you'd have a different situation. Those animals do move.

Kenny Labrum: Do you have any idea how many?

Randall: The data radio telemetry study was done 14 years ago. We're trying to get it pushed to fly adjoining hunt areas in the same year. It would be really useful to fly Wasatch Mountains and Currant Creek the same year. That is the same on all our units but they don't have enough money to fly all the units in the same year.

Kenny Labrum: Is there any way we could change that to a fall count?

Randall Thacker: It would be hard to count in the fall. I'm not sure how you'd get that count.

Karl Breitenbach: Anybody who has driven back and forth to Salt Lake this winter knows we had a lot of road kills. I share Ron's concern. I wrote "NO" on North Slope/Three Corners. I think we're raising them too much. I'm not a biologist and I'm not going to tell you how to do your job but I do have a concern.

### **Comments from Public:**

Kenny Labarum: Most of the Anthro, from what I've been able to see, I flew before and we only counted 60 east of the canyon. But there has been traditionally a resident herd in that area. I'm concerned because it's so easy to get an elk in Anthro that they go there. The problem is along Indian Canyon and Sower's Canyon. It's tough to hunt there but that's where the elk are staying. I know there's a problem with boundaries but for that little population of elk, I'd like to see them sustain the numbers as they are. It's a shame that they don't take care of the problem on the west side where it is. I'd like to see the numbers come down.

Mitch Hacking: I'd like to work on establishing boundaries on the top of the mountain. Usually after November, if you haven't got your cow elk by then, it's rough. A lot of elk do move out if a snowstorm comes. Usually about 15<sup>th</sup> of November landowners and the cattle move off the mountain and most of the cabin owners are gone. There aren't a lot of people there to see who's running on us. In the past, if you get a snowstorm and get hunters up there, you get drifts. Hunters up there when the deer are running and they will

be tempted to take them illegally. The sportsmen would be better off hunting in the bottoms. I think it would be benefit the hunters and the deer so I would like to see us put some boundaries after November 15th and keep them lower.

### **Comments from RAC:**

Bob Christensen: As far as the Ashley National Forest goes, talking about the exclosure, regardless, the elk population numbers are too high and need to come down. The way you do that is by harvesting cows. We also need to look at the percent harvest you have. I spent a lot of time last September in the Anthro area and saw quite a few. The Forest Service has looked at the Anthro and the population estimate was low. We saw that estimate come up last year and felt it was more realistic. There are going to be some coming in during the winter. I like what I see on the increase of cow permits on Anthro. I think it's warranted.

### **RAC Motion and Discussion:**

Karl Breitenbach: The North Slope Three Corners dropped 24 animals. I think the 325 recommended is too many. I would lower it to 250. And on Anthro, I would like to reduce the number there as well. I'd rather hunt them than have them starve to death though.

Floyd Briggs: In Three Corners in Daggett County, there are quite a few elk. That fire created a lot of habitat and the elk population just exploded.

Karl Breitenbach: The count is down 240 animals.

Randall Thacker: The objective is still 300 lower than the count, and we have to go with that.

Floyd Briggs: I was on the committee and there was a lot of concern in Browns Park and Three Corners.

Kevin Christopherson: We tried to raise the objective there but the local elk committee did not support us.

Dave Chivers: I've only talked to one landowner but they're being overrun and they want the herds brought back down to objective. How do the other landowners feel Charlie?

Charlie Greenwood: They all feel the same. That family runs cattle in all three states. All three states are trying to lower to the objective. That tri-state herd moves around and we have to manage to our objective.

Dave Chivers: On Diamond Mountain, would the rim thing work?

Charlie Greenwood: The boundary can be rewritten to have the rim on both sides. I have some concerns with hunting pressure pushing the elk back on top and they would not be available for harvest.

Rod Morrison: I agree with Karl on Anthro. I would like to go with 100 to 175 instead of 260.

Bob Christensen: I did bring some photos on that enclosure and you could see for yourself what they look like. There 's not a whole lot of aspen. The aspen stands are struggling. One side of the enclosure prevents cattle from browsing in there but not elk or deer. The other side prevents everything. If you look at the difference between the fence lines, there's a vast difference.

Rod Morrison: Are you saying the elk are causing all the damage there?

Bob Christensen: Well the one side excludes cattle and the other excludes all ungulates. It shows that it's not cattle; it's big game doing the browsing. There are some deer and antelope but the numbers aren't that high.

Rod Morrison: Then I'd be willing to go up to 200.

Karl Breitenbach: I respect what Bob's saying so I'm tempted to going with the recommendation from DWR. I just want to mention my concerns.

Rod Morrison: I'd be willing to go with 200.

**MOTION by Rod Morrison to accept as presented except for the numbers to go to 200 instead of 240 on Anthro elk**

Second by Karl Breitenbach

**Favor: Karl Floyd Rod Harrison, Rod Morrison  
Against/ Bob, Beth**

**Motion passed.**

Kevin Christopherson: You have to remember these cows are going to have offspring this year and the population will go up pretty fast. The population estimated this winter could easily increase by 50% this spring. These elk herds can get away from us pretty quickly if we don't aggressively harvest cows.

Randall Thacker: There are three hunts for Anthro. Would you want to see the 40 taken away from some of each hunt or just the west side hunt?

Rod Morrison: I'd take them totally off the 561 unit wide hunt.

**REVISED MOTION: to accept the Antlerless recommendations as presented, only change the Anthro unit to have 40 less permits (30 permits instead of 70) on the unit wide hunt 561.**

Second by Karl Breitenbach

**Passed unanimously**

**7.ANTLERLESS CWMU PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008: Charles Greenwood (ACTION)**

See handout

*Northeastern Region*

Sand Wash/Sink Draw 70 antlerless elk permits approved by DWR

Moon's Ranch 24 approved

Little Red Creek 28 approved

**Questions from Public: None**

**Questions from RAC: None**

Karl Breitenbach: Why do CWMU want to give permits only to residents?

Charlie Greenwood: I don't know.

Randall Thacker: I went to the meeting and it was purely a "let's keep it for the residents" kind of action.

**Comments from Public:**

Clay Hamann: I recommend we accept the division's proposal

**MOTION: by Karl Breitenbach to accept as presented**

Second Rod Harrison

**Passed unanimously**

**Next meeting: May 29. 2009 fishing informational; Upland Game Guide & Rule**

**Meeting Adjourned 7:40 pm**

**MOTIONS MATRIX**  
**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL WILDLIFE ADVISORY COUNCIL**  
**JOHN WESLEY POWELL MUSEUM IN GREEN RIVER**  
**April 29, 2008**

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**MOTION:** to approve the agenda as written.

**PASSED:** unanimously

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes of the March 19 meeting as amended.

**PASSED:** unanimously

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**MOTION:** to select Kevin Albrecht as this region's RAC representative for the statewide deer committee with Drew Sitterud and Terry Sanslow as his alternates.

**PASSED:** unanimously

**ANTLERLESS ADDENDUM, RULE AND PERMITS FOR 2008**

**MOTION:** to accept the 2008 Antlerless Addendum as presented, except that the closing date for Hunt #579 (Antlerless elk; Central Mountains, Horn Mountain) be changed from 12/31 to 1/31.

**PASSED:** unanimously

**MOTION:** to approve a proposal initiated by James Gilson, which would allow landowners to issue 2-deer mitigation vouchers to prospective depredation hunters.

**PASSED** unanimously

**ANTLERLESS CWMU PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008**

**MOTION:** to approve Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008 as presented.

**PASSED** unanimously

**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY**

**John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River**

**April 29, 2008**

**Commence at 6:30 p.m. Adjourn 7:30 p.m.**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Adams, Bruce	At Large
Byrnes, Verd	At Large
Gilson, James	Sportsmen
Hatch, Jordan	Agriculture
Hoskisson, Wayne	Environmental
Larson, Rick	Regional Supervisor
Maldonado, Walt	Sportsmen
Riddle, Pam	BLM
Sanslow, Terry	At Large
Sitterud, Drew	Elected Official

**EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:**

Albrecht, Kevin	U.S. Forest Service
Kamala, Laura	Environmental

**UNEXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:**

Bayles, Lyle	At Large
Lewis, Kurt	Agriculture

**UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

(none)

**DWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Crompton, Brad  
Larson, Rick  
Stettler, Brent  
Stilson, Randall

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE 34**

**CONDUCTING THE MEETING**

-By James Gilson, Chairman

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Questions from the RAC:**

**Questions from the Audience:**

**Comments from the Audience:**

**Comments/Discussion from the RAC:**

**MOTION by** Drew Sitterud to approve the agenda as written.

**SECOND by** Terry Sanslow

**PASSED** unanimously

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**Questions from the RAC:**

**Questions from the Audience:**

**Comments from the Audience:**

**Comments/Discussion from the RAC:**

James Gilson asked Brent Stettler if suggested changes had been made to the minutes of the March 19 meeting. Brent said they had been made.

**MOTION by** Verd Byrnes to approve the minutes of the March 19 meeting as amended.

**SECOND by** Pam Riddle

**PASSED** unanimously

**OLD BUSINESS**

By James Gilson

**Questions from the RAC:**

**Questions from the Audience:**

**Comments from the Audience:**

**Comments/Discussion from the RAC:**



James Gilson advised the RAC that they needed to nominate one member and two alternates to sit on the statewide deer committee. Kevin Albrecht, who was absent this evening, had previously expressed an interest in sitting on the committee. Several RAC members affirmed support for Kevin as their choice. Drew Sitterud and Terry Sanslow expressed interest in serving as alternates.

**MOTION by** Jordan Hatch to select Kevin Albrecht as our representative on the statewide deer committee with Drew Sitterud and Terry Sanslow as alternates.

**SECOND by** Bruce Adams

**PASSED:** unanimously

### **REGIONAL UPDATE**

By Rick Larson, Regional Supervisor

#### **Questions from the RAC:**

James Gilson asked Brad Crompton to say a few words about the fawn to adult deer ratios in the southeastern region, which were portrayed on the last slide of Rick's PowerPoint presentation. Brad summarized the winter classification data. He indicated that buck:doe ratios had been steady over the past few years, and added that fawn recruitment and winter survival were largely determined by precipitation timing and amount.

#### **Questions from the Audience:**

#### **Comments from the Audience:**

#### **Comments/Discussion from the RAC:**

**MOTION by** N/A

**SECOND by**

**PASSED:**

### **ANTLERLESS PROCLAMATION AND PERMIT NUMBERS FOR 2008**

-By Brad Crompton, Regional Wildlife Biologist

#### **Questions from the RAC:**

James Gilson asked Brad if deer population objectives were set the same as for elk.

Brad indicated that to be the case, and that deer population objectives were maintained by the antlerless harvest.

James Gilson asked Brad questions about pronghorn population objectives and trends. Brad indicated that herd units were doing well.

Walt Maldonado asked about the status of the pronghorn, which had been transplanted to the Reef.

Brad answered that the herd was increasing, based on observations of collared and non-collared individuals.

Walt Maldonado asked about competition between wild burros and pronghorn in the Spotted Wolf area, and if burros were pushing pronghorns out. Brad wasn't sure.

**Questions from the Audience:**

**Comments from the Audience:**

**Comments/Discussion from the RAC:**

Verd Byrnes asked about the antlerless deer permits that were being recommended for the southeastern region.

Brad said that agricultural deer in San Juan County were being targeted by the hunt.

Brad brought a mistake to the RAC's attention that had been made in the packet of antlerless elk hunting recommendations. The Central Mountains, Horn Mountain antlerless elk season was listed as ending on 12/31. The correct date for season closure should be 1/31. Brad asked the RAC to address that mistake in their up-coming motion.

James Gilson stated that the U.S. Forest Service intends to close the Horn Mountain road earlier in the winter this year. This would minimize hunter access. Only horseback and walk-in hunters would be able to take advantage of the entire hunting season.

James Gilson chided the Division for its reluctance to raise the elk population on the Central Mountains, Manti unit from 10,000 to 12,000.

Brad Crompton responded that he was more comfortable with the herd size being below objective. With respect to the Horn unit, Brad indicated he was trying to address localized problems.

At the end of the Antlerless Addendum discussion, James Gilson proposed that the RAC consider one additional issue. He introduced the issue by saying that in the southeastern region, landowners often find themselves in a situation where depredating animals must be removed from hay fields. As the Rule stands, a hunter can harvest only one animal per mitigation voucher, which makes it necessary for a landowner to find one hunter for every animal to be removed. That leaves the landowner with a larger-than-necessary workload. James cited an example of a farmer in San Juan County, who owns 10 acres of hay, where 130 deer feed every day. A 10-acre area is too small to accommodate the number of hunters needed to control the depredation problem. If the landowner could issue 2-deer vouchers, only half the number of hunters would be needed. This would benefit the landowner and hunter alike. Landowners would benefit by needing to arrange for and schedule fewer hunters. Hunters would benefit by reduced hunter pressure and improved chances for success.

**MOTION by** Walt Maldonado to accept the 2008 Antlerless Addendum as presented, except that the closing date for Hunt #579 (Antlerless elk; Central Mountains, Horn Mountain) be changed from 12/31 to 1/31.

**SECOND by** Verd Byrnes

**PASSED** unanimously

**MOTION by** Drew Sitterud to approve a proposal initiated by James Gilson, which would allow landowners to issue 2-deer mitigation vouchers to prospective depredation hunters.

**SECOND by** Wayne Hoskisson

**DISCUSSION**

**ON THE**

**MOTION:** Regional Supervisor Rick Larson indicated that the motion on the table would invalidate the immediately preceding motion, and that this motion would not have the effect intended.

**PASSED**      unanimously

**CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008**

-By Brad Crompton, Regional Wildlife Biologist

**Questions from the RAC:**

Walt Maldonado asked Brad if the Division was having any serious problems with CWMUs. Brad Crompton answered that there were no serious problems.

**Questions from the Audience:**

**Comments from the Audience:**

**Comments/Discussion from the RAC:**

**MOTION by** Verd Byrnes to approve the Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008 as presented.

**SECOND by** Walt Maldonado

**PASSED**      unanimously

**ADJOURNMENT**

James Gilson adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Snow College  
Richfield, UT  
April 29, 2008  
6:30 p.m.**

**REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** To accept the agenda and minutes as written.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**ANTLERLESS ADDENDUM, RULE AND PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008**

**MOTION:** To accept the Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations as presented.

**VOTE:** 7 in favor, 2 opposed

**ANTLERLESS CWMU PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2008**

**MOTION:** To accept the Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations as presented.

**VOTE:** 7 in favor, 2 opposed

**BROOD STOCK AT KOLOB RESERVOIR PROPOSAL**

**MOTION:** Motion to approve the brood stock at Kolob Reservoir Proposal as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**MULE DEER STATEWIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

**MOTION:** To appoint Steve Dalton as the Southern Region RAC representative with Steve Flinders and James Edwards as alternates for the Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Committee.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**MULE DEER PAUNSAUGUNT MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

**MOTION:** To appoint Sam Carpenter as the Southern Region RAC representative for the Paunsaugunt Mule Deer Management Plan Committee.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**MOTION:** To appoint Harry Barber as the Southern Region RAC alternate for the

Paunsaugunt Mule Deer Management Plan Committee.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
 Snow College  
 Richfield, UT  
 April 29, 2008  
 6:30 p.m.**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Cordell Pearson Clair Woodbury Sam Carpenter Steve Dalton Chairman Jake Albrecht Steve Flinders Gary Hallows Del LeFevre Rex Stanworth James Edwards	Douglas Messerly Giani Julander Natalie Brewster Lynn Chamberlain Heather Perry Jim Lamb Sean Kelly Dustin Schaible Mike Ottenbacher Tawnya Hunt Vance Mumford Mike Kinghorn		Jack Hill Harry Barber

Chairman Jake Albrecht called the Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. There were approximately 113 interested parties in attendance in addition to the RAC members, Wildlife Board members and DWR employees. Chairman Jake Albrecht asked the RAC members to introduce themselves.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, I want to welcome everyone here to our Southern RAC meeting. My name's Jake Albrecht, I represent elected officials. I want to recognize Paul Niemeyer, who went back to Salt Lake today to have some final tests run on his operation and the things that needed to be done there. I don't see Tom Hatch here, who also sits on the Wildlife Board. But I'm going to ask the RAC members to introduce themselves, starting on my left with Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: I'm Cordell Pearson, representing at-large.

Clair Woodbury: I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane. I'm an at-large representative.

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter from Kanab. I represent the sportsman.

Douglas Messerly: Hi, I'm Doug Messerly Regional Supervisor with the Division of Wildlife Resources out of Cedar City. Myself and my staff act as executive secretary to this committee and we're nonvoting.

Steve Flinders: Steve Flinders representing Fish Lake and Dixie National Forests.

Gary Hallows: Gary Hallows, agriculture.

Del LeFevre: Del LeFevre, agriculture.

Rex Stanworth: Rex Stanworth, at-large.

Jim Edwards: Jim Edwards, sportsman.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, our first item of business tonight is the procedure for dedicated hunters to receive RAC credit. Heather Perry.

**Procedure for Dedicated Hunters to Receive RAC Credit (Informational)**

- Heather Perry, Southern Region Dedicated Hunter Coordinator

Jake Albrecht: Thank you. Before I go any further I might ought to explain our RAC meeting procedures. After each presentation tonight the following procedures will be followed. Number one will be questions from the RAC and then questions from the public. And then after the questions we'll go to comments. And we get comments from the public; you get three minutes if you're an individual and five minutes if you represent a group, an organized group. And then we'll have comments from the RAC, RAC motion, discussion, and vote. Now if you want to make comments there's some DWR personnel standing around that's got some little comment cards. You need to fill those out with your name, what you'd like to talk about, and then get those back to those gentlemen so they can get them up to us so we don't miss you. Okay, gentlemen our agenda tonight is the green paper. We've got a couple of added items.

***Review and Acceptance of Agenda (action)***

**Questions from the RAC:**

None.

**Questions from the Public:**

None.

**Comments from the Public:**

None.

**RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Jake Albrecht: So with that I would like a motion to accept tonight's agenda.

Steve Flinders: So move.

Jake Albrecht: A motion by Steve Flinders.

Rex Stanworth: Second it.

Jake Albrecht: And a second by Rex Stanworth. Any other discussion? All in favor, please say aye. Any against? Motion carries.

**Steve Flinders made the motion to accept the agenda as written. Rex Stanworth, unanimous.**

***Review and Acceptance of minutes (action)***

Jake Albrecht: Last month's minutes.

**Questions from the RAC:**

None.

**Questions from the Public:**

None.

**Comments from the Public:**

None.

**RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Jake Albrecht: Do we have any discussion on those? Motion to approve?

Gary Hallows: So move.

Jake Albrecht: A motion by Gary Hallows.

Cordell Pearson: Second.



Jake Albrecht: And a second by Cordell Pearson. Any other discussion? All in favor? Any against?

**Gary Hallows made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Cordell Pearson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Jake Albrecht: Just a comment about last month's minutes and some of the comments that were made of, when we get into some of those heated discussions we want to make sure that we're not name calling or things like that. So hopefully we'll have a good meeting tonight.

### **Wildlife Board Update: Jake Albrecht, Southern RAC Chairman**

- At the Wildlife Board last month in Salt Lake City there was a motion to look at a statewide deer management plan, and specifically at creating a Paunsaugunt sub-working group and make recommendations. That passed unanimously.
- There was also a motion to keep the Paunsaugunt permit numbers the same as in 2007. That also passed.
- Another motion to accept the remainder of the deer numbers as presented by the Division, which passed.
- The DWR's recommendation on sheep statewide as presented, that passed.
- A motion to approve the remainder of the DWR's recommendation on Bucks and Bulls permit numbers for 2008, and that passed also.
- The Elk Unit Management Plan, there was a motion to approve the elk plan through March 31, 2010, and then they'll revisit that.
- And then a motion for the Bighorn Sheep Statewide Management Plan as presented by the DWR, passed unanimously.
- And also the CWMU Rule, passed unanimously.

Jake Albrecht: So that's what happened at the Wildlife Board. The Regional Update now with Doug Messerly.

### ***Regional Update:***

-Douglas Messerly, Southern Regional Supervisor

Douglas Messerly: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I'd just like to remind the committee and the audience that tonight's meeting is a statewide meeting. These meetings are being held in all five regions tonight at this time. And the reason for that is that we have such a short turnaround time on this antlerless proclamation that we don't have a week in order to make the rounds and do all the presentations in all the regions. So we have personnel on standby in Salt Lake tonight and we have a telephone device up here that we'll be able to call them and ask them questions regarding statewide management or issues that we're not familiar with here should those questions arise. There's no requirement that we do that, however, they're available if necessary.

- As everyone is probably aware in this room, the results of the bucks

and bulls drawing will be actually posted tomorrow. Many of us have already received notice, by e-mail, or by other means, whether or not we've drawn. But the official posting date is tomorrow. And that information will be available if you don't receive notice of that.

- The antlerless application period will be late May and early June. That's the proclamation and regulations we're considering tonight. So when we get through this process and attend the Board meeting, next week actually, that addendum will be put in place and the process for drawing those permits will go into place in late May through part of June.
- With regard to mule deer plans that you mentioned, specifically tonight on the agenda, what we have are two items; one is to nominate someone from the RAC to represent this RAC on the statewide mule deer management plan committee. They've also asked for two alternates in case that designee can't attend. So if we can take care of that business by virtue of a vote we would be appreciative of that.
- Also we are going to form a committee to consider the Paunsaugunt mule deer management plan. And we would appreciate it if the RAC would formally nominate someone to represent this body on that committee. Also, it might be a good idea in that case to provide an alternate in addition.
- And then finally I'd like to introduce Natalie Brewster, who's sitting over here Giani working on the minutes. Natalie is a new employee with the Division of Wildlife. She works in our office down there, and most likely to answer the phone; one of those two is most likely to answer the phone if you call our office. Natalie will be working on the RAC minutes in the future, and they'll be sharing that responsibility, but Natalie will be taking the lead.

Douglas Messerly: So with that Mr. Chairman, unless there's any questions that's my presentation.

Jake Albrecht: Thanks Doug. I told Giani earlier before the meeting started that while at the Wildlife Board meeting last week that one of the Wildlife Board members spoke up and said if some of the other areas would make their minutes like the Southern Region we'd know what was going on in this state. So I think Giani has done a real good job with that and we appreciate what she does. Okay, our first item of business is Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations for 2008. Sean Kelly.

#### **Antlerless Addendum, Rule and Permit Recommendations for 2008 (Action)**

- Sean Kelly, Southern Region Wildlife Biologist (see attachment 1)
- **12:07 to 28:59 of 1:34:20**

#### **Questions from the RAC:**

Jake Albrecht: Okay, questions from the RAC.

Rex Stanworth: I got one. One the elk permits, with the 50 permits, that early hunt that you're talking about Sean, is that on the south only or is that going to be unit wide?

Sean Kelly: No that would be unit wide. That would be Oak Creek, Pahvant south and also the north end that's closed. It's a small enough hunt that I doubt it would have a real heavy impact on that area north, right where those cows are kind of lacking.

Jake Albrecht: Steve Dalton.

Steve Dalton: Yes, I have a question on the Boulder Mountain cow elk. You have 200 cow tags on that unit. Are these Salt Gulch tags, are they that same 200 or is this 200 additional?

Sean Kelly: The only hunt we will have on the Boulder is Salt Gulch. There will be no antlerless hunt on the unit at-large. It will all be focused right around that Salt Gulch area.

Jake Albrecht: Del LeFevre.

Del LeFevre: You know I question the count of being at 1300. What did you figure we got over there, 900? Now are you taking in the whole thing from Bryce Canyon clear across the Boulder or are you just taking in the Boulder?

Sean Kelly: Yeah, that should be an estimate for the entire unit.

Del LeFevre: You've definitely got over, hang on, you've definitely got over that count. I've got 600 head in Salt Gulch right now. I've got about 100 head in Upper Boulder. (Unintelligible) we're seeing all the time. Then you've got the bunch up on Kris trailhead. There's a big bunch there. You've got a big bunch over at Wild Cat.

Sean Kelly: These are winter estimates. And sometimes in some of the units the elk will winter in one and will move. So our winter counts, look for the Beaver for instance, we have fewer elk that winter there that summer there. Our summer elk population increases. So in the spring you might have, it's possible elk move in from other areas. Um, Jim do you have any that you want to?

Del LeFevre: I've been in touch with Jim and Tawnya on this thing. So it's not my numbers we're, you know, but I still think you got more elk than you're . . . I think you've got your 15 if we really got a good count.

Sean Kelly: Yeah Jim just reminded me that we will fly that next year. If you're able to I'm sure Jim would love to bring you along.

Del LeFevre: Oh yeah.

Sean Kelly: You've gone in the past Del. So yeah, it would be a good chance for you to go up and reevaluate how we do things.

Del LeFevre: But the problem you've got, you're not going to shoot 50 elk over there because

of the terrain. Once you shoot the first few they're in the (unintelligible) cedars and they're hard, hard to hunt. But where you got two hunts maybe, you know.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, we, the first, the first objective was to move those elk away and to try to reduce the damage they're doing. Killing the elk was uh, you know, something that's going to happen. But the real objective of that was to push those elk off those fields and get them some place where they're not causing a problem.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Sam Carpenter.

Sam Carpenter: Yes Sean, addressing this special hunt you're having for deer in Johnson Canyon, what are the boundaries on that hunt? Isn't that like a mile on each side of the road? And how far north does that go?

Sean Kelly: I could read it off to you specifically if you'd like. But . . .

Sam Carpenter: I'd like to know what it is.

Sean Kelly: I'm sorry I didn't have, some of these I don't have memorized, but I could find it for you and read it off. My understanding of Johnson Canyon.... I'm sorry. Let me, these aren't in order, they're mixed up according to which biologist turned them in.

Sam Carpenter: Roughly, do you know where the northern and southern borders are on that? They're a mile on each side of the road, this hunt, right? I mean it has boundaries a mile from the Johnson Canyon road?

Sean Kelly: The southern is 89 and the northern is Skutumpah. Is that correct?

Sam Carpenter: Skutumpah?

Sean Kelly: Does that answer your question?

Sam Carpenter: Yeah.

Sean Kelly: That will save me from reading the, it's a long boring (unintelligible)

Sam Carpenter: It brings up another on though.

Sean Kelly: We'll try to answer it.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. Uh, these permits, are these some kind of depredation, is that what the problem is here?

Sean Kelly: Yeah. These are trying to focus on, well the Johnson Canyon is actually a range degradation. Uh, there's a couple of places where the range is suffering to the point where we're worried that the damage will be irreversible unless you try to (unintelligible) move the animals off that or release it somehow.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. So this isn't a concern for the landowners? They're not the ones that of uh . . .

Sean Kelly: That will be a secondary affect of it, over that it will help the landowners as well. But the big concern we have is over that section of winter range there.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. Well the boundaries you're defining for this hunt are almost all on private ground. My concern is you're going to be hunting in August. There are very few deer in that area. The ones that are down there live in those hay fields and just beyond there. It's totally a road less area where they can't really take vehicles in. You're going to have problems with access. I think you're going to end up with some really disappointed hunters that get those tags, trying to get to those deer. And also, as far as the landowners are concerned, we're giving them 20 permits already for the muzzleload hunt to handling any depredation problems that way. No, they're just (unintelligible).

Sean Kelly: I'm sorry. I, Johnson, I looked and the first consideration was the landowners. It was a depredation and the range was secondary. So yeah it is a hunt to try to reduce the damage to cropland.

Sam Carpenter: Okay.

Sean Kelly: Sorry, that was my mistake.

Jake Albrecht: Clair Woodbury.

Clair Woodbury: Sean I have one question, you made several references to unborn calves in June, using them in the count is justifying these cow hunts.

Sean Kelly: We uh, when we estimate the populations, it's a winter population objective, like for instance the Fillmore. We fly that unit in February. We estimate that population at the time we fly in February. And so our population in relation to the objective was over even in February. But in June, we have to take into account that those cows will have calves in June. We haven't found a way to stop them yet. And so once they have those calves, those calves will be added to the population. And so while it's only 500, we're only 500, we are 500 head above objective right now, come June these cows will drop about 400 calves. We'll be 900 above objective. And so a lot of the recommendations we make for antlerless permits take into account what the increase in the population will be. Still we won't be able to hunt them until the fall.

Clair Woodbury: Now on the livestock on our range, don't we count a cow and a calf as one animal?

Sean Kelly: Yeah the. . .

Clair Woodbury: Why are we using a different count for the elk?

Sean Kelly: Our population objectives deal with just numbers of animals. I think what you're referring to, and I'm not the expert on this, but the federal agencies consider an animal unit month as one cow calf unit.

Clair Woodbury: Just one cow calf, right. Because that calf is sucking momma for the most part.

Sean Kelly: Yeah. Our population objectives are just total number of animals. And that includes cows, calves, you know, males, bulls in this case.

Clair Woodbury: Well I can understand that but I struggle with calves that are still several months away from being born as being counted in that. That should be next year's count.

Sean Kelly: They're not counted in the actual population estimate but we have to take those into account when we make these antlerless recommendations. In between the time we do the population estimate and hold the hunt those calves are born and the population would increase.

Clair Woodbury: I'm just wondering why we're using a double standard here for livestock and the public animal.

Jake Albrecht: Jim, I have a question. On this Monroe deer hunt, does that go all the way up through Gunnison clear up to Sevier on the south, what's the boundary on that?

Jim Lamb: It goes about to the mouth of the canyon on the south end of the valley and it stops, where's Tonya? Where's that north boundary? Remind me what the north boundary is. Tonya's going to have to look it up. The north boundary on the Sevier Valley hunt. Okay, county line. Jake, does that help you?

Jake Albrecht: Sevier county line? So what's your, what's your estimation on the population of deer in the valley?

Jim Lamb: In the valley? I don't try to make an estimate for the population of deer that's in the valley. That population of deer is counted as part of the Monroe unit. But we recognize that those deer rarely leave the valley and so they live there all the time. They're not doing us any good as far as the population of mountain deer or deer that are doing desirable things.

Jake Albrecht: I guess my question is is that the biggest majority of the Monroe deer unit?

Jim Lamb: No. It's a segment of the Monroe's population if you want to talk about population modeling. But the deer in the valley live in the valley and the only thing they do is cause us grief with landowners and with crops. They don't go on the mountain and help out the population of mountain deer that we traditionally go and hunt in the fall.

Jake Albrecht: I understand that. I was just trying to see if you guys had a total number of probably what was living in the . . .

Jim Lamb: I've never made an effort to differentiate between the two as far as how many or which way.

Jake Albrecht: Why did we have a decrease on the Plateau, on the deer this year from last year?

Jim Lamb: On the population objective?

Jake Albrecht: Yeah we went from 146 permits last year to 100 this year.

Jim Lamb: On the Plateau deer?

Jake Albrecht: That's correct.

Jim Lamb: A decrease on population or a decrease on what?

Jake Albrecht: On the antlerless permits.

Jim Lamb: A decrease on antlerless permits on?

Jake Albrecht: On the Plateau. Oh excuse me, those are all under mitigation. Okay, I'm sorry. Okay, any other questions? Do we have any questions from the public?

**Questions from the Public:**

None.

Jake Albrecht: Seeing none, we don't have any comments from the public, no comment cards.

**Comments from the Public:**

None.

Jake Albrecht: So we'll open it up to comments from the RAC, possibly move to a motion, and a discussion, and a vote.

**RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Sam Carpenter: The only comment I'd really have on this is on the Johnson Canyon unit. Is the fact that if you do issue 50 permits that is all posted nearly from 89 nearly all the way up to Skutumpah. There are a few places that are not posted, but the deer that you're concerned about are living in the alfalfa fields. The landowners are being given permits already for this. I would much rather see you handle these with mitigation than disappoint 50 hunters going up in there and trying to find those deer. As you go up Johnson Canyon there are no roads to get in behind those alfalfa fields other than one that goes up in that goes up to Nephi Pasture up in there. But you've only got a mile there and you have very little of the alfalfa crop on that side of

the road, it's almost all on the other side. And I'd, I'd really much rather see you handle these extra deer through mitigation as opposed to sending 50 hunters up there and have them try to battle to get back where these deer are. I think you're going to have some really disappointed people to do this, especially in August. If you did it later in the year, you know, you'd probably have a hunt that they would really enjoy but I think you're really going to have some problems.

Douglas Messerly: Sam, if I could respond to that. We have several hunts in the state, many hunts in the state actually that are held primarily on private lands. One of the things that we do in the proclamation is highlight those as primarily private land hunts and encourage people to get permission before they apply. It's a big workload to issue mitigation permits, depredation permits, and particularly if we anticipate doing it anyway. This is a much simpler way for us to do it. And then it seems to be, um, you know, I think from the public standpoint a fairer way to distribute these permits. I don't disagree with you about the issues with access in that particular area, but they seem to find a way in many cases. We have similar hunts that are recommended here that we have access problems in too. And we just encourage the hunters to work with the landowners and get through it. So I think we can consider highlighting this as a primarily private land hunt. That may help alleviate some of the issues that you're concerned about.

Rex Stanworth: Hey, Jake. I just, I was just going to ask you a quick question.

Jake Albrecht: Rex.

Rex Stanworth: On these areas where there is mitigation and depredation, obviously there are some landholders that have complained. Do we ever make available those lists to the hunters of those landowners that may welcome them to come in and hunt?

Douglas Messerly: If any landowner offered that we certainly would. That has happened. In fact many landowners are very cooperative in that regard. Um, primarily what you find in a situation like this is that, although some of the people who draw the permits have no knowledge of any of the landowners, many of the people who draw the permits are friends, relatives, are familiar with the people anyway and are able to gain access. The simple answer to your question is no, we don't make a concerted effort to provide the names and phone numbers of people who have complained about big game doing damage. But certainly if the landowner would be willing to do that we would provide that information. In this case in Johnson Canyon for example, there's only 50 permits, we could actually send a letter to those people if we could do that, if landowners were agreeable to that.

Jake Albrecht: Jim, in looking at this elk numbers here for a quick second. Why did the CWMU numbers go down this year on the Plateau Thousand Lakes?

Jim Lamb: We don't have any cooperative wildlife management units on Thousand Lakes, we only have them on the Fish Lake.

Jake Albrecht: Well it would be the, on the Fish Lake part. But it went from 118 to 62?

Jim Lamb: Yes, we reduced the number of cow elk that they are going to harvest and offered



those permits to the public at-large on the unit wide basis.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, any other comments? Steve Flinders.

Steve Flinders: Jake, I came prepared to read a letter into the minutes from the Forest Service. I think I'll suspend that letter and just summarize it. The Forest Service (unintelligible) the Division's recommendations and management toward management plan objective for elk. It sounds like the elk (unintelligible) problem with the Boulder; they're going to address (unintelligible). And those 500 permits on the Fillmore, hope that they'll be 100 percent successful to get under objective. But I'll leave it at that.

Jake Albrecht: Okay. I think we've had enough comments. How about a motion guys? Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I'll make a motion that we approve the antlerless numbers as presented to us by Sean Kelly.

Gary Hallows: I'll second.

Jake Albrecht: We have a motion by Rex Stanworth, a second by Gary Hallows. Do we have any other discussion? Seeing none, all in favor please raise your right hand. I have six. All those against? Two. Motion carries.

**Rex Stanworth made the motion to approve the antlerless numbers as presented. Gary Hallows seconded. Motion carried, 7 in favor, 2 opposed. Sam Carpenter and Clair Woodbury opposed.**

(Jake Albrecht said 6 in favor but there were 7 hands up, no one abstained)

Jake Albrecht: Okay, our next item of business is antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008. Sean.

**Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2008 (Action) 47:53 to 52:12 of 1:34:20**

- Sean Kelly, Southern Region Wildlife Biologist (see attachment 1)

Jake Albrecht: Okay, question from the RAC? Rex.

#### **Questions from the RAC:**

Rex Stanworth: On that Alton unit, that's a part of the Paunsaugunt, where you're issuing 10 mitigation permits, correct? But we're not issuing any public permits.

Sean Kelly: Right now the Paunsaugunt is below objective for the elk population. That's was one of the three units that I had to fly, the Monroe, the Paunsaugunt, and the Kaiparowits. We're trying to increase our elk population to meet our unit objectives and so we're not having any public hunts. In special occasions where the landowner's having trouble with an irrigated

field, where our people determine that's the best course of action we may issue antlerless elk hunts or elk permits to the landowners just (unintelligible). But we don't have a public elk hunt so especially in the CWMU's we'd rather not issue those permits.

Rex Stanworth: Okay.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions from the RAC? Do we have any questions from the public?

**Questions from the Public:**

None.

Jake Albrecht: We have one comment card. Wade, how are you doing?

Wade Heaton: Good, how are you doing?

Jake Albrecht: Good. You're up.

**Comments from the Public:**

Wade Heaton: I'll be brief this time, I promise. Uh, here's the problem with our Paunsaugunt with the elk. I don't dispute any of the rationale that the Division is using to come up with no antlerless permit recommendation for the Paunsaugunt. Our problem is this; I was on the elk committee, our, the consensus within the committee, and this was a rare instance when that nearly everyone agreed, the sportsman, the livestock man, the private landowners, everyone agreed, the Paunsaugunt is a deer unit and we just would want to keep that number of elk down. So the consensus among the committee was that we wanted to keep the winter number at one to one seventy-five and the summer number at 300. Well to be really honest the only number there that matters is that summer number. The Paunsaugunt is one of those units like many others that you could have 2000 elk summering on there before you ever had 200 wintering on there. And so the problem is we don't have a mechanism to count them and control them. At our 175 winter number, I've been taking part in the flights and everything else and bottom line is there's never going to be 100 elk winter on there. Yet we'll have four, or five, six hundred elk, sometimes, summer; and that's where the problem lies. The CWMU alone a lot of times we'll have 150 elk on us. So the problem is our numbers don't make any sense. The winter counts and the winter flights are almost irrelevant. And I know that we're changing those. We actually have changed that and are on tract to do a spring flight, which is grand, but for '08 we're making a decision right now and we need some antlerless permits on the Paunsaugunt. I can't recommend any for the general Paunsaugunt but that doesn't mean that we still don't need them. And for the CWMU we definitely need some permits on that. We've only asked for 10. We've got a lot of habitat projects going on that we're trying to preserve and it makes it really hard. Ten, biologically isn't going to make one difference but it will certainly allow us to save some of these habitat projects. Uh, so until we get our numbers ironed out and we're all on the same page as far as our total population, which in reality is probably more like four or five hundred summering, I'd just ask that you give us these 10 permits; we can keep them off these habitat projects until they're kind of up and going.

## **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Jake Albrecht: Sean, what did DWR have on that? What was your recommendation?

Sean Kelly: We recommended zero. We have no public hunt on the Paunsaugunt that's recommended at this time.

Jake Albrecht: None on the Paunsaugunt. But on the Alton CWMU, there's a total of 10?

Sean Kelly: Well, the Alton CWMU asked for 10 permits. We, to be consistent with what we've done in other places and what we're recommending with regard to the public hunts on that unit we recommended, our recommendation is 0. So we have a disagreement.

Jake Albrecht: So your recommendation on the CWMU is 0?

Sean Kelly: Yeah, for the CWMU we're recommending 0.

Rex Stanworth: Mr. Chairman.

Jake Albrecht: Rex Stanworth.

Rex Stanworth: Later down we're going to talk about the Mule Deer Paunsaugunt Management Plan. I'm assuming that this issue that Wade's talking will be addressed by that committee.

Douglas Messerly: As you know Rex we just completed the elk management plan planning process. Um, and presumably any changes that we make to elk management on the unit would have been addressed there. Now I know that it was considered, as Wade pointed out by the committee, the perceived conflict between elk and deer. And I presume that those concerns were incorporated in the elk management plan. But it's not likely that we'll address elk management in the deer management plan.

Rex Stanworth: I guess my concern is that we keep asking the question, do elk have a direct impact on mule deer? And everybody keeps saying we don't know. So while we probably wouldn't like to address elk inside the mule deer management plan it seems like to me that these folks down there may be saying we're not sure we want elk in, you know, supposedly in one of the prime mule deer units we've got. So I guess what I'm saying is would you not think that this is going to be a discussion item and it could possibly come back as a recommendation for the mule deer group pertaining to how those elk may influence that?

Douglas Messerly: I'm certain it will be a discussion item. And I'm certain it will be discussed in the plan. However, any management action that we take with regard to elk will have to be incorporated in the elk management plan.

Rex Stanworth: Wade, are you going to be a part of the Mule Deer Paunsaugunt Committee? Have you been asked to do that?

Wade Heaton: No.

Rex Stanworth: Okay.

Jake Albrecht: Wade, could you come back up to the mic for a minute? I've got a question for you. And I know we're in the comments. In the summertime then, what kind of elk numbers do you project are on your CWMU?

Wade Heaton: Um, it's hard to just given the fact that the nature of the elk, they move around a lot. Uh, some years we'll have 150 – 200 head on the CWMU alone. But in reality we've tried to address it as a unit wide problem just because they travel on and off of the CWMU so often. The CWMU and the landowners, the sportsman, all kind of agreed on that 300 number for our population objective for summer. And that's, we're comfortable with that. And we don't want to kill them all but we also want to protect the deer that are there. The problem we have is where we don't do summer counts we have no mechanism to figure out how many are there. The people that utilize the wildlife or the wildlife on the unit feel like we're far above 300 now yet it's not reflected in any counts because we don't do summer counts. And so that's where part of the problem is.

Jake Albrecht: Sean, what's the rationale behind the DWR's decision not to recommend their 10 permits there?

Sean Kelly: Well we have to manage to be consistent with our management plans. And our management plan says we're well below objective, which is a winter objective, that's correct on that unit. And so our recommendation is not to hold a cow elk hunt until we approach that objective, which we are mandated to achieve. And so we are recommending that there are not public hunts, public antlerless hunts. And we are trying to be consistent with that, and that recommendation, and also with the recommendation that we've made in other units that are also below objective.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, thanks.

James Edwards: I have one question, Jake.

Jake Albrecht: Jim Edwards.

James Edwards: The division estimates the post 2007 population of there elk there is only 30. Can you, a lot more than that, I mean, the ones that they're looking at are probably just on the winter range. So this probably isn't on the CWMU?

Wade Heaton: Well it actually was. We fly the entire unit, the entire Paunsaugunt, the CWMU included in that. And this year it's just, well last year it was just a really hard count. Um, counted 30 on the entire unit, yet the next day we saw one group of 80. Uh, it's just really hard, and that's why I say the mechanism's just no good. Um, it uh, while we're doing our best it's just not working. It's not providing us any kind of answers for our problem.

Rex Stanworth: One more question.

Jake Albrecht: Rex Stanworth.

Rex Stanworth: I guess my question would be, if we were to give these 10 permits, and I realize we're opening up Pandora's box here, is this a summer, is this a summer hunt? This would be a summertime hunt, so it's more like a depredation hunt for summer than it would be in fall when those elk have left. Am I assuming that?

Wade Heaton: Yeah, it's just a regular elk CWMU hunt which runs August to January.

Rex Stanworth: I guess my thoughts are if there elk are there that you're concerned about would be there during the summertime and not in the fall, because what you're saying is you're trying to build a resident herd from 30, which we're estimating to 200, killing 10 of the 30 isn't going to help us. But if we're going to kill 10 of the 2 to 500 that summer there then it isn't going to have a long-term affect on the resident elk that you're maintaining there. Mike, am I thinking that right? Sean, am I thinking that right?

Sean Kelly: Rex, you kind of have me at a little bit of a disadvantage because the biologist that was there for the counts is switched to another position. And we've refilled his position but the most knowledgeable person we have is no longer here. My worry about this is the precedent we set. The Paunsaugunt is not the only unit that has this situation. Beaver has a similar situation and a couple of other units have similar situations. The best that we can do is manage with the information we have. And right now according to our elk plans we do winter populations. And Wade probably has a better, surely certainly has a better handle on that, the summer population than I do on the Paunsaugunt. But if we get into the habit of managing for something outside of what we're doing now, we manage outside our policy, manage outside that plan, it leaves us wide-open to a lot of criticism, a lot of errors. So one of the things we're doing is trying to be consistent with what we've done in other areas and that similar circumstance.

Jake Albrecht: Thank you Sean, those are good comments. Okay, do we have any other comments from the RAC? No more from the public. Gary do you have a motion?

Gary Hallows: I make a motion we pass the CWMU as stated.

Jake Albrecht: Okay we have a motion by Gary Hallows to approve the CWMU as presented tonight. Do we have a second?

James Edwards: I'll second it.

Jake Albrecht: And a second by Jim Edwards. Do we have any other discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor please raise your right hand. I have seven. All those against? Two. Motion carries.

**Gary Hallows made the motion to pass the CWMU recommendations as presented. James Edwards seconded. Motion carried 7 in favor, 2 opposed. Rex Stanworth and**

**Sam Carpenter opposed.**

**Jake Albrecht: Okay our next item of business is Kolob Reservoir Proposal. Mike.**

**Brood Stock at Kolob Reservoir Proposal (Action) 1:05:45 to 1:15:13 pf 1:34:20**

- Mike Ottenbacher, Southern Region Aquatics Program Coordinator (see attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Jake Albrecht: Questions from the RAC? Just one, you're showing here, if this particular reservoir isn't approved you've actually got to find one somewhere else to keep that fish off endangered or threatened?

Mike Ottenbacher: Right now we're not meeting what we anticipate we'll need in the future for the Colorado Cutthroat trout. Use our Dorrity Basin brood stock, we could possibly scrape by for another few years to meet our conservation population needs. Right now one of our biggest needs is to come up with fish to manage for our sport fish populations. And there's more interest in the native cutthroat trout as far as sport fishing. A lot of the lakes now we like to stock a few Colorados in in addition to the other species. If this isn't approved we'll look for other potential sights. There are other options too; one of the potential options in the future is to develop a hatchery brood stock. Right now we're not at the point where statewide that's a viable alternative. When you're talking about a limited number of fish being produced in the hatchery there's a big trade off between the stocking and producing a limited number of native trout compared to what you'd be able to produce as far as hatchery rainbow trout. So, maybe we'll get to a point in a few years where that might be more of a viable option too. And this, stocking these fish in Kolob isn't necessarily going to insure that we're going to meet our objective there. You know, we make our best guess but we're hoping for a good return. We will just have to see how they do in Kolob in a couple of years. But this will at least give us that alternative, a couple of years down the road. Right now we're not where we want to be.

Jake Albrecht: Thanks Mike. Clair Woodbury.

Clair Woodbury: Mike, I've got a question on, you say you're not removing the other rainbows and the Bonneville's that are in there?

Mike Ottenbacher: Right.

Clair Woodbury: What, what are the chances of hybridization with this? I know you're going to use the traps just for the Colorado River ones but won't the others hybridize?

Mike Ottenbacher: They will and that's why we're going to be marking any of the Colorado River Cutthroats that we'll be stocking in there. So all we'll be taking eggs from is the fish that were marked. We'll be taking those eggs, moving them into the hatchery and when we stock additional fish back into the reservoir those will be marked too. So we'll be able to keep them separate that way. And we anticipate there'll be some hybridization there. If you're familiar with Kolob there is now some of the nicer fish in there are actually hybrids between the nonnative cutthroats that are in there and the rainbow trout.

Jake Albrecht: Any other questions? Questions from the public? Quiet crowd tonight.

**Questions from the Public:**

None.

Jake Albrecht: No comment cards.

**Comments from the Public:**

None.

Jake Albrecht: Comments from the RAC?

**RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Rex Stanworth: Mr. Chairman, I'll make a motion that we accept the proposal of the Kolob fish hatchery as presented.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, we have a motion by Rex Stanworth to approve the brood stock at Kolob Reservoir proposal. We also have a second by Del LeFevre. Any other discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor, right hand. Looks like it's unanimous.

**Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept as presented. Del LeFevre seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Jake Albrecht: Okay, our next item of business is the Mule Deer Statewide Management Plan Committee Nominations.

**Mule Deer Statewide Management Plan Committee Nominations (Action)**

- Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Jake Albrecht: The next item of business is the Mule Deer Statewide Management Plan Committee Nominations as I told you earlier in the meeting at last months minutes er uh, meeting in Salt Lake City, they're going to reconvene the mule deer committee, they've asked us for 3 names off our RAC Board.

Rex Stanworth: Mr. Chairman I'd like to make one statement then I'll make a nomination.

Jake Albrecht: can I finish just a second?

Rex Stanworth: okay

Jake Albrecht: I'll get back to you Rex, just a second. They've asked for 3 names, 1 which would sit on the committee, and the other 2 would be alternates. These meetings will probably be held during the week so the people we nominate and people that accept will probably have

to be able to get time off work, be able to travel, spend some hours, I'm guessing, in Provo or Salt Lake City. I've already asked before the meeting, 2 members if they'd be interested in it and both of those have said yes that I thought would be fairly close be able to attend and have some good interestes. So I'm to you Rex.

Rex Stanworth: First thing I will say is that your travel is on your own, it's not a reimbursed mileage like what we do for RACs so if you accept the job you pay for it out of your own pocket, they do give you pizza however, so that was a good choice. So I would make a nomination of Jim Edwards.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, Rex has made his comments and he also mentioned one of the people I talked to earlier that said he'd be interested. The 3 names that I thought would be good on our committee would be Steve Flinders to my right here, Jim Edwards, and I didn't talk to Steve Dalton but I thought he'd be good on it also. Now we can either vote by secret ballot or how do you want to do it or whether you want to bring the names up or how do you want to do it.

Gary Hallows: I'll make a motion we put all 3 of them on there and they fight to see who gets to be the main guy. No, they can decide among themselves, I was just joking on the fight

Jake Albrecht: you guys from Wayne County always want to fight...except me. We need to have one person who will be the main responsible person the other 2 will be alternates in case he can't go so how are you on a vote on that?

Gary Hallows: I'll nominate Steve Dalton for the number one man.

Jake Albrecht: We have 2 nominations there. What I'd like to see if is somebody would come up with a motion to accept the 3 that I stated then we'll do a secret ballot on it and be done with it. Most votes gets it.

Clair Woodbury I'll make that motion.

Jake Albrecht: Dell are you okay with that? Okay, we have a motion by Clair Woodbury to accept the 3 names that I presented which are Steve Flinders, James Edwards, and Steve Dalton. Do we have a second? Sam Carpenter seconds. All in favor please say aye. Any against? Motion carries.

Jake Albrecht: Okay, if we could have as part of that motion we turn in secret ballots to you on the order. We'll do secret ballots and the person who has the most votes will be the number one.

Gary Hallows: We just right one name down?

Jake Albrecht: One name.

Unintelligible.



Rex Stanworth: Mr Chairman, on the Paunsaugunt committee are you looking for just one individual? Do you want to go into that?

Jake Albrecht: On the Paunsaugunt individual we'll need one person plus an alternate.

Rex Stanworth: Do you want me to make a nomination then? I would nominate Sam, he's done a lot of work down there on the numbers.

Jake Albrecht: You've already taken one that I would recommend so when we get to that here in a second we'll talk about it.

Sam Carpenter: I have a question if I can? We put together a committee and already had a meeting. This was something that we did get with Doug, talked to him about it and wanted to get semi organized before we made any approach for a recommendation. I'm wondering is this going to be that same committee or is this above and beyond are we getting 2 committees together? How's this gonna work?

Jake Albrecht: The motion at the wildlife board last month by those people was to put a working group together and they asked us to come up with one person plus an alternate and then they'll probably be getting a hold of some other people to go through that, that's all I know at this time.

Douglas Messerly: This is the official division of wildlife planning committee for the Paunsaugunt Deer Management Plan, whatever other groups are together at this time or have been formed in the past will certainly be asked to be represented. I'm hoping for any suggestions or ideas on which groups should be included, we need to keep the group size manageable, we're thinking 10 people or less. What we're looking for tonight is who's going to represent the southern region RAC on that group, so that's the name I need tonight. Mr Chairman, can I explain what happened with the vote? We had a tie but we had one ballot that just said Steve and we didn't know which Steve that was. So what we need to do is revote and put a last initial if you're voting for a Steve.

Douglas Messerly: Mr. Chairman, according to our non-affiliated unbiased polling service the person who received the most votes was Steve Dalton.

Jake Albrecht: okay, Steve Dalton will be the person who will sit on the mule deer statewide management plan for the southern division, the 2 alternates will be James Edwards and Steve Flinders. Okay, next item of business is mule deer Paunsaugunt management plan, we need nominations one person plus one alternate. And I think that Sam Carpenter would be probably our first choice there.

Jake Albrecht: Before I move on to that, maybe backing up, even though the votes were the way they were we better have a motion to approve those people for the minutes.

Rex Stanworth: I'll make a motion that we approve the committee members as Steve being the chairman with 2 advisory committee or alternatives as voted by the RAC

Jake Albrecht: Do we have a second? Second by Clair. All in favor, any against? Okay, motion carries.

**Rex Stanworth made the motion to appoint Steve Dalton as the Southern Region RAC representative with Steve Flinders and James Edwards as alternates for the Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Committee. Clair Woodbury seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **Mule Deer Paunsaugunt Management Plan Committee Nominations (Action)**

- Jake Albrecht, Chairman

Jake Albrecht: Okay, back to the Paunsaugunt. I'd ask for a motion to approve Sam Carpenter as our representative being the main man.

Rex Stanworth: Motion to put Sam Carpenter as our representative on the Paunsaugunt Mule Deer.

Jake Albrecht: okay, we have a motion by Rex, second by Dell LeFevre, all in favor. Any against? Motion carries. Do we have a nomination for a second person?

Sam Carpenter: Harry Barber's not here tonight, he's very familiar with the area and we could probably convince him to be that. I'll put that in the form of a motion that Harry Barber be my alternate.

Jake Albrecht: okay, we have a motion by Sam Carpenter. You're due for the black eye next month. Have a motion for Harry Barber to be the alternate, have a second?

Rex Stanworth: Do we have time for discussion?

Jake Albrecht: Did we have a second? Okay, we have a second by Jim. Now we're open to discussion.

Rex Stanworth: I love Harry but I'm just wondering is his schedule is going to permit him to serve as an alternate on that committee?

Dell LeFevre: He's got all the time in the world and a gov't pick-up.

Jake Albrecht: I guess my answer to that would be is, once he finds out if he doesn't he can let us know and we'll find someone else. Would that work? All in favor please raise your right hand. Motion carries.

**Sam Carpenter made the motion to appoint Harry Barber as the Southern Region RAC alternate for the Paunsaugunt Mule Deer Management Plan Committee. James Edwards seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Jake Albrecht: We have no other business. Our next meeting will be upland game and fishing proclamation, May the 27th 2008, 7 o'clock pm Cedar City Middle School. The address is on your agenda.

Rex Stanworth: One last question...

Jake Albrecht: Thanks everyone for coming.

Rex Stanworth: Where did the permits go, I mean I haven't met anyone who's drawn anything

Jake Albrecht: Anyone in the crowd draw a Henry Mtn deer tag today? How about a Fishlake Monroe Pahvant bull tag. Hey, look at that, 1. Let's go fishing.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.