

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Cedar Middle School
Cedar City, UT
May 10, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as submitted.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2011 UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept the 2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

2012 BUCK DEER UNIT BOUNDARIES

MOTION: To accept the 2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries

VOTE: Unanimous

2012 DEDICATED HUNTER PROGRAM PROPOSALS

MOTION: To accept the 2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals as presented.

VOTE: 10 in favor, 1 opposed.

2012 LIFETIME LICENSE, LANDOWNER PERMITS & OTHER CHANGES REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT BUCK DEER UNIT HUNT STRATEGIES

MOTION: To accept the 2012 Lifetime License, Landowner Permits & other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

VETERANS FISHING LICENSE AMENDMENT RULE R657-12

MOTION: To accept Veterans Fishing License Amendment Rule R657-12 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

2011 GENERAL SEASON EXTENSIONS FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES

MOTION: To accept the 2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

RAC MEETING START TIMES

MOTION: To accept that all RAC meetings will start at 7:00 p.m. unless the meeting is expected to run later in which case the chairman can make a decision to start earlier.

VOTE: Unanimous

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Cedar Middle School
Cedar City, UT
May 10, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

| RAC Members Present | DWR Personnel Present | Wildlife Board Present | RAC Members Not Present |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Chairman Steve Flinders Rex Stanworth Sam Carpenter Steve Dalton Mack Morrell Layne Torgerson Paul Briggs Dale Bagley Clair Woodbury Cordell Pearson Dale Bagley Steve Dalton | Douglas Messerly Stephanie Rainey Teresa Griffin Lynn Chamberlain Blaine Cox Jake Selby Doug Thompson Dean Mitchell Greg Sheehan Justin Dolling Jason Nicholes Dustin Schaible Chris Schulze Blair Stringham Judi Tutorow Rhianna Christopher Bryan Christensen Zed Broadhead Heather Grossman | Jake Albrecht | Dell LeFevre |

Steve Flinders called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. There were approximately 32 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, Wildlife Board members and DWR employees. Steve Flinders had the RAC members introduce themselves and explained the RAC process.

Steve Flinders: Okay it's seven o'clock, time to get started.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as listed. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Board Update:
-Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: Just last week if you failed to remember I printed off the minutes but left them sitting on my desk, um, in reference to the motions that we made, um, several things were adopted by the board and um it just has to relate with the greater good of the state I guess looking at elk management plans that were discussed and trying to stick with the age objectives and the permit numbers with those plans in mind so you know we asked to reduce the Fishlake tags, that they took at the Manti and Wasatch units. Um, the board decided to follow the Divisions recommendations on those elk plans and permits numbers. So the bull and permits numbers they changed were 2,000 fewer tags in Northeast region in terms of General deer and then reduce limited entry deer on the Book Cliffs, so, the other item from the Southern Region had to do with, um, Panguitch Lake Antlerless deer harvest, we made a motion as you recall to have a deer transplant add to the action log after the investigative with BYU and the board did take that on as an action log item. Any questions about the board meeting? I will forward those minutes to all of you if you haven't seen them. I see no questions; let's move on to our regional update please Doug.

Regional Update:
-Douglas Messerly, Regional Supervisor

Douglas Messerly: Thanks Mr. Chairman it is a busy time for us at the Division of Wildlife, um, things are picking up with fishing, um you will see some articles coming out soon about some good places to go fishing. Our community fisheries are get rolling here pretty soon too and those that aren't already, I think the ones in St. George already are. The Big Game drawing results are May 31st, is that right Steph? Okay, May 31st, um, people have been watching their credit cards now for a month and a half. We talked about this at the board meeting and uh it will be soon but not up until now so don't be discouraged if you haven't seen a hit yet. Um, had a meeting today to discuss expanding walk – in –access to the Southern Region, we are excited to implant that and um try to gain some access to important hunting and fishing places throughout the region. We will have one new person on board as of July 1st it sounds like, it's not confirmed yet, but it sounds like we will and we will be contacting landowners who may be interested in participating in that program. Finally I would like to just recognize those RAC members like Rex and Steve and others here tonight that this will be their last meeting. I don't know if the audience recognizes the commitment that these guys put into this process. They are here on a volunteer basis and I'd just like to express my appreciation for their service on the RAC and the good times that we've have had and the good discussions that we have had. I think that his has been a fine RAC and we look forward to, um, some good replacements for these folks to represent the groups that they represents. We have a significant number of applicants this time around. Steve and I will go through those and make recommendations to the director, um, of the Division of Wildlife who will then make recommendations to the department director, um, and uh we will appoint some new RAC members before our next meeting. But there are some of the folks that you see tonight that won't be here at our next meeting and I'd just like to extend my appreciation both personally and for the agency for their participation. So, now with that Mr. Chairman unless there are any questions we can move on.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug. Let's move on to the first action item on the agenda #5 2011 Upland

Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations. Justin Dolling. Welcome.

2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations 6:51 to 27:55 of 2:59:04

-Justin Dolling, Wildlife Program Coordinator

(See Attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Thanks Justin. Any questions from the RAC? Go ahead Clair.

Clair Woodbury: A couple questions, uh, you are moving a lot of the start dates to September 1st but you commented that unless that falls on a Sunday, would that move it to the 2nd or August 31st?

Justin Dolling: It would go to the 2nd.

Clair Woodbury: 2nd of September. Other one I had was last year in the presentation you talked about establishing new leks and you'd had some success in that, I was just wondering if you had an update on establishing leks.

Justin Dolling: Not necessarily establishing leks but discovering new leks. As the Sage Grouse became a candidate species then there was a lot of interest from land management agencies, our agency, private landowners and new leks were discovered with that newly generated interest.

Clair Woodbury: All right I understood that it had some success in establishing new ones where it had been very difficult in the past.

Justin Dolling: There is one example and that is the Strawberry Valley where we actually moved some birds from our western edge of the state moved them into that Strawberry Valley to augment some populations and they have actually established some new leks and they have expanded.

Clair Woodbury: Okay thanks.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Go ahead Mack.

Mack Morrell: On the Sage Grouse, uh, can you give us an update on the endangered species list, what's happened there with the Sage Grouse?

Justin Dolling: Well, yeah, right now the Sage Grouse is, um, the listing status is called "warranted but precluded" which means essentially that they should be listed but they are not being listed because they are a lower priority. There are other species that have higher priority at the current time. And that status has stayed the same at least the last couple of years, um, so at this point all we're doing is working with landowners, working with other land management agencies in reporting that the Fish and Wildlife Service on an annual basis as to what kind of habitat improvement projects have been accomplished, what kind of monitoring, what kind of research has been done on those particular birds.

Mack Morrell: One other question, with the population trend down, I'd like to know why you want to extend the season or even hunting them?

Justin Dolling: That's a real good question, there's a couple reasons why we hunt sage grouse. The first is there is really good research on Sage Grouse that would suggest that you can harvest up to 15% of the population without impacting that population so we set our permits at about 10%. Keep in mind that upland game are boom and bust so they fluctuate kind of independent of hunting. The other reason why we hunt is um, usually when sportsman get to harvest animals they have a heightened interest in their long term protection and so by allowing some limited harvest we generate a lot of support from that group and essentially can use some of the federal monies to help manage the species because they are hunted and so those are really the reasons why we allow for some real limited hunting and even though the season has been extended there is a fixed number of permits and we can look at hunter success and tweak those permits a little bit to make sure we don't exceed our 10% goal for harvesting the number of birds in the population.

Mack Morrell: Yeah, I know on the Parker Mountain had their leks count a couple weeks ago and they had found a lot of males and very few females.

Justin Dolling: And that's pretty typical, the males are very, very obvious and typically when we go out and count Sage Grouse we just count the males. The females are a little more secretive, they are on the edges of the sagebrush, um, and then they are not very visible. So we use the males as an index to come up with the population on the lek.

Layne Torgerson (?): And I understand the Parker birds are doing quite well.

Steve Flinders: Still questions down there Rex?

Rex Stanworth: I got a couple. On the Forest Grouse and the a, it didn't matter which species you were harvested, you only could get 4 total birds, is that correct?

Justin Dolling: Yeah, that's correct.

Rex Stanworth: And then somehow you got to control the weather on this turkey hunt.

Justin Dolling: I wish I could.

Rex Stanworth. Oh I am telling you what that first limited entry was a bummer. Uh, the uh Sharp Tail Grouse, that's just 2 birds is, that is all they can harvest is 2 birds. Not 2 birds per day it's 2 birds correct?

Justin Dolling: Correct, and that's good clarification Rex. It's a 2 bird permit so if you draw you get 2 permits. You actually have to tag the bird like you would a deer. That also is the same for Sage Grouse.

Rex Stanworth: Now I know Dean now back there, he can hide under those whiskers but he can't run away. Uh, pheasants are just almost not existent but Dean I can tell ya I did hear a rooster crow at last November. That's the first time in years I've heard a rooster crow after the hunt. Other states I think do transplants. Have we eliminated any opportunity, I remember you know, years and years and years ago 4-H kids were growing pheasants or chukars I can't remember which one and they were being transplanted. Is that program, does it exist anymore and have we found it to be not beneficial?

Justin Dolling: No that program does exist and it exists on 2 levels. For chukars we are doing some pen reared transplants and also trapping wild birds and moving those birds into habitat that is either unoccupied or to augment some populations. And then for pheasants we do the pen reared bird releases just prior to the hunting season.

Rex Stanworth: Okay.

Steve Flinders: Sure Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, this is more curiosity than anything. Why did we change the shot limit and the bag limit? What was the logic on doing that? Why did we do that?

Justin Dolling: Yeah we didn't change the bag limit we changed the possession limits.

Sam Carpenter: That's what I mean.

Justin Dolling: Okay, yeah, the logic there is that there was interest from the upland community that when they travel long distances and they wanted to spend extended period of time out in the field it allowed them to bring home a larger possession limit of birds. We didn't feel biologically that it would have an impact on the populations so that would apply in the field and it would also apply to your freezer in your home.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions from the RAC? Sure Dale.

Dale Bagley: On your harvest percentage on the turkeys, is the 20% is that the over the counter or is that on the limited entry?

Justin Dolling: That would apply to both. We'll be looking at both of those. That part of the management system wasn't really well flushed out but my thought is we would be looking at limited entry and looking at those performance cards that I laid out and also over the counter.

Dale Bagley: What is your over the counter harvest success right now? What's it running?

Justin Dolling: Last year was the first year and it was below 20%, it was like 16%. And we would run a 3 year average on those.

Steve Flinders: Any more questions? On the end.

Cordell Pearson: How is the turkey population in the state?

Justin Dolling: You know I think in general they're doing quite well. We did have some winter loss in the Southeastern part of the state on the San Juan and the La Sals, that was very, very apparent. I have had some feedback on the Northern part of the state where there may have been some winter loss but I think in general they are doing quite well and they're fairly well spread throughout the state.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Questions from the public? Any questions about the presentation?

Seeing none we will move on to comment cards, do we have any comment cards for this action? I don't see any comment cards, have we missed somebody? Looks like they are for items coming up. Thanks Justin.

Questions from the public:

None

Comments from the public:

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: We'll look for a motion to take some action on upland game tonight. Steve.

Steve Dalton: I'll make a motion that we accept the upland game as presented.

Steve Flinders: Motioned by Steve Dalton, seconded by Rex. Any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, how bout a vote? Those in favor? Looks unanimous. Moving on to #6 2012 Deer Unit Boundaries, Teresa. Lay it on us.

Steve Dalton made the motion to accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations as presented Rex Stanworth seconded. Motion carried Unanimously

2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries

-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Program Manager
(See Attachment 1)

37:57 to 48:48 of 2:59:04

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: So again Teresa you'll eliminate the Thousand Lake limited entry hunt but keep the Fillmore Oak Creek and other limited entry hunts.

Teresa Griffin: Yes, yes.

Steve Flinders: Any questions from the RAC? Go ahead Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Teresa, did I understand you correctly to say that on the Fillmore Pahvant, on that uh, that part of that will now go into the Central Region?

Teresa Griffin: Yes for deer hunting it'll go up into I believe that's 16A. At Hwy 50, we never classify north of there and it's easier for that to be encompassed into that other unit so just for the purpose of, not the regional boundaries or anything but for the purpose of deer hunting that will stop at Hwy 50.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? A lot to digest, big map. Thanks for shuffling through papers here, any

questions from the public on the presentations, questions on the maps. Come on up to the mic. Give us your name. Things aren't getting simpler.

Questions from the public:

Mark Wintch: My name is Mark Wintch, I live out west in Wah Wah Valley, my question is, what is the current deer population number 1 and number 2 what's the purpose of cutting it all up. Could ya clear that up for me and then I'll have a couple other questions.

Teresa Griffin: Sure and I don't have my data here to say what the current deer populations is and that's kind of a moving target also but last year going through the RAC and board process, uh, the public and all the input that they gathered, they went to, they decided to go to a unit by unit. That's why it's cut into the smaller units.

Mark Wintch: Is the goal to increase the deer herd? Is that the overall goal by cutting those units up?

Teresa Griffin: I don't know that that's the goal by cutting them up, it will change hunting opportunity for the people. I think that is one of the things that they think will come out of this. We will, it'll be easier because then we can designate a certain number of permits for a unit and it will help us more easily fine tune like the Southwest desert that you live in, you know there's not a high density of deer out there. We will be able to say there will be x amount of tags out there. When it's on a regional basis and you've got, you know, 12,000 permits for the entire region, all 12,000 people if they wanted to could go to the Southwest desert. So this will force people to go to different units so, and then in that RAC and board meeting that it changed to unit by unit they also chose to take it to a higher to manage for a higher buck to doe ration so we will be trying to manage for 18 bucks per 100 does, which, you know, the board just voted last week to cut deer tags in the Southern region by 2,000 tags for general season. It's a loss of opportunity but we've got to do that on, to be able to reach that goal of 18 bucks per 100 does on each unit. I think down the road it will be able to help our deer herds along lots of other variables I know that you are aware of that.

Mark Wintch: Alright that's, I guess that's all the questions that I had, I was just curious to know what the deer population was now compared to say thirty years ago and one of the overriding problems with this is, uh, livestockmen have had many tools taken away from them to protect their herds and in turn since the live stockmen's sheep other things have been taken off of the ranges, the deer now are suffering a lot of those consequences.

Steve Flinders: Any other questions Mark? We've got a comment card from ya.

Mark Wintch: Nope, that's it.

Steve Flinders: I'll call you for comments.

Mark Wintch: All right, I'll quit right there.

Steve: Thanks. Any other questions from the public? Layne found his question.

Layne Torgerson: Teresa, my question is, by going to a unit by unit management system as we are, is

there any protocol been put in place by the division or a criteria set up that if one of these units falls below buck to doe ratios or fawns per 100 does or any of those rations fall below a certain ceiling is there a protocol in place to address those problems on a unit by unit basis?

Teresa Griffin: Yeah absolutely. For buck to doe ratios and that's what we did that the board passed last week to cut general season tags by 2000 just in our region alone. Up in the northeaster region they cut permits by 4000 for this year. What we are trying to do is by the time 2012 hits, our goal is to try to make it to that 18 buck per 100 does to get to that target. So maybe we have to cut 2000 this year, we may have to cut another 2000 next year, so, to get to our buck to doe ratio that is what will do is reduce buck hunting. There's not a lot we can do for fawns, to increase fawns. We can do habitat work, we can do predator control, there's a lot of targeted predator control. There's a lot of things like that we can do but hunting isn't going to solve the fawn recurrence.

Layne Torgerson: And that, to go along with that same question, will it be set up, will we have the tools that if one of these units falls below a certain ceiling fawns per 100 does, is the tools going to be in place so that we can make them a predator managed unit or we can issue more lion tags, or we can issue more bear tags on that unit.

Teresa Griffin: That can be a trigger for sure, I mean, right now if the population on a certain unit dips below, I think 70%, of the objective it's put into a predator management plan and we do increased, we can do increased coyote, we can do increased cougar. Also harsh winters, if we have extreme winter loss that can be another thing that we may do some, this year Wildlife Services did some amazing work on coyotes up high in the fawning areas that will help our deer herds also. Director Karpowitz allocated an additional \$125,000 late in the season and he also increased some cougar permits on units that needed some extra protection for deer herds.

Steve Flinders: Sure Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Teresa I guess, I talked with Mike Fowlks about this on enforcement but obviously the one thing that I have hated about the micro units is how do we keep people in the proper unit hunting? I mean obviously when we started to go through this process I think I had like 250 emails and some of the guys were saying "Well you go ahead and do this, but I am going to hunt in that, I am going to hunt my favorite hunting ground anyway". So I guess one of the questions I've got, is obviously it doesn't matter how many camo shirts you've got or vehicles you've got there is no way you can physically go through all of those micro units so we are going to have to depend a lot on sportsman. So here comes the question I keep asking Mike, how can we better identify who's suppose to be in those units hunting and obviously one of the things that comes to my mind is in the old days we use to have to wear our hunting licenses on the outside of our, you know on a hat or on the outside of our shirt. Uh, second of all if it was stamped with a big red 19c or 20a and that license was displayed, you know I would know that Sam was in the wrong place. But it seems like to me you are going to have to have an awful lot of recruitment from the public to help keep people in their proper hunting areas. Is that something that you think would be beneficial to put in a motion that somehow we need to have better identification of hunters and permits in the area?

Teresa Griffin: I'm going to have to defer to our Law Enforcement guy; I'll turn that to Doug.

Doug Messerly: Rex the efficiency with which we're able to enforce wildlife laws is always dependant

on the public's participation in that process and what it boils down to is that we do as good a job as the public wants us to through their cooperation. With regard to the specific recommendation about wearing your license on the outside of your clothing, one of the reasons that they did away with that was because people take their coats on and off all the time and it became very cumbersome to do that. I guess the idea is that other sportsmen would be able to see and identify those who are in violation and then report them because they had the wrong number stamped on the license. It's probably too much to ask in reality, to make that effective because people will always have the good reason to have put a coat on over their license or they would probably make licenses more likely to be lost for example. In reality we have been doing this from the law enforcement standpoint for many years now except we have had 5 units instead of 30 units. The bottom line is that people we contact in the field, honestly the first thing we ask them is what species are they hunting because we have so many hunts going on at so many different times. Then we ask to see their proper licenses for them to do that and we rely on people to do that. The truth is, as you say, if people decide to disregard the law in total, we don't, I've got 14 field officers for 18,000 people. It's impossible. We rely on people complying with the law and we will rely on people to help us make sure that people comply with the law through reporting violations that they know about. But honestly you're right, from the outside the way the law is right now there's no way to tell whether that person A) has a license at all to start with B) whether they are hunting deer or not and C) whether if they do have a license, whether it's the right one for the area that they're in. That's what the officers do is conduct those compliance checks. When we first went to the regional boundaries for deer hunting we were quite concerned, I was working the Law Enforcement section at the time, we were quite concerned about this very issue. What we found was that there was a little honest confusion to start with about the boundaries and we were able to correct those appropriately. We also found that there were some people who intentionally violated the law and they would get a tag that was easy to get. If you recall Southern region tags were hard to get from the start but the other regions were easy to get so they'd buy another region tag and then they'd go hunt in their same old place. Well, we were able to successfully prosecute a few of those and I think that that if you were able to study the incidents that it's gone down. One of the things that we have tried to do to increase compliance is to make these boundaries very plain. For example: moving the Pahvant boundary back to Hwy 50 makes it easy for people to understand when they're in the wrong and hopefully makes it easy for them to stay in the right. That's what we hope. I don't know that it's been discussed, this obviously is not the where we are doing the proclamation; we will be doing the proclamation at the November RAC meeting. This would be a proclamation issue more than a unit boundary issue and it might be something that we can think about in the mean time ways to do that. Actually by the time that next RAC meeting rolls around we will have gone through one of these deer hunts and, well we will go through 2011 which isn't unit by unit but it's something that we can think about for sure but I think as you think it through you will see that there are a lot of caveats and reasons that it might not be as enforceable as it appears to be to start with. Does that help?

Rex Stanworth: Yeah it doesn't make sense but it helps.

Douglas Messerly: Sure

Rex Stanworth: Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Further questions from the RAC or the public? Sure come on up to the mic and give us your name.

Aaron Cox: My name is Aaron Cox and I am from Milford, one suggestion to help watch these

boundaries, give dedicated hunters that are in there, they know a lot of people in and out of these units. That's something I think will help watch it. Another suggestion is pulling from Fallon our application, you know our process of draws, putting it back in the State of Utah and putting some more field officers out. I think it would save us a lot of money. Personally I have never had my deer tag checked in my life in the Southwest Desert. So, that's some suggestions to ya.

Steve Flinders: Is there a question in there somewhere?

Aaron Cox: I mean just to answer watching the units, if you was to take the tags and bring them back in and with the dedicated hunters that are always in the units. So that's just some suggestions to ya.

Steve Flinders: Thanks, any other questions. If no we will move on to comments. Yeah? No questions. Go ahead Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: I know I'm a little bit slow; I have a question to ask.

Steve Flinders: Well all right.

Cordell Pearson: Okay when we do this in 2012 are we going to do a deer count on each one of these units so that we know how many deer, and I know you are never going to know exactly how many, but do we have any idea of how many deer there, say like on the Beaver you count 1000 deer, k, then you equate into it how many tags you are going to issue on that unit? Is that the way this is going to look?

Teresa Griffin: We never count deer. We go out and do our post-season classification.

Cordell Pearson: I realize that, I know that.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, and so then we take our sample that gives us our buck to doe ratio and we know what our fawn to doe ration and we know how many hunters were on the unit in that year what our harvest was, we put all of that together in a great big formula that we call a model. It's just a fancy calculator to help us keep track of everything and it gives us an estimate of how many deer are actually on the unit. If we're harvesting this many bucks, if we've got this many bucks left over after we've already killed that many, then we'll have a pretty good idea of how many we've got on that unit. Based on that then we can recommend also tied with harvest success in the past, we can recommend this many permits and then if we do that trying to aim for our goal of 18 bucks per 100 does so yeah, we will, all of that goes into it every year. And we do that calculation on a unit basis every year. Even before we went to unit by unit that's how we collect all of our data.

Cordell Pearson: Okay my question is, okay, are you going to do, however you put this into your little modular whatever, is somebody going to go out and see some deer on each one of these units before you vector that into the modular instead of just doing it on just 2 units and saying this is what's good for every unit.

Teresa Griffin: Oh no. We do it on every single unit. We go out and do our post-season deer classification, which is the most important piece of data that we collect, and we go out and, yeah we count them but we are classifying. We say buck, doe, buck, fawn, you know, we get all that information together so we know what our numbers are. And mixed in with all the other information that we get

that's real data from each unit then we have an estimate of what the population is on there and how many we want to harvest to get us to that 18 bucks per 100 does. So absolutely we collect unit information on a unit-by-unit basis and we've been doing that for years and years on a unit basis.

Cordell Pearson: Okay and I understand that, but we have a major problem right now with deer. Okay? So it's pretty evident that whatever you are doing there hasn't worked in the past.

Teresa Griffin: You can't count deer. You cannot count deer. You can count sheep, you can count elk, you can count antelope. When you're flying in a helicopter you can't count deer accurately. That's why we have to go to this model and it's done pretty much the same way across the west in the range of mule deer. That's also why we've tied in these radio collard studies so we get a better estimate of what our winter loss is, all of that data together. But that's the darn thing about mule deer, they are impossible to count. So this is the best information that we have. We've put all that into models that give us a pretty accurate reflection of how many deer we've got on there and then based on that, if we want to get to 18 bucks to 100 does we say we want to harvest this many animals, that's how many permits.

Cordell Pearson: Okay

Teresa Griffin: So we can't count em Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: Okay the next question, okay, all right. Well didn't we use to count them?

Teresa Griffin: No we've always classified them.

Cordell Pearson: Since when? When I was a kid I use to go with Clark Davis and we use to count deer. Okay, go on horses . . .

Teresa Griffin: And Some people use the word count, and I always use the word classify. You're getting a number but that equates to how we do the population.

Cordell Pearson: We classify bucks, we classify does, do we classify fawns?

Teresa Griffin: Yes, as fawns.

Cordell Pearson: Okay. As fawns?

Teresa Griffin: Uh huh.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, now here is my question. If we count, classify the deer in Birch Creek, okay . . . and there's 18 bucks per 100 does, and then we go down to Ten Mile and there's 5 bucks per 100 does, okay. And then we go on around the Horn, I'm just using the Beaver as an example, cause there is no deer left there compared to what there use to be. Trust me.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, Indian Creek there's 3.

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, okay and you get 3; so then you just vector all of those in together.

Teresa Griffin: For the unit yes.

Cordell Pearson: Okay.

Teresa Griffin: We go around and we go to the same places every year. We've got, on some units we've got twenty different areas that we're classifying the deer and then we get an average for the unit. We don't clump that with any other units. But we do it for the Beaver unit. We go to all the places that deer are accumulated during the rut and they're concentrated, and we take all of those little pockets that we classify each year and that's the Beaver Unit, all that data.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, you classify and I'll count. All right, thank you.

Steve Flinders: Does that help? So instead of all the hunters in the Southern Region going to the Beaver like they can now, theoretically . . .

Cordell Pearson: Well you won't be able to do that.

Steve Flinders: Only those with Beaver tags can go there now.

Cordell Pearson: Only the ones with Beaver tags, right? Okay. Bear tags.

Steve Flinders: Had one of the permits tattooed to their forehead. Beaver deer tags. Any other questions? Questions. Come on up to the mic, we'd love to hear it. Please give us your name sir.

Gary Olsen: I am Gary Olsen here in Cedar. Just a clarification on a couple of items; didn't count the number of units in the Southern Region, how many is that now?

Teresa Griffin: Eleven.

Gary Olsen: Eleven? And out of these eleven units how many permits will there be for this year? Do we know that?

Doug Messerly: It's 18,000 less 2,000, right? 16,000 total.

Gary Olsen: Well I picked up on the fact that last week there was a decision made to cut by 2,000. So that formula has been done statewide?

Doug Messerly: Well not evenly statewide. It was done based on the, you got to remember that everything that we do is driven by the plan. The plan gives us an objective. The objective is post-season buck to doe ratios. That's what drives our recommendations. So previously the post-season buck to doe ratio objective was fifteen bucks per one hundred does. It has now been raised to eighteen bucks per one hundred does post-season, effective 2012. So what we did was in order to soften the blow and to increase the objective, the post-season buck to doe observations on the units, is we made a recommendation that we reduce some tags in 2011 in order to get us closer to the eighteen bucks per one hundred doe objective in 2012. So the Division made a recommendation to reduce tags in the region based on their existing buck to doe ratios. So the Southern Region was close but we weren't at eighteen region wide so they asked us to institute some cuts and make a recommendation to institute some cuts in

order to move us closer to the objective of eighteen because we know that's going to be the case in 2012. So depending on how the other regions were when they instituted that calculation, the recommendation varied; in some cases it was no cut because they were at eighteen bucks per one hundred does and in some cases it was more.

Gary Olsen: Okay.

Steve Flinders: Add archery to that number too.

Doug Messerly: Yeah, you have to add archery to that number too, I'm sorry. But the numbers that I've been throwing around are rifle and muzzleloader, and there are archery tags that will be put into that too. That's, I don't know that number; do you Teresa, for the Southern Region? But we'll get our share of the archery hunters.

Gary Olsen: So sometime in the future the public will know the number of permits for the eleven units in the Southern Region.

Doug Messerly: Yes, absolutely. But that's not instituted until 2012.

Gary Olsen: I understand that. So that will be post 2011, when you come up with those figures.

Doug Messerly: Yeah, we will have another post-season buck to doe ratio in 2011 but you've got to remember that the objective is a three year average.

Gary Olsen: Yes I understand that. Okay, uh, coming up with a couple of other questions: how many lifetime holders are there?

Steve Flinders: Greg Sheehan. How many lifetime license holders are there in the state?

Greg Sheehan: About 4200 or something like that.

Gary Olsen: Yeah, I thought it was around 4,000.

Greg Sheehan: Not that many are hunting every year but there are that many that we think are (inaudible).

Gary Olsen: How many youth are participating at this point in time? You know the numbers on the youth participants?

Steve Flinders: How many applications, you'd have to look at applications in the draw. Any guess?

Gary Olsen: Some of this is leading up to the next presentation. But since I'm here . . .

Steve Flinders: What percent of the general deer tags are allocated to youth?

Douglas Messerly: Twenty percent.

Greg Sheehan: About twenty percent.

Douglas Messerly: Come to the mic Greg, if you would please so we can get you on the record.

Greg Sheehan: Hi, Greg Sheehan administrative services chief for the Division of Wildlife. Youth tags can go out through a few different mechanisms. Some of our, you know you can have lifetime, we may still have a few youth left in lifetime. Dedicated hunters could have some youth. We allocate twenty percent of the deer permits to youth. But if they don't take those they could still be in with everybody else, maybe they're in a group with family members so they don't participate in the twenty percent. So to give you an exact number I'd have to go back and look. But I'm going to guess maybe fifteen to twenty thousand youth in there but that may be wrong. So, but it's probably some percentage in that ballpark. If you need to know though I can give you an exact number. Let me get back to Salt Lake.

Gary Olsen: Okay. I think that is the only questions I have right now. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you, any other questions.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I have one comment card, Mark Wintch.

Mark Wintch: First off I apologize for going into my comments while I was asking my questions.

Steve Flinders: No, you're all right.

Mark Wintch: If the overall goal of this plan is to increase the deer herd, which I sure as heck hope it is because there's few and far deer between it seems like, I would like to see us get back to doing a little more on the predation control because in the past when there were more deer and more harvesting then why aren't we increasing our deer herd when it seems to be slipping farther and farther away from us, making the product that we are buying as deer hunters and sportsmen more of a dream than a reality? I know that my experience in the southwest desert, I've hunted several different places, I've been in the Central Unit, I grew up there. The deer herd seems to go down and this last year if I could have got my money back I would have. You got to do something. Cutting it up, I agree can be a good plan; it can be a good tool. But there's got to be more done than just trying to control the hunters, we got, which is a good thing to some extent but there has to be some sort of predation control where they're taking the fawns and taking the grown deer. And that's my comments, thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Mark. Craig Laub followed by Chad Nay.

Craig Laub: My comment is I think the boundaries are too small. I think they need to be; the areas that are more of the deer populations are about the same maybe they're bigger. I'll give you one good example of why you're going to have a really tough time in enforcement. This last year, and this is a true story, I was coming off on my 4-wheeler over there off the north side of the highway on one of those little trails onto the highway where my pickup was parked, on my 4-wheeler. Four bucks come down there and crossed 20. If there'd been a bunch of road hunters there what are they going to do, you know? They're going to shoot them no matter which side of the road they're on. I bet.

Steve Flinders: Thanks.

Chad Nay: Cordell if you remember Clark Davis you're older than I thought you was. I was barely born but I know a lot of stories about him. Some of them probably include your family and I appreciate you.

Cordell Pearson: I remember

Chad Nay: I support this change 100%. I think it's about time that Utah got into the 20th century. I run around with a lot of Nevada guys, Cordell you're occupation had you in Nevada for many years and could probably attest to this, they went to this method many years ago. Many of them quit hunting up here with us because of the deer populations saying that it got better down there because they changed to this method. The technology is in place. No matter what you use to do it the technology is in place. I see a lot of ranchers, farmers, Craig I appreciate your comments but you're one of the best in Iron County, one of the most successful, and we all now that the smaller your pastures the better you can manage them for the amount of cattle and livestock you can put on them. Therefore I think we're on a good method. Enforcement, Doug I think you're doing as good a job with the manpower that you have. I know it is going to be a lot of dedicated hunters, like the gentleman said earlier, helping us. I think that was a great comment. But the elk worked, to the enforcement, and the deer can too. I appreciate your efforts and I hope that this change can go forward. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you, that's all the comment cards that I have. We haven't missed anybody. We will look to RAC members to discuss this item further and move ahead.

RAC discussion and vote:

Rex Stanworth: I am assuming, looking at these boundaries that as always it's a moving target, boundaries can and could possibly change, even though it looks like they're crystal clear. To be honest with you if you try to look at all these little pictures, Teresa I've got to tell you that is one confusing group of boundaries. To try to say that I'm familiar with all of them, I can't do it. So I guess at this point in time, unless somebody else has got some wise wisdom, I'd make a motion we accept the deer boundary units and give it a try.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Rex, second by Mack. Cordell do you want to discuss this motion or? All right. Go ahead. Huh.

Cordell Pearson: I just wanted to second the motion.

Steve Flinders: I'll get you on the next one. Well I'm looking at the direction the guy's making the motion. One comment I'd add before we vote on this is to the Division's credit, based on my familiarity with units and classification data from the last umpteen years, most of all the old data will roll into these boundaries. So whether they're good or bad we'll have some historic data to follow; and I'm sure adjustments may need to be made. Any discussion on the motion? Let's go for votes. Those in favor? Any against? It's unanimous.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept the 2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries as presented. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Steve Flinders: Thank you Teresa. Do we need to take a break? Let's take a ten-minute break and then jump into the Dedicated Hunter Program.

Steve Flinders: Are we about ready to get started again? Let's move on to agenda item number seven, Rhianna Christopher, Dedicated Hunter Program. It's all yours.

2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals

-Rhianna Christopher, Program Coordinator 1:32:00 to 1:40:24 of 2:59:04

(See Attachment 1)

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Questions from the RAC? Sam.

Questions from the RAC:

Sam Carpenter: I just want to make sure I understood you correctly on this. So once you draw a permit you're allowed in the program and you will have that unit for three continuous years once you draw it.

Rhianna Christopher: Correct.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. And when you do have a fifteen percent allocation in a unit and the dedicated hunters do not use up that fifteen percent do those, the remaining, go to the public? What are you doing to do with the additional fifteen percent?

Rhianna Christopher: Yes, if those permits are not spoken for by an applicant for the dedicated hunter program it would automatically roll in to the general season drawing. So there would be nothing left to exchange.

Sam Carpenter: How complicated would it be for those fifteen percent to remain for dedicated hunters that didn't draw out and allow them to go into the local district office and buy the permits that were left over? Is that going to be a nightmare?

Rhianna Christopher: That's a great question. We actually moved to the online application system for various reasons. In the past it was a written application and we had to enter everything manually. And then the law enforcement check would come later. And so this way we've been able to monitor how many people are actually entering the program as well as basically filtering out those folks who don't pass the muster with our law enforcement rules. And so over the counter is kind of a thing of the past, if you will.

Sam Carpenter: Okay so that it isn't feasible to do that. I've had some different people contact me and wanting to know if that could happen. So it is not feasible.

Rhianna Christopher: No I wouldn't say it's not feasible but it would definitely take some extra time to try to do something like that.

Sam Carpenter: So what are the numbers on your total number of dedicated hunters to this point, do you know, do you have that information?

Rhianna Christopher: Yeah, currently we've got about 6,800. But going into 2012 we would only have about 3,600 to start.

Sam Carpenter: And you for see we're not going to need a cap?

Rhianna Christopher: You know the percentage per unit would actually create a natural cap. Because if you're capping the number of, you know it's a percentage per unit, it's going to be a natural cap. There won't be any more permits than that percentage.

Sam Carpenter: Okay thank you.

Steve Flinders: Has anyone estimated what that number might be, fifteen percent (unintelligible) units?

Rhianna Christopher: Um, I actually, I did some, a little bit of number crunching based on just what I think could perhaps happen. And really it wouldn't go, it couldn't go much above the ten thousand already based on the number of permits that will be available. Something else to keep in mind is there really are going to be units that somebody's not going to want for a three year period. And so I think that it will just naturally keep itself at a minimum but still allow us to continue the benefits of the program.

Steve Flinders: Sure Steve.

Steve Dalton: Yes, I've got a question. If you're currently enrolled in the program what happens next year for 2012? You know you have a southern permit this year, what happens next year? You have to draw a unit?

Rhianna Christopher: No. What we're recommending is that they are allowed to just select a unit off the top like lifetime license holders.

Steve Dalton: Okay. Great. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I guess Rhianna I will be the bad guy cause I don't know of any one thing at least in my area that has people more upset than dedicated hunters. First of all let me just say I like the program. I think there are some great benefits. And I know that it creates a lot of not income but it's money that doesn't have to go out because of what's provided. And for the most part I think the dedicated hunters do a wonderful job for the Division. But having said that I know that there are some that have a burr under their saddle with lifetime license. And I'll just as well declare now I'm a lifetime license holder. The difference between dedicated hunter and a lifetime license holder is there's about 3,800, 3,900 that actually hunt for lifetime when there could be up to 10,000 that could hunt on dedicated hunter and the dedicated hunters get three hunts in a year. And most of the folks that come into my office said, you know that's just unfair. I support the program. I explain to them what it does. They agree, they like what's being done by the dedicated hunter but they don't like that they get to hunt three times, actually nine times in their three years. So I've had folks that have come in and they oppose the opportunity to hunt three times. And the other thing that they oppose is the fifteen percent. When you throw out numbers, ten, ten percent seems to make them; they seem to agree with that number. But those are some of the sticking points that have been there every since I became a RAC member; is that dedicated

hunters, three hunts. These other guys that haven't been able to draw a tag, they say you know I get a tag maybe every two years, possibly three and I get one time to hunt. Dedicated hunters come in and they get it three times for three years; it's unfair. So I tell them go join the dedicated hunter.

Rhianna Christopher: Well and that's, that would be my response. But the reality is based on our survey information that I most recently obtained; only about between 22 and 29 percent of dedicated hunters actually hunt all three hunts. And keeping in mind that those are folks who may go through the archery and not get anything, then the muzzleloader and then the rifle. So it's a pretty small percentage of folks who actually even hunt all three hunts.

Rex Stanworth: What do you put the value on the hours that are worked by dedicated hunters? What, is it \$10.00, is it \$15.00, is it \$20.00?

Rhianna Christopher: Well if a dedicated hunter is going to purchase an hour it is \$20 per hour. Now every service hour, it has a labor code, basically. That was established on a median value of that particular duty, so to speak. So whether it's office or you're digging a fence posthole, we, our fiscal section established it and then it had to be approved by federal aide because there are some matching funds there. So it's based on a national median average of what that particular job would be paid.

Rex Stanworth: Okay, all right. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Other questions from the RAC? Sure Sam, go ahead.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, on the hours that your list on the requirements here in the first year, 8-16-16, those are minimal? You can do all forty the first year, is that not true?

Rhianna Christopher: Correct, correct.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. And one more thing, just for clarification in my mind, if I had joined dedicated hunter this year was my first year and I would be set for the next three years, is that correct?

Rhianna Christopher: Correct.

Sam Carpenter: Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Questions from the public? Questions? Sure come on up.

Bryan Johnson: Bryan Johnson um, I was just wondering out of these 10,000 hunters what's the average, if we get to harvest two out of three years, how many of those 10,000 actually harvest two out of three or is the harvest percentage less than average hunters? Or, just, you guys, I don't know if anybody has any statistics on that, I just am wondering.

Rhianna Christopher: Well um, you do have some survey data. And um unfortunately I don't have those

numbers off the top of my head. I can tell you that over the last few years of the permits that have been returned unused have ranged in between thirty-two to forty-six hundred. And keeping in mind that folks in their third year might not necessarily return their permit. So if I remember correctly it's around twenty-three percent but I could be wrong.

Bryan Christensen: (off mic).

Rhianna Christopher: Right, there's usually about between one and two hundred people that harvest one every single year.

Doug Messerly: It's 23% success rate each year. That's not 23 percent that kill every two years. When you compare the harvest rate of dedicated hunters to non-dedicated hunters you find out that dedicated hunters kill less deer per year than non-dedicated hunters. However, on an individual basis dedicated hunters probably kill more deer than non-dedicated hunters because the non-dedicated hunters don't get to hunt every year. Does that make sense? So those that choose to join the program and make the effort get more opportunity to hunt and probably enjoy more success in any three year period than people who don't choose to make that effort. But overall on an annual basis dedicated hunters harvest a lower percentage. For every one hundred dedicated hunters there are out there they harvest less deer than every one hundred non-dedicated hunters on a per year basis.

Rhianna Christopher: Well said Doug, thank you.

Steve Flinders: Other questions for the public? Yes sir, come on up. We need your name for the record on the mic if you would. Yeah, so we can catch it on the tape.

Dennis Cox: Dennis Cox from Milford Utah. I was wondering if the RAC members were aware that dedicated hunters and lifetime license hunters, lifetime license hunters can be a dedicated hunter too. I have many friends that have lifetime licenses and they buy the dedicated hunter program and it's a win-win for them, for the fish and game, for the animals.

Steve Flinders: Other questions. I see some right here, come on up.

Greg Higgins: Hi, Greg Higgins from Richfield. I've been putting . . . I'm a dedicated hunter. This is my second year, or second term in the dedicated hunter. I also am putting in for trophy buck. I've never been able to see a clarification, maybe you can help me understand, if I draw a trophy buck what do I do that particular year with the dedicated hunter or how does that work, and will it change at all according to the new changes?

Rhianna Christopher: That's a good question. If you draw out a Limited Entry permit you will forgo that year in the program. You made the choice to apply for that permit. And really you're only able to harvest two deer in a three-year within the program, so if you draw a limited entry permit, you know, you basically are harvesting three deer in a three-year period. And no, that would not change with our recommendation.

Steve Flinders: Good question. Any others?

Tyson Cannon: Tyson Cannon. Will we be able to put in as a group? And is it a separate preference

point for dedicated as opposed to a general?

Rhianna Christopher: Yes, there would be group applications allowed up to four per group. And it would be a separate preference point system for dedicated hunter only.

Steve Flinders: Other questions?

Mark Wintch: Mark Wintch again. Earlier you had on your screen how much money the dedicated hunters brought in. Was that around two million dollars, how much was that? So a net gain of ten, nearly two million. 1.8?

Rhianna Christopher: The average is about 1.5.

Mark Wintch: What do the lifers bring in? If you . . . on an annual basis? What amount of money do the lifetime tag holders bring in to the Division on an annual basis?

Steve Flinders: Greg Sheehan.

Greg Sheehan: Rex, how much do you bring in every year? How much money do you bring in as a lifetime guy? Zero? I'm Greg Sheehan from Salt Lake. When the lifetime program began and ended in the 80's and early 90's, all that money went into a trust account. And the concept, you know this was a long time ago, twenty years ago, was that this trust account would generate interest for us that might be equivalent to what we could have sold those licenses for each year. In this interest environment we earn about \$20,000 a year on a good year from all of that account. So probably not, that model that sounded good in the 80's when interest rates were high, didn't really pan out. But I don't think we can go back to Rex and get our money back now, or get some more. I know, we appreciate it and we still have it. So we do generate a little bit of revenue each year.

Steve Flinders: Another question Mark?

Mark Wintch: Yes, along with that, then why do the lifetime tag holders have more of a preference, and I understand that that was done twenty years ago, but these guys that are dedicated hunters are putting in hours and sweat, they should have the preference. So I'm just wondering why even though that was twenty years ago why that hasn't changed to where those people the individuals have that preference, or in the new plan will have the preference of choice to their unit that they would like to hunt in.

Steve Flinders: That's a good question for Marty Bushman. I think it has to do with contract law. Good question Mark. Any other questions from the public? We'll move on to comments.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: Nolan, do you want to speak to this agenda item or the next one? All right, Nolan Gardner followed by Jonathan McArthur.

Nolan Garland: I am a dedicated hunter. I've often thought that, you know I don't know that the hours are correct, whether we ought to be requiring forty hours or not, but I'd like to see us cut it back to two

hunts. Give them the same, maybe cut the hours back a little bit. I'd like to, you know at some point we've got to give these deer a break. But also, on the plus I'd like to, what would it hurt if the dedicated hunters could change their region each year? I mean if they get into one that they don't like what would be the problem with them putting in for another one the next year?

Doug Messerly: The answer is simply that we need to be able to generate a number of permits that are available for the following year based on the number of people that are going out of the system because their term has expired. So if we allow the changes within a year to occur we wouldn't be able to let people know or even whether there would be a drawing on the unit because we need to know that upfront in order to know which units that there is going to be some slots available for and which units there are not.

Nolan Gardner: And un, and we're addressing the youth hunt. I'd like to see, and this is representing the Dixie Wildlife Chapter of SFW, but we'd like to see it keep at least 20 percent youth tags. We've got to keep our youth involved. So, and two, I am a lifetime license hunter. I probably donate more hours, or as many hours as any dedicated hunter and I don't, I don't get anything. So . . . I just do it because. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Jonathan McArthur followed by Dennis Cox. What's that? Yeah, do you want to come to the mic or no? Okay, thanks. Dennis Cox, followed by Gordon Poppitt.

Dennis Cox: Dennis Cox Milford Utah. I'd like to address a couple of things and maybe even ask a question along the way. But first of all I wanted to make a kind of a statement. I've been a hunter education instructor for the state of Utah for thirty-eight years. When I started teaching hunter education every single student in my community and the little communities around me took hunter education. We're down to about thirty percent now. They don't want to take it any more. What do I tell them? Well let's see, if you do this, and you do this, and you do this and you're lucky and the unit right across the highway, the Beaver unit, if you're lucky you might be able to hunt there once every six years, unless you join the dedicated hunter program. I'm all for the dedicated hunter program. I've been a member of it since its inception. I think I've taken four deer in twelve years. And I've put in hours and hours and hours. I've cut down trees. Recently I've been able to get my hours for doing the hunter education. But now I still go out, my son runs programs; I go out and help him. I'll help anybody. I'm really concerned that some special interests that are taking a bite out of our Utah deer herd are not being addressed. And I think when you start putting money value on things you lose the purpose of it. Those deer belong to every resident of the state of Utah, whether they're born yet or not. They belong to everybody. The ones on the public land, private land's a different issue. But if you start making it so difficult for a young man, young woman, or an old man or an old woman who would like to hunt a deer to get a tag you're going to kick the foundation right out from under deer hunting completely. And not that it's already well on the way, I think it is. My time's going. I lived in the hay day. I lived when Beaver had a sign outside the town that said welcome to Beaver County Utah, home of the largest mule deer herd in the world. I went hunting last year, I counted 571 does, I never saw a buck. In the old days you used to be able to shoot a doe. A lot of guys didn't mind taking a doe; they just wanted to go hunt with their family. Now if a young person's in the dedicated hunter program and dad draws a unit over here and twelve-year-old daughter draws a unit over here, how are you going to do that? Where we do a lot to address getting the young people into the programs we're doing nothing to keep them in the program. I, and this is just a personal thing and then I'll shut up, I wish every hunter in the state of Utah was in the dedicated hunter program, maybe they'd learn some lessons. I see stuff in my community that

makes me want to vomit, the things people do. As my son said when he comes up here, he'd never been checked by a game warden; I've never been checked by a game warden. I'm a judge in Milford Utah. I've never had a fish and game ticket in my court, not one. Not in five years. So I'd like to see the state of Utah add about another hundred officers. I know we can't afford it but gee wiz, we can afford to build a pump to pump the Great Salt Lake out into the desert. Okay, my time's up. Thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Gordon, followed by Mark Wintch.

Gordon Poppitt: Gordon Poppitt from Central. Each of you received from me, I hope, if you still get e-mail, I sent a suggestion and I'd like to touch on that. And hopefully I cannot go over three minutes. Rex sort of touched on it. My suggestion would be to in fact not change the new format the way it is. We're making fairly drastic changes. I think there are some formative changes that can be made within the changes for the dedicated hunter program. That being that, number one: do not change the application time for entry into the dedicated hunter program. Keep it ahead of the general application period. And I think I explained why. That being that number one: anybody that draws for dedicated hunter gets to choose two of the three options for the method of take. That way what that does is leave that third one open for general application by the public and or youth. Rhianna had mentioned, and let me just reemphasize it; the majority of dedicated hunters do not hunt all three programs. And it's roughly if I remember, correct me if I'm wrong, but it's seventy-five percent that hunt only two. So there's a wasted tag there. There's a third opportunity in that season that should be out there for the public and that's what I believe should be changed. Now if we separate the time factors we will know how many dedicated hunters we have. And like I say, by then they will have made their selection on which two or the three they need and then the third one can go into the pot for whoever wants to apply for it. I would touch on something that Dennis said a little earlier and it's a beef of mine. Also having been a hunter ed instructor, even though it's only fifteen in Utah, I would love to see some percentage of the youth tags go to first time dedicated, sorry, first time hunter education graduates. Nothing exists at the moment to give them that. There's no encouragement. Are there any questions on what I sent you? It's different but the whole thing is going to be different. Why don't we make it a little more constructive so that it's beneficial to everybody within the state? Rex had made mention of the fact that he's got a lot of people that don't love dedicated hunters. They are seen, as I had said, as the affluent bunch. And it's not necessarily that case. I think it's a question of trying to make it fairer throughout the state. Thank you. If you have any questions I'll be glad to answer them.

Steve Flinders: Thank you Gordon. Mark, followed by Craig Laub.

Mark Wintch: I feel like I am taking all the time here. Um, first off Rex, a few years ago I personally thought the dedicated hunter program was a total waste of time. However, last year the dedicated hunters in my area contacted me and asked if they could come help me fix a pipeline, which not only helped me but helps the wildlife. And I can't say how grateful I was for them. And let me tell you, they came with picks and shovels and we worked. We didn't sit on our hands handing out pamphlets or something exciting. They actually came and worked. That does a lot of things, one: as a rancher and a stockman it makes me appreciate the hunters because lots of times they're just a pain in the butt. They leave gates open and everything else. But, through this experience I've not only had friendships cultivated but I've also had some respect for those people who came and helped me. As far as the changes on the program I wouldn't do it. For you members of the board, I think it's a big mistake. If you want to do something, if you want to kill a good program that could be a good program this is a good way to do it because you don't even have your ten thousand members right now in your dedicated

hunter program. And if it's not full right now then this is a good way to run people out of it because they're trying to hunt with their kids and other things. If you are going to change it for some bad reason, please have these people do the service in the area where they draw because no one cares like the people that are there. I care because I'm involved. They care because they want to hunt there. That's the best help that you can have. If you want people to help you then they've got to have a reason to care. And if, I'll end there and say thanks and I hope that the program does not change.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Mark. Craig, followed by Bryan Johnson.

Craig Laub: I have to agree with Mark. Adding up your numbers here you've got seventy . . . well she said sixty-nine, I added up seventy-three hundred dedicated hunters. I think the changes you make in the program is going to kill it. I mean, because it was bumping ten thousand there, you put the forty hours in and you dropped it twenty-five percent. I'll bet this drops it twenty-five to fifty more. And dedicated hunter's been a really good program for the deer in this area. And I think that one of the ways you would help it, myself, by the way I didn't shoot those four little bucks. I've shot one buck in . . . I've been in the dedicated hunters program since it started. I've shot one buck and only shot at two. And so, I don't know maybe I'm the odd ball but I love to be in the hills with a tag in my hand and a weapon in my hand and that's why I'm a part of the program. Anyway, I think dedicated hunters, I hunt, in my, each year I hunt four or five units in the time with the three tags, you know the three hunts. And so I think you've got to do that to give the dedicated hunters an opportunity to hunt more than one unit. I'd hate to be in the program and stuck to one unit. I don't know that I would re-up. Like I say, I've been in it for twelve or however long it's been in a unit. So, anyway, the other thing, just a suggestion if you go through with this is when you're in the draw you've got to put on there on those units what the percentage of dedicated hunters is available there because that will make a difference in how people put in. And I foresee like the Pine Valley getting, you may not be able to, there will be years there might not be any tags available there for dedicated hunters.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Bryan.

Bryan Johnson: Bryan Johnson, Utah Bowman Association. I just want to tell you guys thanks. I know it's a lot of time that you're donating to this. And Utah Bowman's Association supports the changes that you're making. Don't always understand them but we're good with them. On another note, just on a personal note, I'm a lifetime license holder and I've been a dedicated hunter before. I started, I wouldn't be standing here if it wasn't for that dedicated hunter program. Because I did it the first year and I killed the only buck I've ever killed in Utah the first year I was in the dedicated hunter program. And so that's why I'm passionate about what I do. I'm passionate about the sport because that opportunity was given to me. . And I just think it's a great program, whoever thought of it. It's just a good idea. So whatever we can do to keep it around and keep promoting the best we can would be great. I'm boring Doug, he's yawning. I mean, good heavens, I'm sorry. I can tell jokes; I got like three more minutes because I'm a representation of a group. So I'll just tell jokes up here if you want. Or you can, I mean just, what would you like me to do Doug? Just say good night? Good night.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Bryan. That's all the comment cards we have. Did I miss anybody?

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Further discussion from the RAC. We've heard everything from increase opportunity to

don't change the program. And we had a commentary from a federal agency point of view; we've utilized the dedicated hunters a lot. And wrote a letter in support to the Division to maintain the program. I think back on this program as long as I've known it and it's evolved quite a bit. In fact when deer tags were easy to come by it was a way to hunt three seasons. Then it became a way to guarantee your self a permit and still hunt three seasons. I think you'd have dedicated hunters interested in this program if all they had was their region of choice and one weapon type. I think there's room for change if this is the future but . . . Now I'm talking too much. Cordell I'm looking your way. we have heard everything from

Cordell Pearson: I don't have anything

Doug Messerly: I have a comment.

Steve Flinders: Doug.

Douglas Messerly: Mr. Chairman, I happened to sit on the committee that helped develop these recommendations and some of the points have been brought up here tonight. But to echo what Steve said from the federal agency standpoint, you know I'd like to speak from the Division of Wildlife's stand point, and that is that this program is vital to what we are able to accomplish; in the habitat arena, in the depredation arena, in our landowner relations, in a lot of the youth events that we do. And honestly the proposal that we've come up with here, my primary concern is the health of the dedicated hunter program. You know if we don't have five thousand or more participants statewide it's going to be difficult to justify funding personnel in order to keep these guys working. So we try to come up with a recommendation that would at least maintain five thousand statewide. Honestly a lot of units out of those thirty in the state are not going to fill up with dedicated hunters every year. That's it. I think the presumption is is that fifteen percent of all general season tags will go to dedicated hunters; that's not the case. I think that when you average it out statewide it will be somewhere between five and ten percent. And hopefully that's enough dedicated hunters to keep us in the business of having the people on staff to develop and supervise projects for those folks. So you know there's a lot of variables here that could affect that, but from the Division of Wildlife's stand point I'd just like the RAC to know that we view it to be a very important to us not only from the standpoint of the work that we get but from the relationship building that we get from this as well. Mark Wintch, and I appreciate his comments in particular, and Craig, I know that we've been working on his places too. You know I think that by bringing these people together in the field over the tailgate of a pickup truck or over a fence makes a big difference. And I think that was one of the initial goals of the program to start with. And you know I think that we're pretty successful at that in a lot of arenas so. Those are the comments that I'd like to make before we vote.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug, Clair

Clair Woodbury: Thanks Steve. I also joined the program the 1st year and I've been in it ever since. Like you said, it was a great way early to be guaranteed a tag back when it was hard to draw at times. And I've seen the evolution of this program. It was pretty much worthless at first as far as what we got accomplished in work projects. Now there's a lot that gets done that benefits the wildlife, the state, landowners. And as we went into these changes I was very concerned. We already lost quite a few with the increased hours because we went from twenty-four to forty. It kicked a lot of people out. They just weren't, it just wasn't where they were going to give two weekends in a three or four month period to

this program, and we lost quite a few dedicated hunters. And as I saw the proposals come I thought, you know this is the death of the dedicated hunter. But looking at what we have I think it's the best that the Division of Wildlife could have come up with to keep this alive. I also am concerned about limiting it to one unit. You know sometimes you can bow hunt one unit and it's tough to muzzle load or rifle hunt there. But overall I think it's the best we can do or the best the Division can do and I would support it as a veteran dedicated hunter.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Clair. Rex.

Rex Stanworth: I like Gordon's proposal of the two ideas and that is the two hunt, deciding which two hunts you want to hunt. And I like the idea of trying to come up . . . I know that this thing gets more complicated each year but I like the idea of giving a youth that's completed his hunter safety a chance to come into a deer tag. So personally I think there's some validity in those two options. Like I say, I don't know if short of us changing to the thirty micro units, I don't know of any one thing that's caused me more people sitting across from me than the dedicated hunter. And I want to make sure everybody understands, I understand the value of it. But I can tell you what the perception is of the folks that do not understand it and even tried to educate them. It doesn't make any difference because those nine hunts is a lot for those folks that maybe only get to hunt one hunt in three years. But I like that idea of, it may open some opportunity because I don't think there's anybody here that can disagree that with these tags going away over the next couple of years or three, or future, it would be nice to give everybody any amount of opportunity we could with that extra tag, that extra hunt, whether it be archery or muzzle loader. So I personally like those comments.

Steve Flinders: More discussion? Anybody want to venture a motion towards? Sure Dale.

Dale Bagley: Are you going to have a number during the application period of available slots? Will that be available to those putting in?

Doug Messerly: Yeah, we will know precisely how many dedicated hunters there are in each unit and what year they joined. And so we'll know what year they're going out. So we'll be able to tell you, for example she said there will be twenty-five hundred next year going out and then eleven hundred going out after that. So we'll be able to tell you precisely how many Pine Valley hunters will expire in 2014, precisely. We'll know that three years in advance.

Dale Bagley: So somebody wouldn't be going into it blind not knowing if there's a slot there. They'd know exactly

Doug Messerly: No. They won't know . . . Go ahead.

Greg Sheehan: Here's the slight risk you have is that you apply in the Februaryish time frame for those permits. So we may print some on our website or whatever on the Pine Valley unit. Right now there are, let's say there could be two thousand dedicated hunters or something on that unit. And we could tell how many were there. If the Wildlife Board cut the overall permit numbers on that you couldn't assume because there were two thousand last year that, you know, people exiting the program you're going to get that gap. They could cut three thousand out of the Pine Valley unit and that could shrink. And you're applying three months before the Wildlife Board sets the permit numbers on any one of those units. I mean you all have been doing that for years, you're applying for things before the Board sets numbers.

We could certainly put on our website how many people are in there but that wouldn't be a guarantee to say well there's going to be twenty-three slots open on Pine Valley this year, there still could be zero, or it could grow.

Dale Bagley: So would it be possible to move that draw to a point later when you know what the number would be?

Greg Sheehan: Well the difficult part with this structure is it interweaves what lifetime people want to do, since we're giving them a choice, and then we're giving dedicated hunters right in the middle of that, and then we're doing youth . . . and we'll talk about that a little later this evening, and then everybody else. And so it's a function of these other groups. So to say why don't we do dedicated hunters some other time, it doesn't really work under the model that we've got here tonight.

Dale Bagley: Okay. One other quick question; on that, if you're unsuccessful in the dedicated hunter draw, you roll over into the general draw do you get a point for each one or would you only get one point?

Greg Sheehan: You don't roll over to the general draw. If you apply for the dedicated hunter only and you don't get it, you don't roll into anything. You'd apply for a dedicated hunter in the drawing application period and you'd apply for a general season. So if you hit the dedicated hunter and don't get it then your permit application would be considered in the next draw.

Dale Bagley: So, let me get this clarified, if I didn't draw a dedicated hunter but I also applied for a general so if I . . . Which draws first, the dedicated hunter?

Greg Sheehan: The dedicated hunter.

Dale Bagley: So but then I'm not just, I can also apply for general in case I didn't draw a dedicated.

Greg Sheehan: You can do both. And they both have points and they're different kinds of points.

Dale Bagley: So if I was unsuccessful in both I could get two points in one year, right?

Greg Sheehan: Two different kinds of points, one for dedicated hunter and one general season point.

Dale Bagley: (Unintelligible) just getting one point.

Greg Sheehan: Right, you could have two.

Steve Flinders: Greg, while you are up there one more question as I mull this over. There's a disincentive now to the person coming out of the dedicated hunter program, or a disadvantage rather into getting back into the program, you're going to go up against in the draw the people who have loyalty points, or dedicated hunter points now they're called. And before we wanted to hold on to those dedicated hunters and keep them in the program and we were giving loyalty points. So it's another fairly strong change to this now. They're going to be a little while sitting out of the program on their favorite unit. They could switch units.

Greg Sheehan: Yeah, I mean you're right, but we kind of do that really on all of our limited entry hunts too. You know you draw your elk tag you've got a five year waiting period and then you start getting to put in and so yeah. I guess hopefully, you know there's been comments here tonight about what are we doing to bring in youth or retain people and all this. If we let people get locked into that dedicated hunter program on Pine Valley unit and they're taking up a tag forever because we give them some kind of preferential treatment, forget ever getting new people brought into that program. So yeah, you end up with three years and some guy who builds up three points for three years and then he draws it, maybe he ought to have a chance to get in there so we can kind of spread that knowledge and opportunity around to other people.

Steve Flinders: I see this program changing a lot in the future too. Any other discussion, Sam?

Mark Wintch: (off mic).

Steve Flinders: Yeah, a point of clarification Mark? We need you to the mic.

Mark Wintch: I would just like to know why the program is changing. I mean if it's working why are, if it ain't broke don't fix it. If it's working a little bit isn't it?

Steve Flinders: The real reason is because we are going to 30 units. The Wildlife Board said we're going to 30 units. So the program as it stands, it's a square peg in a round hole; it has to be changed. Right now it's a matter of how do we change it. And that's what you'll hear us deliberate if you'll let us get to it.

Mark Wintch: All right I won't comment anymore.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. We know you like the program the way it is. So do some of the rest of us. Sam are you on the verge of something?

Sam Carpenter: We're not ready for a

Steve Flinders: We're ready for a motion if you're ready to make one.

Sam Carpenter: First I, my comments on this is I've been in the program myself. I like the comments that we've heard and I understand the frustration with some people on the three hunts; and also, what a value it is to DWR. But to me, and Gordon I appreciate your comments, and I understand where you're coming from, but it's just all speculation right now. This is a new thing; we don't know what's going to happen yet. We really need to play this out I think for a few years, at least three years, before we start changing it and then we can fine tune it when we really understand better exactly where these numbers are going to go. That said I'd like to make a motion that we accept the proposal as presented for now.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Sam. Seconded by Dale. Further discussion on the motion? Did you guys get that, to pass as presented? Seeing no discussion I'll call for a vote. Those in favor? And those against? Motion passes.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept 2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried, 10 in favor 1 opposed (Rex Stanworth opposed).

Steve Flinders: Thank you . Let's move on to agenda item eight, 2012 Lifetime License, Landowner Permits and other changes. Bryan Christensen.

2012 Lifetime License, Landowner Permits & other changes required to implement buck deer hunt strategies.

-Bryan Christensen, Licensing Specialist **2:26:41 to 2:32:07 of 2:59:04**
(See Attachment 1)

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Bryan, why is that not twenty percent to the youth? Why does that role out seventeen on there?

Bryan Christensen: That's a good question. The main reason, and Greg had kind of touched on this before, the youth as we've written it in this proposal can have up to twenty percent. And that figure is based on after taking out lifetime and dedicated hunter. So, if no dedicated hunters and no lifetimers apply, period, then youth will have the full twenty percent. But if some apply then that will be reduced. So we do anticipate that it will be slightly less, it may be up to sixteen, seventeen percent of the total quota, is kind of what we're anticipating.

Steve Flinders: Okay, Dale.

Dale Bagley: Are the youth 18 and under, are they still going to be allowed to hunt all three seasons? Is that going to keep going or have we not got that far?

Bryan Christensen: As far as I know we haven't made any changes to that.

Steve Flinders: Good question. Another, Sam?

Sam Carpenter: What do you think the chances are of lifetime hunters dominating a unit to where we don't have anyone else there?

Bryan Christensen: Right, that's another good question. Um, part of the discussion that we had as these proposals were developed was exactly that, what could happen in a particular unit? And we looked at some data from prior years on distribution of lifetime license holders and it may surprise you that they actually spread out very well over all the units throughout the state. And I was just looking at it just prior to this meeting and most are even in the single digit numbers per unit. It's a very, very well spread percentage.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. That was with 5 units true?

Bryan Christensen: Over regions it would be, but the units we looked at were actually specific to all the roughly the thirty here. And so basically it's looking like it will, they'll spread out over the thirty units.

Sam Carpenter: Would it be fair to put a cap for a certain percentage of lifetime hunters on a unit? Is that fair?

Bryan Christensen: I am not sure if that is really fair or not. That's a good question. The intent that we had with this proposal, and be careful because the elbow is real close to you there, the intent we had was to keep existing programs as close as they were. Lifetime licensees have begun years ago under a certain program and they had at one time statewide, and then it transitioned over to region, and now we're looking at a unit change. And that may be seen as a fair option and it may not, you know, depending on your outlook on it. Our intent though is to keep each of these programs as intact and as similar as they have been in years past.

Steve Flinders: Question Layne?

Layne Torgerson: Do you have a number of, I mean is there any data that shows the number of lifetime license holders we're losing each year or over the last five years or?

Bryan Christensen: I think the question also depends on what you mean by losing. I know that 91 total now are deceased. And so we're losing by that method. But as far as disinterest we're not sure. We do know that yearly the number that are being issued permits seems to range between thirty-three hundred and thirty-five hundred. This year's a little bit higher. It might be as high as thirty-nine.

Layne Torgerson: That was my next question. Of the, say four thousand lifetime license holders that we still have active, how many of those are actually requesting a deer tag?

Bryan Christensen: Okay, this year I pulled those numbers and it looks like we are going to issue, based on current numbers, it looks like 3,926; so almost four thousand. And there are 4,605 lifetime licensees on record. So there's about six hundred that are not currently hunting this year. But maybe there could be some that go in and out between year to year a little bit.

Steve Flinders: Rex.

Rex Stanworth: Just make one point Layne. Those lifetime license hunters hunt one hunt. I just wanted to make that clear to you.

Layne Torgerson: I understand that. I'm just throwing numbers around in my head. I do numbers; numbers is my thing.

Steve Flinders: What percent of the total hunters is that?

Layne Torgerson: It's a pretty small percentage. Do you want me to get my calculator out?

Steve Flinders: No, it is pretty small. Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Steve Flinders: Questions from the public, on the presentation? Oh we got one. Come on up. It's a

question this time? Put a question mark at the end of it and we'll let you get away with about anything.

Aaron Cox: I'll try not to be nervous. When you hunt out of state, you know, you're getting these magazines and you look and you see what the best unit is. Okay? And now we're going to these units. So when Eastman's or Hunting Fool put hey, Pine Valley unit, 180 to 200 bucks. If the deer are managed right all the lifetime license hunters are going to take that unit, whether they hunt it by bow or whatever, rifle. That's just something I think you really got to look at. They will totally take tag in it if there's 4,000 of them. Thank you.

Bryan Christensen: Did you want me to respond to that one as well?

Steve Flinders: I'm not sure there was a question there Bryan.

Comments from the public:

Steve Flinders: I've got a comment card from Dennis Cox, and Noland Gardner. Any other comment cards?

Dennis Cox: This is Dennis Cox again. I'm a little more calmed down than I was last time. I wonder why the lifetime license hunters get to choose the unit specifically. They were assigned to, I know it was a region. Maybe they could select a region and the state could select their unit. I don't know what you're going to do about it. But I'm just going to have a hard time looking in a little kid's eyes and saying sorry the unit's full. It's full because it's a good place to hunt. So if we don't catch these kids within the age from twelve to sixteen they're not going to hunt, whether they took hunter ed. and or whatever. I used to hunt pheasants in western Beaver County. I haven't seen a pheasant for fifteen years. There aren't any more. The pine hens are not around. The doves are all out on the pig farm sewer ponds. So I don't know what the kids are going to hunt. But if you stack it full of lifetime license hunters you just shut the door on your future. That's my comment. Thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Greg, you've got a point of clarification for us?

Greg Sheehan: As Bryan mentioned here, all these programs, dedicated hunter, everything, we try to do the least changes we could to transition to 29 units. We're not trying to reinvent the wheel here. We're well aware that if there becomes a flurry and all of a sudden unit 18 or whatever in the state is the greatest place to be and it's in all the magazines and all the lifetime guys flock to that we are probably going to have to come in and create a cap and or a draw for those lifetime guys. But we're hoping that that's not the case or at least not in the next few years; and we're going to experiment with this. We may have to do it anyway. If we have a unit that only has five hundred tags or seven hundred tags on it and it gets great accolades and everyone wants to go that we wouldn't even have enough just to let the lifetime guys come there without having some sort of a draw or something. Even if they wanted to take all of it we'd still have to cut them off. So we're going to watch this pretty closely for the next couple of years. And as Bryan mentioned, and it applies to all of the discussions tonight, Utah Wildlife has managed on these 30 units for the last twenty-five years. We've got hunt data on all of these units, buck doe ratios, all this for the last twenty-five years. And when we went and took a look at this lifetime license information we are looking at data now for, when we do our deer surveys every year where these people have been hunting on each of these 30 different units, so we know right now what the ratios are of lifetime people and the highest that we ran into on any unit was twelve percent of that unit would be

taken by dedicated hunters right now. Don't know where we're going to be three or four years from now and if we have to react to dealing with this we'll be back to have a proposal.

Clair Woodbury: Dedicated or lifetime.

Greg Sheehan: Oh sorry if I said dedicated, I meant lifetime. So, forget that.

Steve Flinders: Nolan. Do you still want to comment?

Nolan Gardner: I'll try not to be so nervous this time. I am a lifetime license hunter. And I, you know, if you went percentage I would not have a problem with that at all. I think it should be fair. I know back when the dedicated hunter started, and I support dedicated hunter, we've been there since day one, but one thing I was concerned about was the dedicated hunters all taking the southern region which I see you've addressed that and I think that's great. But uh, so I wouldn't have a problem if we went percentages. I know on the way up here we were talking about that. (Unintelligible) and I wish we'd have wrote it down. But if we, how did he put that? Just a proposal would be if you put in for one unit one year, you put your choices one, two, three. You didn't get your first choice, say but you got your second or your third choice, the next year you put in the same, one, two, three . . . If you don't, I'd like to make a proposal anyway that if we did go that way that if you put in and didn't draw you got a point to draw that unit the next year. I'm sure that would be too difficult to do but at least you could after a period of years you could hunt the unit you wanted to hunt. But also, at the last RAC meeting in October suggested or asked about the possibility of, I know in some states dad can, if dad drawn and his kid doesn't, or his grand kid doesn't he can transfer his tag to his son. Is that something that Utah will ever look at Doug?

Douglas Messerly: Right now it is against state law. State law says that you can't transfer the privileges afforded by any hunting or fishing license. So that would be a legislative change. It would require actually the legislature to change that. And is it something that we would ever look at? If the legislature changes the law we sure would.

Nolan Gardner: You said you sure would?

Doug Messerly: We have to follow the law, yes. And we will follow the law, the state law. But right now the state law precludes that from being a possibility.

Nolan Gardner: Okay, thank you.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. That's all the comment cards I have on this particular agenda item. Did we miss any? You may comment.

Layne Torgerson: I just have one comment about lifetime license holders. I have about, I was just trying to count, but I think seven of my very close hunting friends that go with me all the time that are lifetime license holders. I'm not because I didn't have five hundred bucks at that time, but they all did. My comment is, is those guys have hunted, it's a tradition thing; they've hunted the same area for forty years. They've went with the same group of guys for forty years. They've camped in the same spot the whole time. And those guys that are lifetime license holders, and you correct me if I'm wrong Rex, are going to continue to go to the same place they always have. So I think Greg's point about the lifetime, the data shows that the lifetime license holders do spread themselves out. I think that's going to

continue that way just from the group that I associate with.

Steve Flinders: Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, I just have a quick kind of question comment. Legally can we do a percentage on those if we do get an area or are we going to open a can of worms to where we're going to have 4,000 lawsuits?

Greg Sheehan: That's what we're waiting to see. We'll find out.

Cordell Pearson: With the wording in there when we guarantee them a tag and a unit or in a region if you try to change that unless you get everybody to sign off and say it's okay, I can just see us opening up a can of worms. But I understand what our problem is, I don't know what we do with that. I guess like you say, go with what we got and see what happens.

Doug Messerly: I know what we do with that Cordell. I know what we do with that, it's really easy. They did it in 1994. In 1994 they first went to the regions. Okay, prior to that it was a general statewide general season deer tag. When they went to the regions they stopped selling lifetime licenses. So and some people, some lifetime license hunters go upset and threatened to sue. What the Division of Wildlife did at that time was offer to give them a refund of five hundred bucks. And so that's probably what they'll probably do this time too. Yeah, we offer them a refund of \$500.00 and say sorry you don't like it here's your five hundred bucks back.

Cordell Pearson: Okay. If they say I don't want your \$500.00 but I want to hunt Pine Valley Mountain because that's where you guaranteed me a tag what then?

Doug Messerly: Well we never guaranteed you a tag. We guaranteed you a general season deer tag.

Cordell Pearson: No, in the unit of your choice.

Doug Messerly: No, we didn't guarantee them a general season deer tag in the unit of their choice. When they purchased the license no, that didn't exist.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, but wait a minute. In the wording right here if we guarantee them a choice of any general season buck deer unit.

Doug Messerly: That's our proposal. That's our proposal for this year, yeah.

Cordell Pearson: So we don't want to do that. Because now you're locked in next year when you've already done this and you've approved that to a unit of their choice.

Doug Messerly: Well what we are doing is just like we do every time is we're improving a rule that says in 2012 lifetime license holders will have the opportunity to choose any general season unit that they like. When the rule comes out for 2013 it might say something different.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, so it only goes year to year. I just didn't want to get locked into something that we're going to have to work out in a lawsuit coming up in about two years.

Steve Flinders: We still may. Other Comments? Discussion? Motions?

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: I'll make a motion that we accept. Excuse me, I'll make a motion that we accept DWR's proposal as presented.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Cordell. Seconded by Sam. Any discussion on the motion? Seeing none, those in favor? Those against? That looked unanimous. Good job Bryan.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept 2012 Lifetime license, Landowner Permits & other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies as proposed. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Greg, you're up, R657-12, Veteran's Fishing License.

Veterans Fishing License Amendment Rule R657-12 2:49:36 to 2:50:54 of 2:59:04
-Greg Sheehan, Business Analyst
(See Attachment 1)

Steve Flinders: Questions from the RAC on the presentation?

Questions from the RAC:

Steve: Questions from the public? The one that's left.

Questions from the public:

None

Steve Flinders: No comment cards.

Comments from the public:

None

Steve Flinders: Looking for a motion.

RAC discussion and vote:

Rex Stanworth: I'll move for approval of the Veterans Fishing License Rule 657-12.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Rex. Second by Layne. Any discussion? Those in favor? It looks

unanimous.

Rex Stanworth made the motion to accept Veterans Fishing License Amendment (Rule R657-12) as presented. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Next.

2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities

-Greg Sheehan, Business Analyst 2:51:37 to 2:52:36 of 2:59:04
(See Attachment 1)

Steve Flinders: Thanks Greg.

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Are those requirements or definitions of disabilities unchanged?

Greg Sheehan: Right. We have not changed anything. It's what's in the rule that we've been working off of the last few years.

Steve Flinders: Okay. Any other questions from the RAC? Questions from the Public?

Questions from the public:

None

Steve Flinders: No comment cards.

Comments from the public:

None

Steve Flinders: Motion?

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I make a motion that we accept the presentation made by Greg for the General Season Extension for Hunters with Disabilities.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Motion by Layne. Seconded by Clair. Discussion on the motion? Seeing none, those in favor? Those against? It's unanimous.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept 2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities as presented. Clair Woodbury seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

RAC Meeting Start Times

-Steve Flinders, Chairman: The next action item is for us to consider RAC meeting start times. Some of you have more tenure on the RAC than I do, but as you've noticed we've varied our start time based on meeting content or the amount of controversy we think there may be, travel distances are different for about everybody here. Question for the membership, do you want a preset meeting time? When I moved onto the RAC it was 7 o'clock, later than most RACs, but it allows folks to get here after work. Looking for some discussion on, do you like things the way they are? Do you want to move it up earlier? We probably don't dare go later. Does 6 o'clock make more sense? Give me your feedback please.

Questions from the RAC:

None

Questions from the Public:

None

Comments from the public:

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Layne Torgerson: Well I think the 7 works fine on when we know that the agenda is going to be as it is tonight, where we may have one or two issues that are going to constitute some time. But the November meeting and the April meeting there's no way that you can start at 7 and get it done.

Steve Flinders: And some of this is changing in the dynamics now with these new (unintelligible) proclamations and fewer RAC meetings. We see some stacked agendas and fewer meetings. I thought earlier start times would facilitate some of these longer agendas. It's hard to guess. 10 o'clock is not too late and I think we can probably bank on three to four hour RAC meetings. Do you think so Doug?

Doug Messerly: If we're lucky they (inaudible).

Steve Flinders: What do you think Cordell?

Cordell Pearson: Okay, instead of setting an exact time I think we should leave that up to the discretion of the chairman. He knows what's coming up. He's in touch with Doug. And I think you've done a great job and I think we should leave it like that. If we've got a long night meeting then I think that you should set the time, otherwise we have it at 7 o'clock like we always do.

Steve Flinders: So unless, so what I am asking for is unless Doug says hey big meeting coming up or when we see the agenda you want to plan on 7 o'clock as we've done in the past unless we move it up?

Cordell Pearson: Yeah. I'd like to put that in the form of a motion that we leave that at your discretion the times of the meetings will be set by the chairman, and leave it at that, period, however you want to do it. If Doug says we've got a big meeting coming up we up it two hours. If we don't we do it at 7.

Steve Flinders: All right, motion by Cordell. Clair, do you have something to add there?

Clair Woodbury: You're right though. We are having fewer RAC meetings with more information. I'm not sure that 7 is going to give us enough time. I would have no problem with 6, but at your discretion. If you want to set them all at 6 or earlier I would have no problem with that.

Steve Flinders: Other discussions? There's a motion on the floor.

Doug Messerly: Yeah, just as my name was mentioned in that. Um, tell me what time you guys would like to shoot for ending, and that way I can advise Steve on what time he'd like to start. So tell me what's your preferred ending time, 9, 10 or 11?

Clair Woodbury: 10 o'clock is a good time to be done with all of our travel time.

Doug Messerly: To finish the meeting at 10?

Steve Flinders: Cordell's got a motion. Anybody want to second the motion or modify? Dale seconded it. Further discussion on the motion is to start at 7 o'clock unless Doug and I confer. And I love to have input from other folks when particular meetings are coming and it looks like the agenda is stacked. No more discussion; let's call for a vote on that motion. Those in favor? Those against? Thank you. It's unanimous.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to start all meetings at 7:00 p.m. unless the meeting is expected to run late in which case the chairman can make a decision to start earlier. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other Business (contingent)

-Steve Flinders, Chairman

None

Layne Torgerson made the motion to adjourn. Paul Briggs seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 East Main Street Green River
May 11, 2011 @ 6:30 PM

MOTION SUMMARY

Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair for the SERO

MOTION: Derris Jones as Chair and Todd Huntington as Vice Chair
Passed: Unanimously

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written
Passed: Unanimously

2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the 2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations as presented.
Passed: Unanimously

2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries

MOTION: To accept all boundary descriptions, with the exception of the north boundary between the LaSals and Abajo's west of 191. We ask the Division to look at a better boundary.
Passed: Unanimously

2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals

MOTION: To accept the Dedicated Hunter as presented by the DWR with the exception that the General Season deer points and the Dedicated Hunter points, once a person draws either one, will be purged.
Passed: Unanimously

2012 Lifetime License Landowner Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies

MOTION: To accept the 2012 Lifetime License Landowner Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies as presented.
Passed: Unanimously

R657-12 Rule Amendment – Veterans Fishing License

MOTION: To accept the R657- 12 Rule Amendment – Veterans Fishing License as presented.
Passed: Unanimously

2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities

MOTION: To accept the 2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities as presented.

Passed: Unanimously

Habitat Management Plan

MOTION: To accept the Habitat Management Plan as presented.

Passed: Unanimously

RAC Members present:

Kevin Albrecht, USFS

Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor

Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official

Wayne Hoskisson, Non-consumptive

Todd Huntington, At Large

Derris Jones, Sportsmen

Laura Kamala, Non-consumptive

Darrel Mecham, Sportsman

Travis Pehrson, Sportsman

Terry Sanslow, Chairman

Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

RAC Members absent:

Blair Eastman, Agriculture

Kenneth Maryboy, Navajo Representative

Christine Micoz, At large

Public in attendance:

2 persons

Others present:

Election of RAC Chair and Vice Chair for the SERO
Terry Sanslow, Chairman

Terry Sanslow - Our first order of business is that we really need to get a new Chair and Vice Chair elected. I would like to go ahead and see if we have any nominations for the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Kevin would have liked to have been Chair, but because they had a guy leave they are going to be under manned on the Forest Service and so his supervisor preferred he didn't take the Chairman job. We have to get a new Vice Chair because every two years we have to change now, so Kevin is out as far as Chairman goes and the Vice Chairman. So if we don't have any nominations, we will just have to let it go for now and somewhere down the road in July or something, we are going to have to do it, is there anybody that would like to be a Chairman or Vice Chairman?
Any nominations? Any nominations for Chairman, going once...

MOTION

Todd Huntington- I nominate Derris Jones as Chairman

Terry Sanslow- OK, that's a start. Is there any more nominations? If not we can do this by raise of hands or by secret ballot. Let's go by the raise of hands.

Travis Pehrson- Seconds the motion

Terry Sanslow- All in favor in Derris as Chairman, raise your hand.

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

MOTION

Terry Sanslow- As far as Vice Chair. We have Todd Huntington nominated for Vice Chair, any objections to that?

Darrel Mecham- Seconds the motion

Terry Sanslow- Basically you fill in when the Chairman can't come to a meeting, and in the past, if you share the meeting tonight, they would prefer that you go to the Wildlife Board Meeting too. You don't have to, but they prefer it. Ok, so all in favor of Todd Huntington as Vice Chair, raise your hands.

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

Terry Sanslow- Do you want to take over from here and Chair, so you can go to the Board Meeting? Or do we want me to go ahead with it?

Derris Jones- You are still in until the end of July, aren't you?

Terry Sanslow- The end of June.

Derris Jones- It's up to you.

Terry Sanslow- By the time we have another RAC meeting, it will be July, I think.

Terry Sanslow- Ok, so we will just go ahead with it then. So anyway, we have Derris as the new Chairman and Todd Huntington as the new Vice Chair.

**1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Terry Sanslow, RAC Chairman**

Terry Sanslow- I would like to welcome everyone out to the Southeast RAC. I guess we will move onto the Approval of the Agenda. Apparently we made a change to the Agenda, anyway, entertaining a motion for the approval of the agenda. There is no change.

**2. Approval of the Agenda (Action)
Terry Sanslow, RAC Chairman**

MOTION

Motioned by Jeff Horrocks.

Seconded by Derris Jones to approve the agenda.

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

**2a. Motion for approval of the minutes. (Action)
Terry Sanslow, RAC Chairman**

MOTION

Motioned by Todd Huntington to approve the minutes

Seconded by Jeff Horrocks to accept minutes as written

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

**3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational)
Kevin Albrecht, RAC Vice Chairman**

Kevin Albrecht- Bill, you might have to help me as I go through this.

Bill Bates- Ok, I have got my minutes.

Kevin Albrecht- Ok, I will do this short and quick. Most of it went as basically as presented by the Division, and I will hit on the points that were different. There was a group from the NER that talked about their deer herds and struggling deer herds, and they had a proposal to ask the Wildlife Board to reduce permits in the NER by 2,000. There was a lot discussion on that and that was approved by the Wildlife Board. They also had a recommendation or a motion to cut 100 permits in the Book Cliffs.

Bill Bates-That is actually quite a bit, that's a proposal and not a motion.

Kevin Albrecht- A proposal? OK, sorry a proposal and a lot of discussion on that and Wildlife Board did cut 50 permits.

Bill Bates- Yes, it was interesting that the buck to doe ratio is above the objective and increasing, but they felt the quality dropped and there weren't as many big bucks as last year, so that is probably true.

Kevin Albrecht- There was apparently a big group meeting up there where they had all of the Sportsman's Groups together and I can't remember what they called the coalition, but basically the coalition was organized to bring in Elk Foundation and Mule Deer Foundation, Turkey Federation, SFW, all of the groups and they sat down and had a discussion on what was happening up there, this is a proposal that come out of that coalition, actually quite a bit of support there.

There was some discussion on quite a bit of discussion up in the Basin area on some doe permits and the size of the area, and much of the area involved public land, and through some discussion with the biologists in the area, the thought process came out that they could be able to do something with mitigation permits right where the problem was involving a lot of public land and so those 50 doe permits will be right in the area where there are issues.

Bill Bates- They didn't approve the permits, what they did is just they just asked the Division to take care of the problem.

Kevin Albrecht- Yes, so they didn't approve the 50 permits, they will just do it through mitigation.

Bill Bates- Everything else passed.

Derris Jones- Did they discuss elk herds?

Bill Bates- No, they didn't. We did yesterday, but they didn't before.

Terry Sanslow- I think that it still on the action log for August, I think to finalize by August or report them by August or something like that.

Bill Bates- We will be ready to report on it.

4. Regional Update (Informational)

Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor

Travis Pehrson - Are we going to get the committee together again to discuss the open bull situation in Eastland?

Bill Bates- I don't think we are planning to get the committee together again are we?

Justin Shannon- No. So, Travis the way I understood it, walking away from that meeting from the Division's perspective, it seemed like there were lines drawn in the sand, and you guys can comment if you would. There were two lines drawn in the sand and they were pretty far apart and half of the group wanted more quality and half of the group wanted more opportunity on that, and really the only thing that had common ground was an idea for a third type of program where land owners could get together in smaller groups and have the opportunity to potentially get more permits. The way we understand that, Bill, is that's still an action item on the Wildlife Board's agenda. So, for us to go ahead and say we are going to that or we are not going to do it, is kind of preliminary when the Wildlife Board, when it's on their agenda as well. We are really waiting to hear essentially which direction they want us to go with that.

Bill Bates- We will probably need to report back to them that we had the meeting and the results of it and go from there. I guess I can give you an update of the Wildlife Board

nominations, I guess most of you know we actually have 3 Board members leaving right now and we had a application process to replace 2 of those, one is Keele Johnson, from our region, the other is Rick Woodard from the Central Region, and there is a nomination committee that has been appointed by the Governor. He had 8 applicants from our region and the committee recommended two on to the Governor. The Governor was able to select from the names that the committee sent forward. The names they sent were Mike King and John Bair, and it will go to the Senate for approval on May 20th. I don't remember the name of the second person. At the last Board Meeting, Tom Hatch, resigned his position, and so the applications are open, maybe it is closed already, I think it's the 18th. I don't think they have any new applicants yet. There is probably going to be some people talking to those that have already entered their application, so we should probably know fairly soon who the other person is.

Mike King is from Price and he grew up in Price and went to high school there and he went onto BYU where he got his Masters Degree, studying mule deer. Then he went onto Utah State and studied bighorn sheep. He and I actually worked under the same professor, then from there he got a job at the University of Tennessee as an Extension Agent in the wildlife field. He was there for about 7 years and came back to the College of Eastern Utah, and was a professor there in the biology department for many years. He became Academic Dean and then during the transition when Utah State took over the College of Eastern Utah, Mike was the acting president and helped with that transition. He is happy to be reassigned back as a wildlife professor and he is trying to a wildlife program at CEU/USU. It's going to be a new Board. I think the whole demeanor will be different with these two new additions and with the third it will be a lot different, so we are looking forward to it and it should be exciting. Moving on, just some brief things from the region, the Aquatics section will have gill netting that is starting up in Scofield on the 19th and Joe's Valley on the 24th, and if any of you would like to come up and be a part of that, you are sure welcome to come along.

They usually leave the office about 7:00 a.m.; they like to get out there while the water is cold. It sounds like they are pulling the nets at 8:00 a.m. The ice has just come off Scofield and except for the higher elevations, most other waters are open. Law Enforcement wants to let you know you are invited to accompany the Conservation Officers as they do their patrols. If any of you would like to ride along with the officers, especially in the San Juan area where we have had the conflicts down there, if anybody is interested, J. or TJ would set up down there or up here with Stacey, Devin & Ben. They would like to invite you on that. Also, for the turkey season (inaudible) to patrol the turkey units, but we can set that up when you are available and they work weekends if any of you would like to go. Wildlife section, we have just concluded our range rides and they went really well except we had really poor public participation. Other than agency personnel, we only had two members of the public attend; Bart Kettle and a guy named Paul. I can't remember his last name. He drove down from SLC. It was really interesting, I went on the tours on the Book Cliffs, and the LaSals, and up to Gordon Creek, and it was obvious that the difference between the 3 areas. The LaSals had about 30-40% utilization and the Book Cliffs, we came up with about 75% on the South Book Cliffs, and Gordon Creek was about 95%, but it was really interesting to look at the shrubs and looking for deer mortalities, but just to look at the condition of the shrubs and it was an eye opening experience. If any of you could make it, we could pick a date; we

would go out and do it again because it is really worth looking at. The problem is that we all want more deer but we have a serious problem and we have range conditions we have to monitor and stay on top of. The good news in Gordon Creek, even though we had the 95% utilization, we have a lot of seedlings, and I am sure this rain storm last week helped. On one plot I counted 24 and Bart went out with us and he counted 136 seedlings on the transect he did. What we did is go out and did 20 plots, you know about 100 meters apart or something like that, and it was exciting to see the seedlings and so we are set up for the future if we can get them there. The Shay Mesa ride is this Wednesday the 18th. We have the range ride and a Shay Mesa habitat meeting coming up on the 18th. We can look at the same thing there if you guys want. We are meeting at 10 o'clock at Church Rock. If you guys can make it, we would sure like to have you. Anybody else can come; it's the 18th at 10 o'clock and meets at Church Rock.

Derris Jones- On your discussion on the percentage on the utilization on sage brush, what percent of utilization do you think you're doing damage to the winter range?

Bill Bates- Brad, do you want to come up here and address that question or Guy, one of you two.

Brad Crompton- (inaudible) we are damaging plants, we are losing shrubs out there, we have already lost most of them.

Bill Bates-What about the Book Cliffs?

Brad Crompton- That seems to be more sustainable, I think Nash Wash looks better than it did 10 years ago. They have had a couple of good precip years, some heavy utilization but it looks good.

Terry Sanslow- So do you have the 95%, (inaudible) basically everything that is available?

Brad Crompton- Yes.

Bill Bates- Is 95% accurate?

Brad Crompton- Basically every big shrub out there on a lot of the winter is on the critical low elevation range on the Manti unit. It gets hit.

Derris Jones- Did you find dead deer?

Brad Crompton- A lot less than last year, a few, given a pretty mild winter out there, it was about what we expected, there was quite a lot less. We haven't finished all of the places that we go look, but I don't expect that will be very high. And what we did find were fawns, which makes sense. Our radio collars tell us we had a little bit of fawn mortality during that cold stretch, there just isn't a whole lot available, if snow does pile up and it gets real cold, there is no critical winter range available right now or until we get that new crop of seedlings up big enough, we are kind of in a tight spot.

Guy Wallace- 40 to 50% is about average use. Was Coal Creek Bench about the same?

Brad Crompton- That's where we were. Most of my transits out there are North Springs and Wild Cat Bench, and everywhere else looks about the same. We had that big mortality event about 6 or 7 years ago, and what shrubs lived through that, get browsed pretty heavily each year and they are just slowly dying out.

Bill Bates- The other thing we have here, is, you have been working on a water project down on the Henry Mountains. We have put in a well and a solar pump about 2 or 3 years ago, and what they have done now, is the BLM and our Habitat sections worked together to put in about a 9 mile water line. Its going to get water out to several water troughs and we are going down to the Henry's on the 17th which is next Tuesday, and if any of you

would like to come, we will also be looking at range conditions and mule deer conditions also with the bison conditions. If you think you would like to come and look at that, let us know. That is just going to be driving; there will not be use of 4 wheelers.

Kevin Albrecht- Do you know what areas you are going to try to look at?

Justin Shannon- A good bulk of the time will be down by Cave Flat, because it is in conjunction with bison and just looking at habitat as a whole.

Kevin Albrecht- And that's open right?

Justin Shannon- No, I think it is May 15. That is why they wanted to wait until the 17th.

Bill Bates- So do we need 4 wheelers to get there then?

Justin Shannon- I wish I had an answer for that, but I think we do. I think we are going to meet at Apple Brush at 10 o'clock. Come over on the Notom Road side then come up from the Sandy Ranch, there is a road that turns off and goes to Steven's Mesa and we will meet right there about 10 o'clock. It's pretty easy to see. That's all I have unless there are any other questions.

5. 2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations (Action) **Justin Dolling, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Bill Bates- While Justin is getting ready, I guess I will let you know about one other thing that happened that we have heard about today is, there has been a lawsuit (inaudible) on endangered species, remember we talked about it a little bit, about Sage Grouse and in order to settle in the lawsuit, is that they have agreed with the (inaudible) who filed the law suit, is that they have come up with a schedule to look at all of those species that were warranted but precluded when they were partitioned to be enlisted as endangered. This year we have 3 in Utah that will be up for review and that is the Gila Monster, the Northern Leatherside Chub, and the Utah Prairie Dog. The Sage Grouse won't be until 2015. They were petitioned to change the status from threatened to endangered. They will do that review this year.

Derris Jones- So with those 3, will there be a data collection?

Bill Bates- I would imagine there would have to be.

Justin Dolling- Gives presentation on Upland Game

Derris Jones- On the adults that come in with the youth on the hunts, what is the reason for allowing the adults to carry a firearm if they are not allowed to shoot?

Justin Dolling- There are a couple of things driving that, one is, some people feel like their second amendment right is being invaded. The other issue is, that with these Upland Game hunts there are other species that can be hunted by the adults at the same time. For example, Mourning Doves can be hunted by the adult while the youth is hunting Chukars.

Derris Jones- On the fixed opening dates, I assume it is still state law that you can't have an opening on a Sunday.

Justin Dolling- Yes, I wished. I don't have the authority to do that, so I should have pointed that out.

Derris Jones- So on these fixed dates it will move to September 2nd, (inaudible) it falls on a Sunday.

Justin Dolling- Correct.

Derris Jones- What are your season dates going to be on season of the turkeys? Is it the full 2 months or do they just get 30 days or what do they get?

Justin Dolling- Essentially, there is no change from last year, but let me take a quick look. April 9 to May 31st, so it's essentially the same season that they combined the limited entry portion and the over the counter.

Derris Jones- On the Sage Grouse, what is the trigger on the Sage Grouse population that puts in into a hunted population?

Justin Dolling- I believe that trigger was set at 500 birds in a geographic area.

Derris Jones- Are those geographic areas going to be defined as whatever the Sage Grouse working group made a plan for that area.

Justin Dolling- Yes, exactly. The Sage Grouse management plan did call out the 4 areas, don't quote me on the 500, I know there was a base population level that they wanted to have before offering a hunt.

Derris Jones- Last question is, on Ptarmigan, you have opened statewide, is there other habitat in Utah other than in the Uintahs?

Justin Dolling- They are confined to the Uintahs, it was a way to standardize things, it doesn't make a lot of sense to have the way we had it set up there could have been Ptarmigan outside of those boundaries. So if we go statewide, we are going to draw attention to the fact that Ptarmigan are only found in that part of the state, we are going to be updating our illustrations and distribution maps in the guide book this year. Hopefully it will draw their attention to know if they want to go hunt Ptarmigan, that's where they are going to have to be, but it was a way to standardize things, things along with our Quail. With Quail, we had 14 counties open to quail hunting and there is no reason why we can't go statewide.

Travis Pehrson- Is there any triggers set for the turkeys for over the counter permits? Is there a certain decline in the population for that?

Justin Dolling- Yes, those triggers would apply to the limited entry and the over the counter hunts. It would be my hope that we would look at both of those independently.

Travis Pehrson- What was the trigger on the turkeys?

Justin Dolling- The 3 triggers on the turkey was to maintain greater than 20% success, and have hunter crowding and satisfaction that were at levels that were appropriate.

Travis Pehrson- Do you have last year's data?

Justin Dolling- I do have last year's data and hunters success for the limited entry hunts were above 20, it was slightly below 20 for over the counter. We were 16% in hunter crowding and satisfaction. We were within acceptable levels.

Travis Pehrson- Is that statewide or for each region?

Justin Dolling- For the limited entry success, that was by region. For the over the counter, state wide hunt, that is a statewide estimate.

Travis Pehrson- Do you guys know what you figured the cap rate was of the population from the winter last year in the San Juan area?

Justin Dolling- I can look to a local biologist to address that, but it is my understanding you guys had a tough winter actually 2 winters ago in the LaSals and the San Juan, but if Guy would like to come up and address that he is welcome to do that.

Guy Wallace- We felt like on the south end of the units like Elk Ridge, that we lost 100% of the birds down there, it was a pretty tough winter. The snow was so deep and that those birds out there winter in the canyons, there is no opportunities to try and feed those

birds, we feed birds around Monticello and the Blues. Mainly just trying to keep the base population alive and we did, but after that we felt like we were probably at one third of the birds that we had prior to that. In this last summer I really can't say that I know how we did on production lines, there are still some birds around the Abajo's, but as far as Elk Ridge goes, we could not find any birds last summer.

Travis Pehrson- There is not a way to stop people from hunting there?

Guy Wallace- No, not really. We did transplant some birds there, we transplanted 59 birds that we got from South Dakota and Arizona onto Elk Ridge, and hopefully they will do well.

Terry Sanslow- I have one question, on the Youth Chukar Event, is that going to be in conflict with the opening of the Youth Duck Hunt? I know a couple of times it has been about the same date and I was wondering if it was okay to shoot?

Justin Dolling- That would be in competition with the Youth Duck Hunt, so they occur on the same dates.

Terry Sanslow- So they will be on the same date again?

Justin Dolling- Yeah, so the kids would go out and hunt ducks in the morning and maybe go up on the hillside and hunt a few Chukars.

Kevin Albrecht- Is there any information on your Asian Collared Dove on the effects that they are having on native species in Utah, like the Mourning Dove?

Justin Dolling- Not to my knowledge. There is a lot of information about their invading Urban environments more than Mourning Doves. So that is a good sign that there is probably not a lot of overlap there. I don't know of any good information that would suggest there is direct competition, it is suspected that it will be, but nobody has measured it to my knowledge.

Kevin Albrecht- And then I had noted one of the same things as Derris', maybe the language on that one-day youth hunt, there could be just a little more information of why that is, maybe an explanation.

Terry Sanslow- Any more questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Audience?

Comments from the Audience? Ok, closed to the Audience.

Any discussions from the RAC?

Travis Pehrson- I just had a comment, is there anyway to have the San Juan turkey hunt shut down for a few years or is it that bad, that we lost 100% of the birds on the Elk Ridge.

Guy Wallace- There was an article released statewide, kind of discouraging hunters from going to San Juan County, basically it explained the circumstances, and said they would probably be better off somewhere else, as far as closing it, I don't know, it just depends on how many people go out there and try to find those birds, hopefully they won't be able to find all of them but they will be discouraged because there is so few birds out there that they wouldn't work hard out. There are better places to hunt, basically on the Abajo side. I haven't talked to our officers to find out if there has been many people out on Elk Ridge or not after those birds.

Charlie Tracy- There has been maybe 2 guys show up and they left, there hasn't been near the interest.

Guy Wallace- There doesn't seem to be the number of hunters around town either, the past years on the turkey hunt, it was pretty busy with number of guys running around in camouflage, but it hasn't appeared to be that way this year.

Kevin Albrecht- One question I have, when we originally talked about those triggers, my thought would be that it would be based upon region wide, so if that trigger fell below that 20% that it would be on the region. I guess I misunderstood that, but could that be addressed on a snow event, such as we have had?

Terry Sanslow- Yes, the way I remembered it has to fall below that trigger for 3 years in a row.

Justin Shannon- The difference is that we look at that regional success on the limited entry portion and you are talking about the general season portion looking at that region by region as well?

Justin Dolling- Yes

Justin Shannon- We have got it by a region to region level, it is just a matter of looking at it, if I understand it right.

Justin Dolling- Well it is easy for the limited entry because they are confined to the region but for over the counter statewide, we do collect the information at the county level. We could overlay the counties and closely approximate the region based upon both of those counties that are found within the region, but we don't ask at the regional level.

Derris Jones- So they hunt multiple regions and multiple counties and they are averaging their satisfaction over every place they went so it would be pretty tough.

Justin Dolling- That is exactly the challenge and what we are going to find is, where they successful as where they indicated they hunted as far as county, but they could have hunted several other counties that they didn't find birds.

Derris Jones- Closing the turkey hunt for San Juan County, my opinion is you had to kill every gobbler out there to really hurt things. If there are any gobblers left then we would have production for next year.

MOTION

Terry Sanslow- Are we ready for a motion?

Derris Jones- I move that we accept the recommendation for upland game, turkey and crane as presented.

Charlie Tracy- Seconded

Terry Sanslow- Any questions on the motion?

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

6. 2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries (Action)

Justin Shannon, Regional Wildlife Coordinator

Wayne Hoskisson- That change also puts everything together in a unit (inaudible) making it very large.

Justin Shannon- Yes, it would go from Soldier Summit to Lake Powell. We recognize that.

Derris Jones- Are you still planning to collect harvest data by sub units? Like, Nine Mile and Range Creek? Are you going to find out how many bucks are killed on Anthro versus how many on Range Creek or is it going to be lump now?

Justin Shannon- One of the pros of going unit by unit is having a much better feel for what these animals are harvested. As far as the sub units, I believe they are still going to maintain that because we have maintained that in the past and it would be good for comparison sake, we want to maintain that as much as possible. I actually think that would make our job easier to do that, unit by unit. A good example would be the Manti, right now we could say, what unit got harvested and they could say 16b/12 and we could say, Did you harvest north or south of I-70. Did you harvest east or west of highway 10? And then right there, I know what my harvest was in the Swell and the North San Rafael, South San Rafael and the on the Manti itself.

Derris Jones- I believe it is going to be easier, is the division going to try collect harvested areas in sub units within these bigger units?

Justin Shannon- It is my understanding, yes, but I can double check, because I don't know for 100%. Bill, do you know?

Bill Bates- I don't know, but it makes sense to do that. It would be irresponsible not to.

Justin Shannon- Its logical.

Wayne Hoskisson- I have one question on the map, it looks like the Delores Triangle (recording stopped)

Justin Shannon- These polygons with the diagonal lines, those represent limited entry units, there is harvest that occurs on the Deloris Triangle, it's just not open to the general seasons, it is a limited entry system there.

Bill Bates- Justin, since you will be presenting this tonight, I will give you the responsibility and I am going to ask the RAC to make a motion on this. We need to have a sentence on every one of these boundary descriptions that says, 'excluding National Parks, Military Reservations and Tribal Lands', and we also need to have those designated on this map. We have had some conflicts with the National Parks Service particularly at Capital Reef, on problems with bison hunters and this last year we had a problem where they closed the old trail that once went up Swap Mesa, and what happened is there were a couple of hunters that went up that trail, but they couldn't stop them from going up the trail but they went up there and they killed a bison, but the park service would not let them bring a carcass back through the park, so they ended up trying to find another route, they got lost, we had to send Sean Spencer out to find them and Search and Rescue went looking for them. We have come up to an agreement with the Park Service, they will continue to allow bison hunters to carry firearms across the National Park as long as they are in a scabbard and not loaded, provided we put that clause in our proclamation and put those on the maps. Despite our efforts, they are not there. I would appreciate a motion, because we have got to have that.

Charlie Tracy- Is Lake Powell closed to hunting, you know, the Glen Canyon recreation area?

Bill Bates- The Glen Canyon Recreation Area enabling legislation authorizes who manages wildlife, and that was left to the state. It is open to hunting.

Darrel Mecham- We need to kind of pay attention to because I went down last year to hunt Mountain Lion and I was told that they wouldn't allow dogs in the recreation area. They did a survey that said people don't want dogs, and I had a month long battle before the guy in charge called and said ok we will allow a hunting dog and that is it. You have to prove you are hunting or you can't take a pet dog or anything into the recreation area.

Bill Bates- When you have problems like that, give me a call.

Darrel Mecham- I went crazy, I called everybody. As I understand it right now, you can not take a pet in the recreation area.

Travis Pehrson- Can I ask why the Abajo Mountain unit goes all of the way up into Moab? Why wasn't there a split with the (inaudible), why did it go all the way to Moab?

Justin Shannon- A lot of these boundaries is based on defendable boundaries, so that law enforcement could help. So that river was a good boundary.

Guy Wallace- Yes, it was changed. It used to go out to the edge of Needles Overlook and then drop off the edge. It was probably more biological then and it went across towards Kane's Springs, not Kane's Springs, I mean Hatch Wash and out that way, but there was some conflict there, so it was later changed to a highway, it went to 191 up to the Colorado River and back down. Biologically, those deer on the west side are LaSal deer.

Travis Pehrson- So why not change the boundaries for that unit.

Guy Wallace- That's probably why Justin says that is more of a law enforcement issue, having a defendable boundary because we have had to make that imaginary leap from the edge of Needles Overlook, down to the river.

Bill Bates- The area down on that Lockhart Road is open to hunting then, isn't it? Well, hunting next to the park, probably hunting right along the road is all open I would guess.

Guy Wallace- Right, down to the bottom. The biggest question there is that Flat Iron Mesa, LaSal here, but it is in the Abajo boundary.

Justin Shannon- I think our region has less of that, it may overlap on deer, but some of these units are just a road in the middle of the mountain range. I think overall, our region does a good job of biologically studying the animals for this unit.

Bill Bates- Guy, how many deer do you think are killed in that area?

Guy Wallace- Not a lot, but there has been some. We had one deer that was a CWD deer, we had to deal with, because by putting it in that unit, it made it that unit a CWD. We had to kind of exclude that because it wasn't a LaSal deer.

Darrel Mecham- Is this kind of like just reverse of your Manti – San Rafael argument? You won't be able to hunt on the other side of 10 because they are Manti deer but these are LaSal deer but you are chopping it off because you are making easy for you, explain that to me?

Justin Shannon- It makes it easy for law enforcement, these deals where you say there is not a clear road or a clear river, and you say it's a 5 mile parallel from this point, there is so much gray area in there, and it's hard. Bill has talked about this several times, when it comes to making decisions, it would be nice if it was biologically driven, but it is social and everything else. To disrupt a hunter and give him a very big boundary for the amount of deer killed in that area, I don't think that is worth a trade off.

Travis Pehrson- The trade offs are going to be giving more Abajo permits and La Sal permits.

Justin Shannon- The permits are buck to doe ratio that is what drives those. To be honest, I think there is a way to probably change that, to fix that, and you could probably come

from the Lisbon Valley Road and hit 191 and go to Hatch Wash to where it falls into Griffith Springs Canyon, and follow Griffith Springs down the river. There is still no designated road, you would probably have to follow the drainage, but we could fix that.

Guy, would that foul up your classification on deer?

Justin Shannon- It would make it so the deer harvested on Flat Iron Mesa or any of that country would be in the La Sal unit. If we are going to do this, one of the biggest things we recommend, it would be nice to have our deer and elk and all of these maps consistent. We are trying to make these consistent for all the species, as much as we can.

Guy Wallace- That is a problem, because this is the boundary for the cougar and all of the other boundaries, so it would have to be changed to be consistent.

Justin Shannon- If you recommend us to do it, then we will see where it goes. We can change whatever.

Charlie Tracy- (inaudible) for years, if we don't like something, then we can go in and change something.

Justin Shannon- Yes, you could, the only fear is, suddenly it adds to the guys that hunt this all of the time for cougar or bear, deer or elk, or whatever it's going to be, suddenly for each species, they are going to have to go reevaluate if the boundary is used for this or is the boundary used for that, and really we have been asked by the public and RACs and Boards to simplify our recommendations, not complicate them.

Travis Pehrson- So this is to simplify?

Justin Shannon- Yes, the river boundary versus a ledge, I would say it is simplified.

Travis Pehrson- Can you have people that hunt the LaSal Mountain more likely try to hunt the area versus the Abajo unit? Is this going to be of a law enforcement issue that way? Most people that hunt that are probably used to hunting La Sal Mountains and the La Sal area.

Derris Jones- Explain to me again Guy, how do you fix that on the Flat Iron Mesa?

Guy Wallace- It's the Lisbon Valley Road, it goes around to Island Mesa along the Colorado boarder then to Island Mesa to the Lisbon Valley Road and then west on the Lisbon Valley Road to 191.

Derris Jones- That's what it does right now, right?

Guy Wallace- Right

Charlie Tracy- Isn't that what everybody is worried about?

Guy Wallace- No, not that. Then from 191, it does go all of the way to Moab through the Colorado River, and what you would have to do is somewhere along 191, Hatch Wash or somewhere there to the west.

Wayne Hoskisson- What about that Needles Road?

Guy Wallace- That's where it was before on Needles Road, and that is where it dead ends on the end of Needles Overlook. That is where we had the imaginary line, but I think you can still go Hatch Wash and Hatch Wash dumps in King Springs, which eventually hits the Colorado River. That would put all of the Flat Iron Mesa stuff north of the end of the LaSal unit. I think the other problem too was, is that boundary used to be one of the longest boundaries we had and the longest description we had. The highway 191 was to try to simplify that as well, and it wasn't. I can see the justification here to maybe go back and try to come up with a better boundary.

Wayne Hoskisson- I suspect the LaSals goes beyond the Lisbon Valley Road?

Guy Wallace- I think the Lisbon Valley boundary is okay, there are some other factors there, but it is actually more of a division between the units biologically, the problem is more of the other area along 191 on the Flat Iron Mesa side, because those are LaSal deer.

Bill Bates- Now you see the problem we have when we were flying.

Guy Wallace- Yes, when you get down to Lisbon Valley, there is elk in Lisbon Valley and elk on Iron Mesa, and then it's the same way with deer.

Derris Jones- If you did fix that boundary (inaudible) does that make as much sense for the other species, like cougar, elk, bear, or deer?

Wayne Hoskisson- Hatch Wash runs almost north and so you are really cutting off about 2 or 3 miles right along that boundary going north.

Guy Wallace- It may be hook and ladder that I am thinking of.

Bill Bates- You could make a recommendation for us to go back and fix it.

Guy Wallace- I could look at a topo map.

Darrel Mecham- Hatch Wash does dump into King Springs

Terry Sanslow- We can make a recommendation on how the division can look to change that or whatever they need to do so we can get the proper drainages. Any more questions?

Pam Riddle- I have a question. I received an email and in the email was a document for boundary proposals, they didn't put who it was from, if anyone got the same email, let me know. The document covers making the entire unit 26 separate, San Rafael, unit 12 split North and South and then at the La Sal unit, making it Dead Horse Point, areas would north of the Colorado River, south of I-70 in Green River. This also addresses resident desert deer. Did anyone else get it?

Terry Sanslow- We still need to get questions and comments from the audience?

Are we done with the RAC questions?

Questions from the Audience?

Bart Kettle- That email was from me and it was supposed to be presented at the Southern RAC last night and was not, partially because of that and also some conversation I have had with the Division of Wildlife, I am going to propose that you accept the 30 units as is. The next mule deer plan maybe if there is some language in there on how to set tag allocations separate from buck to doe ratios that could be a possibility. The way the plan is written, there is no way to get the data on those deer herds, and you can't really ask the Division to do that. If you set those units up separately you are basically not following the older plan. I am going to support the 30 units as is, and that is it.

Terry Sanslow- Any more comments from the audience? Okay, we will move to RAC discussion. One thing we need to deal with, is on the maps to get these State Parks included in the maps, probably the Indian Reservations and other things, just a motion to take care of these map issues.

MOTION

Jeff Horrocks- I will go ahead and make that motion that Bill explained to us.

Bill Bates- Excluding National Parks, Military Reservations, and Tribal Lands, and to put those on the maps as well.

Todd Huntington- Seconded by Todd Huntington

Terry Sanslow- Any questions on the motion?

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

Travis Pehrson- Does anyone want to do anything with this letter from Bart.

Derris Jones- Disregard like he asked us.

Derris Jones- I would like to make a motion to accept the southeastern boundaries as presented with the exception of the division line between Abajo unit and the La Sal unit. If there is a way to make a good proportionally law enforcement boundary that would make better biological sense to the two units. If the division could explore that and come up with a better boundary.

Wayne Hoskisson- I would like to second that and suggest that the boundary from Hatch Wash to Kane Creek to the Colorado River. You should be able to identify the boundary that way.

Terry Sanslow- Your motion would be to accept the southeast boundaries and ask the Division to look into changing it.

Jeff Horrocks- Is this recommendation going to be an amendment to motion or are we going to move onto the motion as stated.

Wayne Hoskisson- Can he show us that while he is speaking to make sure we are all on the same page. Hatch Wash crosses 191 and goes to Kane Creek and they both go to the north of the Colorado.

Guy Wallace- We need to go more straight across.

Pam Riddle- I think you should use that road right there.

Guy Wallace- That is the Needles Overlook Road right there. Years ago, I think that is how we described it as some kind of imaginary line from the Needles Overlook Road to the Colorado River. Then you get into the boundary questions about the drainage that goes to a dead end. So other than going up Hatch Wash and dumping into Kane Springs. Kane Springs does go into the Colorado River, and it still would have that peak in it and it will put Flat Iron Mesa on the north side of the boundary. I think that is all we are concerned with. I don't think we have a problem with anything else. I think we just need to add 3 drainages to the boundary description.

Bill Bates- What about the road that goes from Looking Glass down to Hatch Wash?

Wayne Hoskisson- Hatch Wash is way too deep.

Terry Sanslow- So basically what we want to do is move north of the Needles Road into the LaSal unit and take it out of the Abajo?

Darrel Mecham- It will slice up that way and it takes longer.

Pam Riddle- You're trying to (inaudible) Mesa into that other unit.

Guy Wallace- I think we can do that. If we go with Hatch Wash and dump into Kane Springs and then the Kane Springs to the Colorado River.

Terry Sanslow- What we need to do to make it simple is to make a motion.

Bill Bates- We need to deal with Derris' first.

Terry Sanslow- Well if we deal with Derris' first, if Wayne does a motion for what he wants then we can have a motion from Derris to accept the remainder.

Jeff Horrocks- Doesn't Derris have one on the table that we have to do yet?

Wayne Hoskisson- We have a motion on the floor to do it that way. My question would be, would this outline that you have indicated be an amendment to his motion. Terry Sanslow- Yes

MOTION

Derris Jones- Moves to accept all boundary descriptions, with the exception of the north boundary between the LaSals and Abajo's west of 191. We have asked the Division to look at better boundaries and Wayne's amendment to that was a suggested boundary. I guess I don't see a lot of difference between my original motion and Wayne's. The division will look at the best option there. I guess I decline the amendment, I guess.

Jeff Horrocks- Seconds the motion, and we need to know if the individual that made the motion is ready to accept the amendment.

Terry Sanslow- Any questions or discussions? Does everybody understand?
You cancelled the amendment.

Terry Sanslow- All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

7. 2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals (Action)

Rhianna Christopher, Dedicated Hunter Program Coordinator

Todd Huntington- You didn't talk anything about fees. I believe last fall we passed a different fee schedule that was based on a one year dedicated hunter program.

Rhianna Christopher- The fee would remain the same, \$180 for the three year period and then of course we would have to have the small game or combination license to get that permit.

Todd Huntington- Just to clarify and make sure I understand this, so, I put in for the general drawing and if I draw a unit now I can apply for the dedicated hunter?

Rhianna Christopher- There would actually be an application for the dedicated hunter program, and it would list the units that are available for the program based on the program based on the percentage that is available for the program. So it would be separate, so you could apply for the dedicated hunter as well as general season. So they would be two separate portions of the application.

Todd Huntington- Okay, but you said I had to draw the unit first before I could become a dedicated hunter.

Rhianna Christopher, Right, so for instance, if you wanted unit 27, if there were 2 permits left for unit 27 under the dedicated hunter program, and you drew that permit, then you could be in the dedicated hunter program. If you didn't draw, you could also apply for that unit in the general season draw where there would be a whole other pool of permits.

Todd Huntington- Oh, I see, that makes since. As I look over the numbers of the dedicated hunters from your chart, fiscal year 2008 we hit the 10,000 cap, and then we

dropped to 8374. I assume the difference between the 8,374 and the 3,600 are those will expire in 2011?

Rhianna Christopher- This year right now we have approximately 6,800 and so that 3,600 is what is left. There will be about 2,700 expire this year.

Todd Huntington- What do you attribute the drop off there from the 10,000 in 2008 until now?

Rhianna Christopher- I believe that there are multiple reasons, I think that the economy tanked, I think that had an effect on programs because of the fees. I also think the increased service hour's probably impacted numbers.

Todd Huntington- Isn't that about when you went to the 40 was in 2009?

Rhianna Christopher- It is.

Kevin Albrecht- Please go back to unit 27 that you spoke of and there was a two tag you put in and you drew that, so then you automatically have that unit for 3 years?

Rhianna Christopher- Correct.

Todd Huntington- So then, those numbers can become available based on people coming in and out, now one expires and there is one available there that I could pick up.

Rhianna Christopher- Exactly, so it would be a constant fluctuation between units and how many spots are available in the program. As it is now, it would just be a little bit different.

Kevin Albrecht- Question? So it may say unit 27 may take on average 3 years to draw in the general draw, but it maybe very difficult to get into the dedicated hunter program, but if you did, then you would be guaranteed those 3 years.

Rhianna Christopher- Correct.

Travis Pehrson- Now can you buy a preference point for dedicated hunter and still put in for the general draw?

Rhianna Christopher- You can.

Kevin Albrecht- So, you could build points and still be put in for the draw?

Rhianna Christopher- Yes.

Kevin Albrecht- And do you get points for the general draw?

Rhianna Christopher- If you draw out for dedicated hunter, then... Bryan is much better with the points than I am.

Bryan Christensen- (Licensing Specialist) This process has taken a lot of us to figure it out and make it work unit by unit and keep these programs as close as they have been. There are admittedly are some details we need to work out as we see it now, it looks like there is a possibility of being able to obtain both a dedicated hunter preference point and a general season preference point in the same year. We may see some changes over the next couple of years in those aspects. But it looks like that is the case right now. Does that answer your questions?

Todd Huntington- So when I submit an application now, big game application, Once in a Lifetime, Limited Entry, the draw goes Once in a Lifetime, Limited Entry, General Season, now it's going to go Once in a Lifetime, Limited Entry, Dedicated Hunter, General Season?

Bryan Christensen- Ok that is a good question. The draw order as it has been listed for years will remain the same, what will change a little bit is the general season draw, it will start with Once in a Lifetime, I'm sorry, not Once in a Lifetime, and I will get into this in

my presentation here when we get to it. Lifetime license permits first, then Dedicated Hunter, and then I will tell you the rest later, I don't want to spoil a surprise.

Todd Huntington- My last question was, why discontinue the Limited Entry Draw?

Rhianna Christopher- Well during this whole process, we recognized that everybody has to give something up. To allow a dedicated hunter to have a unit for 3 years is a pretty dang good deal. They are still allowed to apply for limited entry permits in general season draw, so we are not taking an opportunity away from them to be able to apply, but right now we are giving out between 24 and 32 permits, Limited Entry, given the year. And as you know, the numbers are dropping and so we felt like that was a pretty big concession on our part.

Travis Pehrson- Wouldn't this help drop the numbers again by discontinuing something like that, and their doing 40 hours of service, paying a higher fee while shooting from here for 3 years, (inaudible) for year?

Rhianna Christopher- Perhaps.

Terry Sanslow- So, the service hours will remain the same for the people that are in the program and the new ones coming in will have the new 8, 16 and 16?

Rhianna Christopher- Yeah, the structure would just change a little.

Terry Sanslow- But the ones that are in now will stay with the 16, 16, and 8?

Rhianna Christopher- Correct.

Terry Sanslow- Any more questions?

Questions from the Audience?

Comments? Bart Kettle.

Bart Kettle- My only comment would be on the Dedicated Hunter Program, I think if you are drawing the Dedicated Hunter tag, it would seem reasonable that your general preference points should be purged with those Dedicated Hunter preference points so you are not able to continue to build those while you are in the program. Other than that, I think that is a great recommendation and I hope RAC will support it as is.

Terry Sanslow- Is that the way it is so you could actually get 5 points for the Dedicated Hunter and for the General?

Rhianna Christopher- Like Bryan stated before, there are still some things we need to work out, but yes.

Todd Huntington- Once you drew the Dedicated Hunter tag, in a specific unit for 3 years, I wouldn't be eligible to put in for the General Season again the next year, would I? That doesn't make any sense, why would I draw another tag if I already have a Dedicated Hunter tag?

Bryan Christensen- The first year is the complicated one because we have people applying for Dedicated Hunter and General Season at the same time, and the question is whether we give them a General Season point if they are successful for Dedicated Hunter and visa versa. There is a situation where we are going to have to talk about it a little more, so we make sure that somebody who draws a Dedicated Hunter COR doesn't end up with nothing for having put in an application for General Season Deer. That is a possibility that is there, we want to make that application fee worth wild as well. Once we know they are in the program, our prospective doesn't seem logical to allow someone that is in the Dedicated Hunter program to continue building points for General Season Deer. They are building two separate systems and so it's likely at this point that we will have those in the program unable to build General Season preference points.

Kevin Albrecht- That was going to be my recommendation as well, to me there is still huge upsides with the Dedicated Hunter, if you wait your time and you get your unit that's really doing well and that is the one you want, there is a huge upside to being able to hunt that unit for 3 years. If you were able to do that and at the same time still build your general season points and when you were done, turn around and have 4 or 5 general season points, that to me will just make the general public really hate the Dedicated Hunter Program and the upside of what the state gets out of it, there will be a huge backlash, I don't know if that's fair.

Terry Sanslow- Do we have any more comments or discussion? Would you like to make that motion?

Kevin Albrecht- It sounds like the Division is talking that way but I would but that into a motion as well. I would make a motion that accepted the Dedicated Hunter proposal as presented by the Division of Wildlife, with the exception as or to make sure that the General Season and the Dedicated Hunter are two separate point systems.

Bill Bates- What you are trying to say is, you don't want to see the accumulation of the General Season preference points when somebody has a Dedicated Hunter permit, right?

Kevin Albrecht- Correct, not only when they have a Dedicated Hunter permit but also while they are applying that they don't get it during application, so you can apply for a General Season and Dedicated Hunter and get them both, even if you are not in the system. That doesn't make sense to me either.

Todd Huntington- Say the first year, you didn't draw either one, can I have a point for both? And then, what if I come the next year and don't draw anything again, that's ok, because I keep accumulating points, right?

Kevin Albrecht- Well, I guess it is really tough for them, but my question is, I guess this is all going to be worked out, so the question is, say you put in for both for 4 years, you finally draw that Dedicated Hunter permit, and does the other one go away?

Travis Pehrson- If you draw, do you purge all of your points?

Derris Jones- That would only be fair, that you purge one way or the other.

Bill Bates- Well, 15% of the permits are set aside for those hunters who draw those first.

Kevin Albrecht- Can I ask a question? I was starting to make a motion, but now I have a question. Bart, can you clarify your recommendation on the purge?

Bart Kettle- Yes, it seems to me, getting into Dedicated Hunter Program is a perk, so I guess my feeling is if you get into the Dedicated Hunter Program, it should purge your general points. I am not really convinced that your Dedicated Hunter points should be purged if you draw General tag, but definitely if you draw Dedicated Hunter tag, you shouldn't be able to accrue points on the General tag immediately when you get out and have points waiting for you to draw another tag.

Kevin Albrecht- So I am going to withdraw my recommendation, and I am going to go back to discussion. My thoughts are, if you are putting in for both, for General Season and for Dedicated Hunter points and you draw the General Season, to me that doesn't seem fair that you keep those Dedicated Hunter points.

Travis Pehrson- I have a different feeling, I feel like you should be able to keep your Dedicated, but if you draw the Dedicated and lose all of your points, and if you don't draw, you should be able to draw a General season tag, and you don't draw your Dedicated, you should still get a point for it.

Kevin Albrecht- To me it is such a huge upside to get that Dedicated Hunter, they are taking them out of the General Season public and to be able to continue both points where they are both General Season Deer, that is taking tags from the public and its just my feeling, that doesn't seem right.

Terry Sanslow- Would you like to restate your motion?

Kevin Albrecht- No, I would like more discussion and to hear people's feelings.

Derris Jones- I think I have to go with Travis on that, if you are accumulating Dedicated Hunter and you draw a General, I don't want to lose those Dedicated Hunter points. I see what you are saying.

Travis Pehrson- I am a Dedicated Hunter as well but. there are many people in the state that are not Dedicated Hunters, and it is not fair to them that some (inaudible) General Season Deer can play two point systems.

Kevin Albrecht- So basically you are saying you should able to put in for one and not two then?

Terry Sanslow- What are the odds, and how long does it take? How long until everyone that wants a Dedicated Hunter permit is likely to get one. How about just eliminate the points for Dedicated Hunter? If you just keep putting in and you still gain on your points, you can get a General Season but don't have any points for the Dedicated Hunter. Don't accumulate the points.

Bryan Christensen-We talked about some very important things here and many possibilities could occur here, many of these have already been discussed within a committee, we are really actively trying to figure that out, maybe my suggestion would be to have some sort of direction for us to narrow that down within the next little while. Maybe we can find a way to administer that the fairest way. You mentioned one possibility on drawing General Season, and losing Dedicated Hunter points, where you may draw your fifth choice General Season and then loose whatever 2 or 3 years of your Dedicated Hunter points, and maybe that is not the solution, there are ways I think we can figure it out and by RAC giving us that direction to specifically narrow it down and come back with suggestions that would be my suggestion.

Derris Jones- Bryan, are we talking (inaudible)

Bryan Christensen- Well, there is some subjectivity that we will find out in the next few years, the first year I don't think it will be really all of that different than what we have now. There will probably be some units that will be highly desirable and others that are less desirable. Some make take one year and others may take a few. Currently it takes between 1 and 3 years to draw here in the state, so I would expect that to be a little bit longer.

Bill Bates- Derris, I don't know what it is going to look like. This may increase the number of people that put in and if you subtract the 5,000 Lifetime License Hunters for the 87,000 permits, and take away 16,000 archery permits, that leaves you with about 16, 000 permits that you are talking about for the draw, if 15% of those permits is 9,900 right now we have about 6,800 people enrolled, so if it doesn't increase, the number of people applying, everybody will draw.

Derris Jones- Some units are going to be preferable to other units. People are going to keep trying to get the best of the best.

Terry Sanslow- Also, if you do draw on the Dedicated Hunter you are not going to be able to build points in the General because you won't be able to draw for them years because you already have your tag for three years.

Bill Bates- Not according to the proposal, you could get a preference point and a General or Dedicated Hunter.

Terry Sanslow- One thing is if you draw the Dedicated Hunter, you won't be gaining points for two years because you have already got

Rhianna Christensen- Yes, I will have to clarify that.

Travis Pehrson- Do you lose your current points?

Bryan Christensen- Because the Dedicated Hunter drawing is so far in advance there is a point system for that and that point system is very different than the General Season deer point system because the Dedicated Hunter point system as it is now, it's a one point accumulation only.

Bill Bates- How is it going to work next year?

Bryan Christensen- Next year, as we see it right now, the two point systems, this is where we really need clarity on, would be separate, so the Dedicated Hunter preference point system, General Season Deer point system, and they would be run as a preference point system and we can see accumulations from year to year, the question really is can you obtain both in the same year and if the answer is yes and we can manage that and if the answer is no, we can also manage that, it just maybe the case that the year you apply for Dedicated Hunter and you are unsuccessful, hopefully you will draw General Season, but if you don't then you could have two points there, whereas another scenario would be if you did draw your Dedicated Hunter because that is first in the order, we know what happens with that General Season application, we can manage it, it is just a question on how we want to administer that and how we think that this is the most fair.

Darrel Mecham- Well, I might be gaining two points for every species every year, I mean, lets get real.

Bryan Christensen- There is one other way to maybe think about it, the Dedicated Hunter is a program, so even if they were accumulating points they are both General Season Deer but they are different things, one is to get into a program and the other is to hunt one deer. Maybe it's ok and maybe its not, it is something we are looking at, and like I said before, we would appreciate the RAC's direction to find out more, that would be fine.

Kevin Albrecht- I agree with Darrel, I have been in Dedicated Hunter since the inception, but with that being said, I can not see getting points in two systems. Yeah, one is getting you into a program but still giving you extra points to hunt deer. That is taking something away from public that aren't in that program, so its not just giving you a point for the program, it is giving you two different points for deer. I am like Darrel, he has his hunts and that is great, but is it fair to the public?

Terry Sanslow- What about if you drew the Dedicated Hunter or the General, all points are purged? If you had 3 points on each one of them and finally drew the General or something, you should just purge all of your points. That would make it fair.

Kevin Albrecht- I personally like that.

Terry Sanslow- Could that make it fair for everybody, because there can be a limited number of permits and we know its going to be cut another 13, 000 or so probably, so you are really cutting it down, so if you draw either one, you purge your points on both the Dedicated and General, and so you have a choice there. If you really want the

Dedicated Hunter, you will go for it, if you are just putting in for the Dedicated Hunter just for the off chance you will be able to get to hunt, you could probably stay with the General.

Travis Pehrson- The Dedicated Hunter program still has a huge upside with being able to hunt for 3 years.

Terry Sanslow- I agree, I have also been in it since the start. I am all for it, but I think it is safe to say, if you draw either one, you should purge your points. That still gives everybody the opportunity to build points to draw either one, say you go 3 years and you do Dedicated Hunter, well when those are out, you have got already 3 points gathered up, so I think it would be fair to just purge all of the points if you draw either.

Travis Pehrson- I agree

Kevin Albrecht- But what happens if you have any left over archery tags associated with the Dedicated Hunter?

Terry Sanslow- There won't be any tags left over, I guarantee you... but the number of permits being cut and the number of people wanting to get permits, there will not be anything left over.

Bill Bates- Can a person get into the Dedicated Hunter program if they buy an archery permit?

Terry Sanslow- No, the statewide archery is gone. You can put in for a General Season, archery or muzzleloader or rifle.

Bill Bates- You are going to have to draw Dedicated Hunter permit.

Derris Jones- I want to caution whoever is going to make the motion before they make the motion, be careful tying hands, it is obvious things are still in a state of flux here, and I guarantee you those guys that are working with it every day are understanding it a lot better than I know I do.

MOTION

Kevin Albrecht- I understand that, I think that there is a committee put together that going to put this together but my hope is this motion will help them understand too that although the Dedicated Hunter Program is great, there are possibilities that could really to me, blacken the eye of the Dedicated Hunter Program and so that is why the motion I am going to put together. It will be a recommendation as they go forward, my recommendation would be to accept the Dedicated Hunter as presented by the DWR with the exception that the General Season deer points and the Dedicated Hunter points, once a person draws either one, will be purged.

Darrel Mecham- Seconded the motion

Terry Sanslow- Any questions or discussions on the motion?

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

8. 2012 Lifetime License, Landowner Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies. (Action)

Bryan Christensen, Licensing Specialist

Derris Jones- Why is the Dedicated Hunter not 15% and why is the Youth not 20%?

Bryan Christensen- That's a very good question, part of why it is showing this scenario this way. I will start with Youth. Youth, because they are allowed to be under this proposal, they would be under this proposal allowed up to 20% after Lifetime Dedicated Hunter, they will some smaller amounts, likely end up being around the 16-17% market, because you are already taking some away from the over all quota, one basic example, if we had 10 permits and one Lifetime and one Dedicated Hunter to put in and we have 20% of 8 that can go to youth, so that is 1.6, so it's not really the full 20% but it could be up to that much if the other categories are a little lower. As far as the Dedicated Hunter, that one was mentioned earlier that there maybe some units that have less interest, and may not fulfill their full 15%, so we would anticipate, not hitting the full 15% for them, they would have that ability, but like I say, this is just one possible scenario that we could see happening.

Wayne Hoskisson- I am assuming the Landowner permits are a negligent amount there to show on this chart.

Bryan Christensen- Well, they are. For two reasons, one is a small number, and the program currently allows each region about 600 permits to issue. Last year, one unit was statewide 654 permits that were issued, so that is the first reason, but probably the bigger reason is those permits are not specific apportionment of the General Season quarter. It is actually kind of a separate thing, those 654 that were issued last year didn't come out of this quota.

Bill Bates- No, we are allowed up to 600 per region, in addition to the public permits. For every 640 acres of private land that is used for habitat, you can get one for a member of your family.

Bryan Christensen- Those permits are specific to immediate family, they are not resalable, or you can't transfer them, they are immediate family permits.

Terry Sanslow- Any more questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Audience?

Comments to the Audience?

Closed to the Audience.

Discussion by the RAC?

MOTION

Derris Jones- Motion to accept as presented

Kevin Albrecht- Seconded

Terry Sanslow- Any questions?

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

**8. R657-12 Rule Amendment – Veterans Fishing License (Action)
Judi Tutorow for Kenny Johnson, Business Analyst**

Travis Pehrson- You clarified part of my question. The Division has a fishing license for those with disabilities, can you clarify that is to what I thought the fishing was free, can you speak to what that is?

Judi Tutorow- I am not sure I understand your question.

Bill Bates- What is the difference between our disabled fishing licenses now from this?

Judi Tutorow- And the Veterans? The difference is the disabilities?

Bill Bates- What do you have to do to qualify for this that makes it different than qualifying the other way.

Judi Tutorow- With the Veterans one, it is 40% service connected disability, so they have got to show us some kind of card or record or letter that they have that shows their disability came from a service related injury.

Bill Bates- So if a person is 40% disabled from a military accident, can they still get the free fishing license under the disabled fishing licenses.

Judi Tutorow- Yes they can, if they are permanently disabled they are going to qualify for the free fishing license because that is what that criteria is, since their disability is a permanent disability we issue them a lifetime fishing license, they don't have to renew that every year, they get issued a card.

Bill Bates- Why would anybody ever want this then?

Judi Tutorow- Because there are people who don't qualify, my husband is a disabled Vet and he is not permanently disabled but he is 40% service connected disabled, so he would qualify for a discounted license. So if you can think up a group that does not qualify for the free one, they would hit this one, then eventually down the road I believe you would find this become free at some point as well.

MOTION

Derris Jones- Motion to accept as presented

Travis Pehrson- Seconded

Terry Sanslow- Any questions?

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

**9. 2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities
Judi Tutorow, Business Analyst (Action)**

Bill Bates- This replaces the clause in the guidebook that says you may get an extension of up to 30 days either before or after.

Judi Tutorow- It does not, you are getting that confused with the Limited Entry Extended Seasons and the General Season. This is just the General Deer and Elk.

Terry Sanslow- Questions from the RAC?

Questions from the audience?

Comments?

RAC discussion?
Motion, anything?

MOTION

Wayne Hoskisson- Motion to accept as presented
Jeff Horrocks- Seconded
Terry Sanslow- Any questions?
All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

**SER 2 Habitat Management Plan – Southeastern Region (Action)
 Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor**

Bill Bates- How many of you were here last time? Kevin, Derris, were you here? Wayne, no, ok, Leroy presented this last time and tonight he is not able to be here. He presented the Lower Fish Creek Habitat Management Plan. Did everybody have a chance to review that? I can go through this quickly again if you would like, or if you are ready to just make a motion on it from last time. Last time we discussed it but there was not a quorum to pass it. We can go through it really quickly, what do you think?

Terry Sanslow- Just hit the highlights, Bill.

Bill Bates- We have 2700 acres at Lower Fish Creek. The main purpose of having this property is to provide access to a Blue Ribbon Fishery. It has a beautiful stream on it and tremendous fishery up there with 2 different parcels we purchased, 720 acres from Ted Pierce and 640 from Boyd Marsing and the rest of it was just adjoining BLM and civil properties. We have a need to manage grazing on the property being irregular boundaries we have, it is not fenced. We have an agreement with the adjoining land owners to allow them to graze up to 50 AUMs and then we charge them the average lease rate from the data base, we only have day use, we don't allow camping. Motorized vehicles are restricted to existing roads, no garbage collection, it is artificial flies and lures only on the stream. We are going to do something with the big section like prescribed burning or something to work with the Forest Service to help us do something there. We would like to set this back for deer and elk. It is a popular property for both species. When I had Law Enforcement authority, there were 9 spikes killed there opening day. I hunted deer up there with my sons this last year and there was 10 or 12 people hunting on a Wednesday in the middle of the week in the morning. We want to increase habitat, but we will not have restrooms, there are some ponds we are going to improve, I think that is about it.

Charlie Tracy- Are you going to do anything with the road?

Bill Bates- No, I am not aware of any plans, we will maintain the road but we will not improve the road.

Charlie Tracy- Is it a County Road?

Bill Bates- It is, it's like a Class D County Road, which means they don't maintain it.

Terry Sanslow- Any more questions from the RAC?

Questions or comments from the audience?

Discussion and motion?

MOTION

Kevin Albrecht- Motion to accept the Habitat Management Plan

Laura Kamala- Seconded

Terry Sanslow- Any questions?

All in favor?

MOTION PASSED

Unanimous

Bill Bates- Terry, could I have a minute?

I would like to take moment and thank Terry and Laura for eight years of dedicated service. That is a long time and it's a lot of hours and a lot of travel and I know there are probably a lot of other things you could be doing on a Wednesday night rather than coming here and going through this. I want to thank you very much.

Laura Kamala- I would like to thank the Division and everyone from whom I have learned so much from over the last eight years and also my fellow RAC members, they have changed over time but I have really enjoyed this experience and I thank all of you too.

Terry Sanslow- I kind of feel the same way, and there isn't a RAC meeting or a Board meeting yet, that I haven't learned something from. I have enjoyed it all and I would do it again. Thanks.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY - MOTIONS PASSED
Bingham Research Center, Vernal/May 12, 2011

5. 2011 UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: to accept the plan as presented
Passed 9 to 1

6. 2012 BUCK DEER UNIT BOUNDARIES

MOTION: to approve as presented
Passed unanimously

7. 2012 DEDICATED HUNTER PROGRAM PROPOSALS

MOTION: to accept as presented
Passed unanimously

**8. 2012 LIFETIME LICENSE, LANDOWNER PERMITS AND OTHER CHANGES
REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT BUCK DEER UNIT HUNT STRATEGIES**

MOTION: to approve as presented
Passed unanimously

9. R657-12 RULE AMENDMENT – VETERANS FISHING LICENSE

MOTION: to accept
Passed unanimously

10. 2011 GENERAL SEASON EXTENSIONS FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES

MOTION: to accept as presented
Passed unanimously

11. ELECTION OF RAC CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR – NORTHEASTERN REGION

MOTION: to nominate Beth Hamann as NER RAC Chair
Passed unanimously

MOTION: to nominate Floyd Briggs as vice chair
Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
Bingham Entrepreneurship & Energy Research Center (Bingham Center), Vernal
May 12, 2011

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Beth Hamann, Non-consumptive
Brandon McDonald, BLM
Brent Bibles, Non-consumptive
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Kirk Woodward, Sportsmen
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen
Curtis Dastrup, Agriculture
Wayne McAllister, At Large
Floyd Briggs, At-Large
Ron Winterton, Elected Official
Bob Christensen, Chair
Kevin Christopherson, Supervisor

DWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Jason Robinson, Wildlife Biologist III
Justin Dolling, Wildlife Coordinator
Bryan Christensen, Wildlife Licensing Spec.
Judi Tutorow, Wildlife Licensing Coord.
Rhianna Christopher, Vol. Serv. Pgm Coord.
Lowell Marthe, NER Wildlife Biologist II
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Bio III
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Bio II
Bryan Clyde, NER Conservation Officer
Gayle Allred, NER Admin Secretary
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:

Del Brady

1. WELCOME, RAC INSTRUCTIONS AND PROCEDURE: Bob Christensen

At the end of tonight's meeting we will elect a RAC chair and vice chair. We also need to assign a RAC Social date and place.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND SUMMARY: Bob Christensen

Correction on last month's summary: Ron Winterton was excused at the last RAC meeting. He had called in advance.

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE: Bob Christensen

The Northeastern RAC recommended reducing NER deer permit numbers to 9,000 permits, 4,000 off what was allotted last year. The Board approved that unanimously. Del Brady was there and argued in favor.

Recommendation of reduced deer tags in the Book Cliffs passed with a 4 to 2 vote, with a reduction to 50 permits instead of 100 for deer.

Last RAC we passed no spike elk hunting in Book Cliffs. The Board felt the DWR was heading for balance and supported the DWR's recommendations for the spike permits as presented by DWR instead. No cut back on spike elk permits in the Book Cliffs with a 4 to 2 vote.

Doe tags in Ashley Valley concerns regarding mitigation permits for the 100 tags; they will issue only landowner depredation tags. It's not limited to 100. We'll just try to manage the problem deer with landowner tags. May be more or less than 100 tags.

Everything else went the way the NER voted.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Kevin Christopherson

The Wildlife Board has an opening. You can go on the web site and get an application for that.

Budget: The State Wildlife Grant (SWG) from the Federal Government to the state for nongame species has been cut 40%. We'll have to give up a lot of our external projects. We match that with our endangered species mitigation funds.

Fish and Wildlife Service issues: Wolves are being talked about again. The Fish and Wildlife Service asked the states to give them recommendations and they will develop with a new wolf policy. We'll know more in a few weeks. It looks like 450 wolves in the northern Rockies states, so the states would be allowed to manage them but not below that number. This will probably not be the last word on this though.

Fish and Wildlife has been dealing with endangered species like sage grouse, Gila monsters and least chubs. A lot of issues which have been pending for a long time will be resolved.

Fish kill at Calder was reported but we could not confirm it appears to me an insignificant amount. There were some 2-3 pound fish and looks like it will be a good year.

Releasing bypass water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. The fishing has been red hot. Fishermen are launching boats like crazy. Good news for the guides for now.

Aquatics Open House meeting to get input on Fishing Regulations May 23, at the Interagency Fire Center behind the Forest Service building from 5 – 7 pm. They will take input regarding fishing proposals.

Mitch Hacking: Will wolves be managed with a management plan?

Kevin Christopherson: Yes. Utah has a management plan in place. I assume all states have one in place too. It will deal with the northern wolf. It will be managed just like we have a management plan in place for the bears.

Beth Hamann: How much of a hit will you guys take on the boy that was killed by the bear?

Kevin Christopherson: We weren't part of the litigation. They've been pretty quiet about that.

Randall Thacker: At the Wildlife Board Meeting, Marty said the case has no legal standing in that court to impose that on us. He just distributes the blame and allocates that money should come from it. It was originally 3 million, 1.9 million to be paid by the Forest Service. The state's

not obligated to pay anything on that at this point. There would have to be a whole separate trial where the state is the defendant. There will be quite a few hurdles to make sure the state is not immune before a court case can come about. It may be several years.

Bob Christensen: To get a decision against the Forest Service they had to split out fault on a percentage basis. Even after that percentage it may not have any bearing on how that happens. The breakout was 65% Forest Service, 25% State, 10% family blame. The judge is required to provide a breakdown of blame. At this point, there was no bearing on the state.

Kevin Christopherson: The state's always been in a little better situation because we responded quickly. We had people, on Saturday, in a matter of hours on the ground with dogs. I think most reasonable people are going to say the State made a good effort, but who knows.
Mitch Hacking: Do I understand the bear was moved once?

Bob Christensen: No.

5. 2011 UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE RECOMMENDATIONS: Justin Dolling, Wildlife Program Coordinator (ACTION)

See handout

Questions from RAC:

Wayne McAllister: On your 3x daily bag limits, the daily bag limits are one now?

Justin Dolling: The daily bag limit is five. The possession limit would be three times that instead of twice that. It includes birds in your freezer.

Rod Morrison: Do you have a number on how many over the counter tags were in the Northeastern Region?

Justin Dolling: They're sold statewide. They can hunt statewide. Last year we sold about 10,000 turkey permits. This year we're approaching 7,000.

Rod Morrison: Do turkeys winterkill?

Justin Dolling: They can.

Rod Morrison: I'm concerned that turkey count numbers have been down this spring from what I'm used to seeing around the valley. Is there a factor that's taking these birds?

Justin Dolling: We're hunting as the hens are breeding, so the hens are getting bred. So biologically hunting doesn't have an impact. It's more weather related. We're on a downhill slide right now. If we get a more balanced winter, the populations will rebound rapidly.

Randall Thacker: I agree the numbers seem to be down since the last hard winter. But this year landowners have contacted us saying birds have been seen in some areas they haven't been seen before, a lot of them. I don't think it's as bad as you think.

Kirk Woodward: Do we have a feel for predation on turkeys?

Justin Dolling: I personally don't have a good feel for that. Cougars will take turkeys and I'm sure coyotes if they can catch them on the ground will also take them, but I don't know that predation takes a heavy toll because they roost in trees.

Randall Thacker: Nesting predation is our biggest problem and it's definitely a factor.

Mitch Hacking: Are crows and ravens a big part of that?

Randall Thacker: We haven't documented that as much. It seems to be more the raccoons, foxes and skunks for the nest predation. We know great-horned owls are doing predation. I'm sure ravens are having an impact in certain areas.

Floyd Briggs: I noticed you extended several seasons. Is that because of the number you want to achieve or are you concerned with hunter satisfaction? Why are you making them longer?

Justin Dolling: Some species are underutilized. Interest in forest grouse has gone down. We feel like there's plenty of opportunity and because they're cyclic in nature we can afford to make the seasons longer, and sportsmen asked for longer season.

Bob Christensen: Question on ptarmigan. Do you have ptarmigan on other mountain ranges in the state?

Justin Dolling: To my knowledge, they're still confined to the Uintas, the same for quail. We do have some distribution maps we'll have in the proclamation. In those maps we'll try to focus hunters on where the ptarmigan live. It's just a little easier to make it work than to describe counties.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

**MOTION by Beth Hamann to accept the plan as presented
Second by Brandon McDonald**

Favor: Beth Hamann, Brandon McDonald, Brent Bibles, Mitch Hacking, Kirk Woodward, Ron Winterton, Curtis Dastrup, Wayne McAllister, Floyd Briggs, Wayne McAllister

Opposed: Ron Morrison

Passed 9 to 1

6. 2012 BUCK DEER UNIT BOUNDARIES: Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist III (ACTION)

See handout

Questions from RAC:

Mitch Hacking: How do you divide for the RACs? We're kind of involving other regions in our hunt boundaries.

Randall Thacker: We have included several units that cross regional boundaries already. Anthro, North Slope and Currant Creek. There is a potential for conflicts. It comes down to "are we meeting the objectives or not."

Mitch Hacking: We may need to get more involvement. People may have to go to more than one RAC.

Kevin Christopherson: As the Northeastern RAC, you're invited and encouraged to comment on any part of the state. Don't think that you have to confine your concerns to the boundaries in the region. It's a statewide system. We tend to focus in the regions where people are because that's where we hunt but we may have constituents in the state.

Randall Thacker: We have the same situation in the Book Cliffs where the Southeastern Region overlaps and has the southern part of the Book Cliffs.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Mitch Hacking: I think it's a great deal and can really work good for us. I think people will take a lot more interest.

Rod Morrison: This took a lot of time and a lot of work and we appreciate what they've done putting this together.

**MOTION by Kirk Woodward to approve as presented by Randall
Second by Brent Bibles**

Passed unanimously

**7. 2012 DEDICATED HUNTER PROGRAM: Rhianna Christopher, Volunteer Services
Program Coordinator (ACTION)**

See handout

Questions from RAC:

Bob Christensen: There are 94,000 deer permits and the cap has been 10,000 for a Dedicated Hunter. What was the reason for going to 15%? Shouldn't it be 9%?

Rhianna Christopher: If you take into consideration the 7,000 cuts and that there would be a cut of 13,000 permits. Say there were 77,000 permits, it would be over 11,000. However there could be fewer permits than that and I anticipate there would be units Dedicated Hunters wouldn't want. We're trying to maintain a level without shooting ourselves in the foot.

Bob Christensen: So we're trying to keep it around 10,000. With the loyalty points currently, how would that work?

Rhianna Christopher: We have 20 people who purchased loyalty points in the 2011 drawing, and we would allow that.

Bryan Christensen: The current loyalty point system exists for one year. For those who have it from 2010 it will be used in 2011 and it's already passed. The ones who applied in 2011, it's possible they'll have the opportunity to use that point in 2012. That decision could change depending on the Wildlife Board but I don't see a problem with it.

Bob Christensen: Going back to the 15%, if there are units that don't go to the 15% because Dedicated Hunters don't apply, you say that those permits would be put in to the general season draw?

Rhianna Christopher: Yes, anything that's leftover would just go over into the general season pool.

Bob Christensen: With the limited entry draw, why are you discontinuing that?

Rhianna Christopher: With the decrease in permits, we felt that would be a good concession for Dedicated Hunters, since we're asking them to maintain one unit for a whole three year period. They just wouldn't have a special drawing within the program.

Rod Morrison: Kevin, are we in the NER getting some worthwhile projects?

Kevin Christopherson: We don't have a lot. Most of the interest has been in the Southern region. We have a lot who come and work here that don't live here but need to get the hours. I'll defer to Ron. He's been pretty much in charge of that.

Ron Stewart: There are 100 guys here and we usually get 300 working. We get a lot of pinyon juniper cuttings on Rabbit Gulch. They're going into chained areas and cleaning the areas out. Also knocking pinyon junipers down off ridges has had some success. We've had people roll up fence and bring it down so it doesn't catch animals. We've had them go on Diamond Mountain where they've been putting in the pipelines; a year or two later they're controlling the musk thistle control. Book Cliffs pinyon juniper projects cleanup, fixing guzzlers, fixing springs. There are a number of things they've been involved with even though there has not been a huge group locally. Some are oilfield workers and have lots of equipment. They've been taking old pipelines and cutting it up and taking it to Wildlife Management Areas and building pipe fences with it. That's something we probably wouldn't have been doing at all. If someone has 10 miles of pipe, we have people willing to cut it up and make it into fences.

Kevin Christopherson: We're down to 9,000 tags so it'll be a lot harder to draw. I hope it will grow in this region. I guess we'll see.

Lowell Marthe: Has there been any discussion on making Dedicated Hunters do projects in the unit they're drawing?

Rhianna Christopher: That would be great but with the economy; a guy who goes from the Northern Region to the Southern region is going to want drive time money, hotel money, equipment reimbursement, etc. There are about 114 Dedicated Hunters in this region but many more who come up here who may not hunt here but do work here. It's a great idea but I'm not sure it would fly.

Kevin Christopherson: We've tried to make it convenient for volunteers so they can hop over the mountain from the Wasatch front. We have last minute people who need something convenient.

Rhianna Christopher: I think the face of Dedicated Hunters is going to change. It will be harder to draw so there will be more interest in keeping the unit.

Mitch Hacking: I've never known that much about it. If people choose it, do they tell you what project they will do or do you tell them what to do?

Kevin Christopherson: We're always open to ideas.

Rhianna Christopher: We try to evaluate projects and work with biologists in the area. We also work with landowners or other land management agencies. We do take proposals for other projects.

Brandon McDonald: I've had quite a few do that for me at the BLM out of SLC or other areas even though it's not on a list.

Bob Christensen: We've had that with Forest Service also.

Randall Thacker: Is there something built in; if you're changing their structure, is there something to stop them if they get their two deer in the first two years to still do the hours?

Rhianna Christopher: If they don't complete their requirements, they are put on hold and prohibited from applying for any other draws until they've completed their project. We don't want to put 1,300 people on hold so we're sending out letters now to remind them.

Randall Thacker: Why are you changing the hours to 8/16/16?

Rhianna Christopher: The results are at the end of January so we have some critical project months, but with the results not out until end of May it limits us. And there's limited time to get them notified and get the projects done between the draw and the first day of archery season.

Derrick Ewell: If you're a Dedicated Hunter can you put in for a preference point while you're in the in the program?

Rhianna Christopher: No. not while you're in the program.

Mitch Hacking: Can you do all your hours at once?

Rhianna Christopher: Absolutely.

Bob Christensen: The permits go to the enrollees that are in the program now, has it been talked about if say 500 of these guys all want a unit, the 15% takes care of it?

Rhianna Christopher: We know these first couple of years we're going to be working through kinks. We hope people will distribute themselves but we don't know at this point.

Randall Thacker: Applying for a Southern tag would have bad odds.

Bob Christensen: I have a question about lifetime as well.

Rhianna Christopher: Bryan will be presenting on that next.

Wayne McAllister: That's a heck of a workforce. Whether it's on public or private or otherwise, there are good projects.

Comments from Public:

No public

Comments from RAC:

**MOTION by Beth Hamann to accept as presented
Second by Brandon McDonald**

Passed unanimously

**8. 2012 LIFETIME LICENSE, LANDOWNER PERMITS AND OTHER CHANGES
REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT BUCK DEER UNIT HUNT STRATEGIES: Bryan
Christensen, Licensing Specialist (ACTION)**
See handout

Questions from RAC:

Bob Christensen: What's the number of lifetime license holders for the state?

Bryan Christensen: 4,605. This year there were 3,926 that will be issued a permit. The number typically varies from year to year between 3,200 and 3,500 in a typical year.

Bob Christensen: If they're selecting a unit, it's not a draw; they get their choice of any unit without being restricted?

Bryan Christensen: The method we've used for years is, there's a page that pops up and asks questions such as which region you want. There are opportunities for lifetime holders to opt out because they want to apply with family members and there are some that just don't hunt.

Bob Christensen: So there would be a potential several years down the road, when people start figuring out units that are better than others that lifetime license holders would select the several good units and most of those permits could be taken by those lifetime license holders?

Bryan Christensen: There is a possibility in time, given enough, that a unit could be overwhelmed. My response is two things. In the past, we haven't seen any real migrations of lifetime license holders. It is a group who hunts in the same area year after year. They typically stay where they've been forever. That should probably still continue. But, given there is a possibility the unit could be taken based on the numbers, we just decided to be very attentive to that and monitor it. If it does get to be a very significant number, we'll address that part of the rule and possibly make some adjustments.

Bob Christensen: Am I right that the Division is obligated to give life timers a deer tag every year but they're not necessarily obligated to give them a tag where they want?

Bryan Christensen: It guarantees them a deer permit in the rule. What they get is not defined much beyond that so as long as they have a general season deer permit, we're in compliance.

What we strive to do with these proposals and is to keep existing programs as close as they can be to what they've been in the past. They've functioned well over time and we'd like to keep them similar. For example, in the past, lifetime license holders had a statewide permit, which went to a regional permit, now it looks like we need to make it a unit permit.

Bob Christensen: Is there any discussion on having a percent for each unit, having them on a draw of any kind?

Bryan Christensen: We have had that discussion. At this time we want to see what happens this first year. If there is a problem, we'll address it in 2013. If there's not, we didn't create any more of a process.

Lowell Marthe: If we're managing for 18-25 correctly, we should be upping the permits every year. The idea of a unit getting way out of proportion should not apply.

Kevin Christopherson: If you take the Vernal unit in 2012, its tags are going to be cut down. Other units will be where people will want to go anyway. It should be kind of self-regulating.

Wayne McAllister: What was your thinking on reducing tags from 4 to 10 on family/group applications?

Bryan Christensen: There were two main reasons for doing that. The first real thing was, going from a region wide area to a unit wide area you have breakups of space. When we have groups of 10 and reduced permits, we thought the group of 10 was out of balance with what was available. By reducing the number of people in a group, you have more groups participating. Some numbers that surprised me were that 94% of applications are for groups of four or less already. Only 6% are utilizing more than that and it keeps it consistent with our other drawings that have a cap of four in a group.

Randall Thacker: On the general season landowner permits, those permits were originally established for the Southern region. Is every landowner going to get permits?

Bryan Christensen: There are some available from regions. Currently a qualifying landowner has to have 640 acres of qualifying habitat to qualify. The general season permit can't be transferred or sold, it's unique. The program's been run to allow each region to allow up to 600 permits. That number's never been reached. Southern region approached 500, other regions were nowhere close. The program would continue as it is. They are not taken out of the general public's permits. They're a separate entity.

Randall Thacker: In addition to the 94,000 tags?

Bryan Christensen: Yes.

Randall Thacker: 600 per region? Or should it be a number per unit.

Bryan Christensen: It ended up making more sense to keep it by region area. They've not been utilized to their full capacity in any given year so each region would still manage those.

Randall Thacker: Even units that cross regional boundaries?

Bryan Christensen: That's where the landowner has to choose the unit if it crosses boundaries. On occasion a region issues a permit that crosses a region.

Randall Thacker: How long have we had that availability in all the regions?

Bryan Christensen: There's one section in the proclamation that says, "Landowner Permits" that gives a brief synopsis and has you contact the office.

Mitch Hacking: Where is it that you came up with 640 acres?

Bryan Christensen: That happened before I was even born. I asked some and as far as I can tell it was a number that made sense because it was one section of a square mile.

Mitch Hacking: It's a little low for rangeland, but you take farms and the biggest percent of cultivated farms aren't that big. Cultivated are way under 300 acres. I wonder if you need to reevaluate cultivated vs. uncultivated.

Bryan Christensen: Reads as "qualifying" habitat.

Mitch Hacking: You can have habitat on 100 acres that is more than an uncultivated area that has 700 acres.

Kirk Woodward: Doesn't qualifying habitat do what you're saying? So a biologist looks at the acreage and say of your 640 acres, only part of it qualifies?

Floyd Briggs: I've had that question for years. May be it should be qualifying and impacted. 300 hay acres of deer to me is a better qualifier than 1,200 acres of sagebrush.

Mitch Hacking: It's a tough deal. On Diamond it's tough to split it that way.

Randall Thacker: Is the Northern region's buck/bull combination tag going away?

Bryan Christensen: I haven't seen that the buck/bull combination has been included in the 2012 recommendations so it looks like it will go away.

Randall Thacker: That would be good for our region. We won't have as many people poaching.

**MOTION by Floyd Briggs to approve as presented.
Second by Beth Hamann**

Passed unanimously

9. R657-12 RULE AMENDMENT – VETERANS FISHING LICENSE: Judi Tutorow, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator (ACTION)

See handout

Questions from RAC:

Wayne McAllister: Is disability based on Social Security or ADA? Why 40% disability?

Judi Tutorow: We met with the Veteran's Administration and that's the criteria that they came up with that they felt was fair and equitable. We already have a free fishing license for that person who's permanently disabled. This is for those who don't meet that one.

**MOTION by Kirk Woodward to accept
Second by Rod Morrison**

Passed unanimously

10. 2011 GENERAL SEASON EXTENSIONS FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES: Judi Tutorow, Wildlife Licensing Coordinator (ACTION)

See handout

Gives exact extended general season dates

**MOTION BY Beth Hamann to accept as presented
Second by Brandon McDonald**

Passed unanimously

11. ELECTION OF NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR: Bob Christensen, Current RAC Chair (ACTION)

The RAC Chair needs to report to the Wildlife Board meetings. It takes time out of your schedule. There is some prep work for the RAC meetings as well, getting agendas and revised agendas out, bringing things back from the Board as well. My term as chair is up.

Mitch Hacking: Bob has done one heck of a job for us. Question. Can you serve another term? Can you re-elect?

Kevin Christopherson: It has to change.

Bob Christensen: They might be able to re-elect, but I've served my two years. Rod has been our vice-chair these past two years.

Mitch Hacking: Clarification. So you could possibly serve again?

Bob Christensen: I don't think so, but I'm not willing to do it again.

Kevin Christopherson: Clay actually wanted to and they told him no. You may be able to serve two terms, but not back to back.

Floyd Briggs: Does anybody feel they'd like to be the chair and have the time?

Kevin Christopherson: I think you'd be really good Floyd.

Floyd Briggs: The distance I live from here? It's kind of hard.

MOTION by Mitch Hacking: Can we make a nomination and comment. I think Beth's had a good coach over the years; she comes from a family of chairmen.

Floyd Briggs: Seeing no objections, I'll second the motion.

Bob Christensen: Any other nominations? Are you okay with that Beth?

Beth Hamann: I'm okay with that.

Curtis Dastrup: Can we put her in by acclamation?

**MOTION by Mitch Hacking to nominate Beth Hamann as NER RAC Chair
Second by Floyd Briggs**

Passed unanimously

Bob Christensen: Now for a vice-chair.

Mitch Hacking: I'd like to see Bob be a vice-chair. You would have the qualifications to work with her and as a back-up.

Bob Christensen: I did two years as vice-chair before I was chair. I appreciate that but I'm going to reserve the right to decline on that.

Rod Morrison: I'd like to nominate Wayne as vice-chair.

Mitch Hacking: second

Wayne McAllister: My life is too busy and too full. I can't do 'er. I'm doing good to get to this meeting with the volunteer callings I've already got going.

Ron Winterton: I'd nominate Floyd for vice chair.

Floyd Briggs: Can we stipulate only in the winter months?

Kirk Woodward: Second for Floyd.

**MOTION by Ron Winterton to nominate Floyd Briggs as vice chair
Second by Kirk Woodward**

Passed unanimously

**Beth RAC Chair
Floyd as Vice-Chair**

Bob Christensen: June and July is a training session for new RAC chairs and vice chairs and I'll let you guys know. For those of you who are new, you also will want to go to the training.

RAC Social - date and place:

Mitch Hacking: You can use my cabin on the mountain at Matt Warner. It's a lodge that's available.

Rod Morrison: We'd like to thank Del for letting us have it at his place all these years.

Floyd Briggs: I'd like to have a program like we did last year.

Kevin Christopherson: I was thinking of having a habitat project review slide show.

Mitch Hacking: We could have the sage grouse technicians do a program.

RAC SOCIAL to be held Friday, June 10, 2011, at 6:00 pm

Bob Christensen: We'll be losing Brent Bibles and I'd like to thank him for his participation and willingness to be on the RAC since last fall. Both he and Wayne came in at the same time and had baptism by fire.

Next RAC meeting: July 28, 2011

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda as amended and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda as amended and the minutes
Passed unanimously

Proposal from South Jordan City to close city to hunting

MOTION: To table this action item until South Jordan City has a completed ordinance with a map and possibly buffer zones where limited archery and falconry activities are still allowed
Passed unanimously

2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries

MOTION: To make the extended archery only area a separate unit. To hunt the extended archery unit during the general archery season (August to September) you would have to draw that specific tag. After that season anyone with an archery permit could hunt that unit.
Failed 5 to 4 (RAC Chair voting)

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented
Passed 5 to 3

2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals

MOTION: To change the required service hours to 32 total, require 16 hours the first year and 16 hours the second year and accept the rest of the recommendations as proposed
Failed 6 to 2

MOTION: To change the required service hours to 32, 16 the first year and 16 the second year, and add a one year trial period before we put these recommendations in place
Failed 6 to 2

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception of the service hours being reduced to 32 hours that must be completed before a dedicated hunter could get their second year tag
Passed 5 to 3

2012 Lifetime License, Landowner, Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented with the exception of those lifetime license holders who apply for the dedicated hunter draw but do not draw can revert back to their lifetime license deer permit choice
Passed unanimously

R657-12 Rule Amendment – Veterans Fishing License

MOTION: To accept the proposed disabled veterans license discount
Passed unanimously
Recommendation by the RAC for something significant to be done for the veterans

2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities

MOTION: To accept as presented
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville City Civic Center
110 S. Main Street, Springville
May 17, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

John Bair, Sportsmen
Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service
Byron Gunderson, At Large
Richard Hansen, At Large
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Vice Chair
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Chair
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive

Members Absent

Michael Gates, BLM
George Holmes, Agriculture
Jay Price, Elected
Allan Stevens, At Large

Others Present

Rick Woodard, Wildlife Board Member

1) **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair

Presentation to Byron Gunderson, he has served two terms and this is his last meeting. He is a faithful member and has missed very few meetings and has done great.

John Bair has served two terms and will be following in the footsteps of Rick Woodard and will be serving on the Wildlife Board. Thank you for all you have done on the central RAC and best wishes on the board.

Allan Stevens is also leaving us but is not able to be here tonight. He has put in great service to the RAC and we want to thank him in his absence for the great service that he has offered.

2) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**

- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair

Addition to the agenda: proposal from South Jordan City to close city to hunting.

VOTING

Motion was made by Gary Nielson to accept the agenda as amended and the minutes

Seconded by John Bair

Motion passed unanimously

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair

4) **Regional Update**

- John Fairchild, DWR Regional Supervisor

General

- Budget cuts planned for FY 2012
- Cutbacks in seasonal personnel hiring already this spring
- RAC member nominations received (7), interviews to be scheduled in May

Wildlife

- Antelope flights on the West Desert
- Spring deer classification
- Bear denning update

- Five dens (1 with 4 cubs, 2 with 2 cubs, 1 with 1 cub, 1 without cubs, 1 treed with a cub)
- Seven of eight known to be male
- Deer Winter Range rides scheduled in May
- Deer Management Open Houses

Habitat

- South Sanpete WMA Management Plan
- Noxious weed control crews

Aquatics

- Jordanelle and Deer Creek gillnetting first two weeks in May
- Community Fisheries stocked, fishing clinics scheduled
- Spotted frog egg mass surveys – production up considerably region-wide
- DWR making its own tiger muskies
- Ice-off good time to fish

Conservation Outreach

- Dedicated Hunter program options to be considered at May 17 RAC meeting
- Mtn. Goat Viewing Day a success (over 250 people stopped by to observe about 25 goats at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon)
- Dedicated Hunters need to sign up for projects

Law Enforcement

- Officers following up on several poaching cases
- New officer, Preston Mickelson, assigned to the North Sanpete District

5) **Proposal from South Jordan City** - **Charity Stone, Law Clerk South Jordan City**

Questions from the RAC

Matt Clark – Have there been any hunting related accidents in South Jordan City that have resulted from hunters or is this just something that you want to prevent in the future?

Charity Stone – None that I am aware of. It is something that the city council wanted to address because they received comments from residents who were concerned about the incident that occurred when the deer was killed.

Matt Clark – So the deer was killed and people just didn't like to see the deer that was shot?

Charity Stone – It was right outside an office building in a parking lot.

Matt Clark – What is the RAC's role in this process?

John Fairchild – There is an administrative rule that lays out the process that cities have to go through in order to have the Wildlife Board close an area to hunting. A city can't close an area to hunting. They can close it to shooting. Which is an indirect approach and this is more direct. No hunting. You define hunting in the ordinance, you define wildlife in the ordinance and then it is a Wildlife Board decision.

Fred Oswald – We addressed a similar situation with emigration canyon previously.

John Bair – Do you have a map of the city boundary?

Charity Stone – I do and I can also send you a better copy.

John Bair – Does your city take in a big area that right now could potentially be hunted?

John Fairchild – The area is west of the Jordan River.

Fred Oswald – Is there any upland game or pheasant hunting on the west side of the city limits?

Charity Stone – I don't believe so. We did announce and hold a public meeting and there were no comments made at that meeting.

Richard Hansen – Do you have any plans to deal with urban deer problems in the future?

Charity Stone – We are not attempting to stop DWR from doing what they need to do. We are happy to write in something if that is something you are concerned about. That is not something we have thought of yet. This is just a draft that has been proposed.

Larry Fitzgerald – Is there anyone who is still wanting to archery hunt in areas of the city?

Charity Stone – No one commented at the city council meeting that was held.

Larry Fitzgerald – You advertised it?

Charity Stone – Yes we advertised in the city council meeting and made public. It was also announced in the city new letter.

Larry Fitzgerald – Along the Jordan River there used to be a lot of deer along there. Are there still deer there could they become a problem in the future? Like was stated, in Bountiful they have a problem with deer and now they can't get rid of them.

Charity Stone – That I am aware of we don't have a problem like that yet. It is very forward thinking to draft something to address that now.

John Bair – We know they want to close it to hunting and looking at the map I can see why. Is there anything that needs to be written to address the Division's future nuisance and depredation challenges?

John Fairchild – Nothing. We are not hunting when we go take care of nuisance wildlife. We would still retain the ability to manage the wildlife in the city limits.

John Bair – So you would be able to deal with problem deer.

John Fairchild – We have problem deer in every city along the Wasatch front. There are different methods available to us. Right now we are looking at a variety of options in the city of Highland where they may actually consider using archers that have certified with a certain level of competency to go out and harvest deer. I am not sure where that is going to end up. I am not sure you have the same opportunities along the Jordan River where you have so much other recreational activity taking place.

Matt Clark – This wouldn't only affect deer hunting. There is other wildlife that can be hunted with a bow, waterfowl, pheasants and other things. There are other hunting opportunities.

Fred Oswald – They already have an ordinance that does not allow the discharge of a weapon. This ordinance would not allow hunting which would be covered by anything that requires a license.

Matt Clark – As it stands now you can hunt with a bow in the city of South Jordan, correct?

Charity Stone – Not in the city parks.

Matt Clark – Well anywhere you are 600 feet from any building. There are other opportunities other than deer that are going to be taken away with this if it goes through.

Byron Gunderson – Is shooting fish with a bow hunting or fishing?

Duane Smith – I would ask if they really want to do this with a total exclusion because archery is one of the most common practices for controlling deer populations throughout the United States. States have resorted back to archery to control animals in areas. This seems like a step backward. I do worry about archers along the Jordan River in terms of what they might or might not be able to hunt in terms of waterfowl. Also are there any falconers who hunt that area with falcons? We haven't addressed the falconers.

Charity Stone – My only answer to address that is that we have held a public meeting which was publicized and we wanted to hear from individuals and what their concerns were and nothing was brought to our attention. We put it in the news letter and we publicized the city council meeting. Also the city council members are responsible to represent their districts and who they represent. We are happy to think about those issues as well but we have made it public and clear what we are doing and we haven't received any complaints from our citizens.

Fred Oswald – I am going to follow procedure and move on to public comment.

Comments from the Public

Dustin Brown – I live in Herriman which is adjacent to South Jordan. We have gone through many city council meetings to be allowed in Herriman to discharge firearms for waterfowl. We would like to hunt waterfowl in South Jordan city. We have permission to hunt fields in the city limits already. We have spent a lot of time getting permission and when we found out we could hunt with archery equipment we were on top of it. We have permission to do this and we would like to see it continue throughout the year. You now have Daybreak with a pond full of ducks and geese. In Salt Lake ducks and geese have become a problem on golf courses and I foresee that being a problem in Daybreak. There are areas that could still be hunted.

Josh Atkinson – I live in South Jordan and I didn't receive any information about any meeting, not that that matters. The boundary goes all the way to U111. The housing stops about 5600 West and U111 is about 100 West. There are a few square miles that could be hunted for doves, ducks, geese and pheasants. There are lots of animals around U111. I don't foresee archery equipment being a problem. I wouldn't even see guns being a problem in some areas other than they are already prohibited. Archery hunters who have taken ethics courses should have no problem harvesting animals without disrupting the city. I can see boundaries excluding the main city of South Jordan where hunting would not be allowed but there are other areas that could easily suite many archery hunters. People who maybe can't afford to travel long distances can hunt right in their backyard in the river bottoms. There are family farms and lots of other things down there.

Tracy Nielson – I think a little data with map to show urbanization versus agriculture activity on something like that rather than a broad application of what you are proposing. It would help the audience see what you are proposing. In reference to this resident saying he never heard about the public meeting, maybe some more widely diverse advertisements in publications that hunters receive and posting at Sportsman's Warehouse would be more appropriate to advertise that type of activity.

RAC Discussion

Fred Oswald – I would like to narrow the focus for you. The city is coming here with the idea that they want to close hunting but they have already closed shooting in their city limits so we are not dealing with the discharge of a rifle we are only dealing with bow hunting and possibly falconry. I think if you want to deal with those two issues, hunting and falconry.

John Bair – The more I listen the more I feel uneasy making a decision on this tonight. I know there is nothing more aggravating than more public meetings but sometimes I think that is the right thing to do. I think there could be more dialog to make sure the details are worked out and everybody understands what is being given up. When hunting is done away with I am not sure I am comfortable making that call tonight.

Fred Oswald – I think the fact that they have only come to one RAC and not all the RACs, one of the decisions we could make tonight would be to say we are not prepared to vote on this until we see a finalized ordinance. I think that would be appropriate. The board could then look at that and decide what they want to do. If you want to make a motion to not vote on this until we see a finalized ordinance that would make some sense.

Duane Smith – I would like to see them consider some type of buffer zones throughout the city. I would like to see a map and possible buffer zones similar to emigration canyon. I hate to see them shut everyone out where there is still property and private property owners who are willing to let people use their land.

Richard Hansen – I would like to see a map showing what is vacant and where most of the urbanization is before I would ever be okay with us supporting the elimination of bow hunting there.

John Bair – I would feel more comfortable making a decision if this was fleshed out a little further.

Gary Nielsen – We talk a lot about creating opportunity and preserving things as much as we can for sportsmen. I don't think any of us here have a problem closing areas that are completely urbanized where it is a logical decision but to automatically close all the rest of it is not a good plan.

VOTING

Motion was made by Gary Nielsen to not vote until we see some maps and buffer zones put in place

Motion restated – To table this action item until South Jordan City has a completed ordinance with maps and strongly recommend that the city consider buffer zones within the city that might remain open to limited archery hunting and falconry opportunities

Seconded by John Bair

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

- 6) **2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations (Action)**
- **Justin Dolling, Wildlife Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Duane Smith – With the youth hunt for quail and pheasant being the Saturday closest to the 13th could that possibly fall on the opening day of the deer hunt?

Justin Dolling – No. It would always be the Saturday prior to the opening of the deer hunt.

Gary Nielsen – I noticed there is a statewide hunt for ptarmigan. I was under the understanding they are located mostly in the Uintas. Are they anywhere else?

Justin Dolling – They are primarily located in the Uintas but for simplification reasons it is easier to call it a statewide hunt. We do have some new illustrations that we are putting in the guidebook with distribution maps of our different species which will focus hunters to go to the proper area to hunt ptarmigan.

Matt Clark – I think this is exactly what the state needs is this kind of proposal that offers a lot of opportunity especially for the youth, extended seasons, liberal bag limits. I think this is what is going to really get upland game hunters out. I think this is a great proposal. My only comment and concern is, is there nothing we can do to increase sandhill crane permit numbers?

Justin Dolling – It is an organized effort within the Pacific flyway and it is based on winter population counts. The flyway has set a population objective that they want to try to maintain cranes at for the whole flyway. If we are growing more cranes our opportunity can increase but in this case the fall counts went down which meant everybody in the flyway had to take a cut.

Matt Clark – What percentage of permits are filled?

Justin Dolling – I can look that up but it is around 65 percent.

Matt Clark – So we are turning back 100 tags.

Justin Dolling – No, the harvest allocation is 100 birds and we know what the previous hunter success is and we issue more permits than 100 based on the fact that harvest is not 100 percent. We keep our fingers crossed that we don't overshoot our harvest allocation.

Fred Oswald – What is the rationale for allowing adults to carry a firearm with the youth if they can't kill what the youth are hunting?

Justin Dolling – There are a couple issues there. There is the right to bear arms but really the overriding issue is that there are other hunts that are open that the adult could participate in like dove hunting for example.

Sarah Flinders – Biologists especially for the northern area have concerns on the dusky grouse populations. Do we have a good count on the current population for dusky grouse because our understanding is the populations are lower right now than they have been?

Justin Dolling – Unfortunately we don't have good information on the actual population for dusky grouse or for ruffed grouse for that matter. We have some indices that we look at overtime but we feel comfortable biologically that it is an under utilized resource. Our hunter participation in grouse hunting has gone way down. The amount of birds being harvested is not anywhere near what it has been historically.

Sarah Flinders – So is that the reason you are increasing bag limits?

Justin Dolling – Bag limits didn't change but possession limits did. Previously you were allowed two times the bag limit and we would like to increase that to three.

Sarah Flinders – And the reason for that is?

Justin Dolling – The reason primarily is that if we have hunters who travel long distances who want to spend several days in the field they can actually bring home more birds.

Sarah Flinders – Has anybody considered extending the one day youth hunts to a weekend?

Justin Dolling – This format that we are recommending going to is brand new. We used to have one day organized events where the kids applied for the hunt and we actually went out and purchased pen reared birds and released them for the kids. This would be a one day statewide hunt. They could go anywhere that is open for pheasant, quail or chukars and Hungarian partridge but no we have not considered multiple days at this point.

Questions from the Public

Mike Christensen – Are there still landowner turkey permits?

Justin Dolling – We still do landowner turkey permits.

Comments from the Public

Tracy Nielsen – Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation – We appreciate being involved in this and we support the changes made. We would also like to ask that in the next three years DWR would consider using some of the data that we are and have generated to think about pushing back the opener of the chukar and Hungarian partridge to mid October. That moves brood hens off guzzlers and almost eliminates the use of guzzlers by that time which would save brood hens. We thank you for the changes.

VOTING

Motion was made by Matt Clark to accept the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Gary Nielsen

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

Fred Oswald – Could you take back the comments from Sarah in terms of the possibly in the future of maybe extending the youth hunts. It is not going to happen now but I think it is a great suggestion.

Justin Dolling – Absolutely. The thing we were a little nervous about with the pheasant and the quail youth hunt is that a lot of those occur on private agriculture land. We wanted to see how the landowners felt about that hunt and I am keeping my fingers crossed that they can handle that kind of pressure.

Sarah Flinders – But we will be in this for three years before we could change it.

Justin Dolling – If there is need to open that up within the three year period we could always do that.

- 7) **2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries (Action)**
- **Craig Clyde, Regional Wildlife Manager**

Questions from the RAC

Larry Fitzgerald – You didn't change any of the limited entry boundaries?

Craig Clyde – Other than the Thousand Lakes unit.

John Bair – I have been getting a lot of questions about the extended archery area. If you were to make it a separate unit couldn't you have more permits just in that area rather than have it part of the Wasatch unit?

Craig Clyde – We could separate that area and have tags for just that area. It has 35 bucks per 100 does and is as good as some of the limited entry units. We would like to keep it as it is.

John Bair – But to maximize that number of tags. That is an incredibly popular area. I have had the discussion before that there are more hunter days spent there than the rest of the state combined. A lot of guys are worried about how hard it is going to be to get a tag for that.

Craig Clyde – Right now if you wanted to hunt that during the regular archery season you would have to put in for unit 17 which is less restrictive.

John Bair – This would let as many people hunt there as want to.

Larry Fitzgerald – With the smaller units will there be more landowner associations? To have a landowner association don't they have to have 51 percent of the land in a unit?

Craig Clyde – That only applies to limited entry units. Landowners could still get general season landowner permits if they were unable to draw they fill out a form.

Fred Oswald – So associations are only involved with limited entry.

Larry Fitzgerald – They are all limited entry now.

Craig Clyde – They are but managed differently based on buck to doe ratios.

Questions from the Public

Dwaine Beebe – Why are the Cedars not part of the Stansbury unit?

Craig Clyde – That would be an option. A lot of it is drawn from historical data and the other is a good definable road to follow a boundary. I can't recall without looking at a map how that would work on the west side of the Cedar Mountains. It is something that could be changed. It has to do with the biological data set more than anything else

Comments from the Public

Mike Christensen – I would like to see the Wasatch front extended unit south of I-80 divided out on its own. I served on the mule deer committee and the director, Jim Karpowitz, said whenever we turn this dial there is another dial over here that is going to turn. The problem I foresee with that unit being part of the 17a unit is that the hunters who draw that area are going to want to gravitate towards that unit. You are going to lose a lot of the other areas, Timp and Provo Peak, that is going to not get used and not have that opportunity fulfilled. Another problem I see with that area being included is through the dedicated hunter program is that somebody can draw that unit solely for the purpose of hunting that Wasatch front extended area. I think it would be beneficial to all hunters like me who don't hunt the Wasatch early. You could open the Wasatch extended area just like you do now after the regular archery season ends. What it will do is allow people to hunt in the Wasatch area where they want to hunt without competing for permits with the people who only want to hunt the Wasatch extended area. They are two separate areas. The Wasatch front area has incredible buck to doe ratios. Like John said you can pile a lot of archery hunters in there. I am not a huge fan on having micro units but that is one I think needs to be addressed. It is archery only and will never have rifle hunters in there.

RAC Discussion

John Bair – Mike summed up the feedback I have been getting from the archery clubs and the guys I associate with that are big into hunting the extended unit. A lot of archers would compete for tags that would be very happy to just hunt the extended area. I think we could put more tags out by dividing it out. I don't think the people who want to hunt other areas of the Wasatch should have to compete for the tags. They are two different areas. The boundaries are great but I would like to see the extended carved out.

Craig Clyde – I have hunted that unit myself and I have hunted the first couple of weeks when the general season is going on and I don't run into that many hunters. Most hunters like to hunt there after the snow falls and it pushes the bucks down where they can see them and are more

concentrated when the rut starts and they are less tentative to a predator. At that time you can't put more tags than letting everyone go there, it is already open to everybody at that time. The only time you could open it up is during the general season period. With my experience of being up there and the data we collect with the number of people who hunt there during that general season I don't think there would be a lot of competition there.

John Bair – The competition I am worried about is for the tags. You have a lot of guys who want to hunt just right here and their tag is going to be taken by somebody who wants to wait and hunt that extended area.

Craig Clyde – They don't need to put in for that area if they want to hunt it later. This is something that as we look at these units there is some fine tuning we may need to do. If we find that people are putting in for the Wasatch and then only hunting that unit there are adjustments that can be made. This isn't the Ten Commandments.

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane Smith to accept the proposal as presented

Seconded by Byron Gunderson

John Bair – I think they have done a great job with the boundaries. I think the extended area offers incredible opportunity to save some tags that don't need to be cut. I don't think making this part of the regular unit is the way to do it. I think we are missing the boat. I really think that carving it out and making people apply for it to hunt it during the early season then they are not competing for the tags with people who want to hunt here.

Mike Christensen – They have their own Salt Lake data set as well.

Fred Oswald – Are you prepared to make a substitute motion?

John Fairchild – It would be an alternate motion. Second motion could be seconded or not and then we would vote on the first motion.

John Bair – If you draw the archery only extended area unit that is where you hunt during the archery season. After the archery season anyone can hunt there.

Fred Oswald – Are you talking about making 31 units instead of 30?

John Bair – Yes.

ALTERNATE MOTION

John Bair - I move to make the extended archery only area a separate unit. If you want to hunt it during the archery season during the general archery season (August to September) you would have to draw that specific tag. After that season anyone with an archery permit could hunt that unit.

Second by Matt Clark

Duane Smith – So there would be 31 units?

John Fairchild – Yes.

Richard Hansen – Craig what is the eastern boundary, would you have to establish that?

Craig Clyde – There is a boundary for that unit. There are two parts to that. There is the extended hunt that you can hunt with archery, rifle and muzzleloader and then there is the archery only area. The southern boundary is the Utah/Salt Lake county line and the eastern boundary is the Salt Lake/Summit county line and then coming west on I-80 to not quite I-15. There is an established boundary.

Richard Hansen – What kind of problems would this create problems.

Craig Clyde – It doesn't make a whole lot of difference as far as enforcement goes. We collect our data separate for that unit because it is different. The only thing it has to do with is the hunting.

In Favor: John Bair, Sarah Flinders, Larry Fitzgerald, Matt Clark

**Opposed: Gary Nielsen, Richard Hansen, Byron Gunderson, Duane Smith
RAC Chair, Fred Oswald, votes against**

Motion failed 5 to 4

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION

In Favor: Gary Nielsen, Richard Hansen, Larry Fitzgerald, Byron Gunderson, Duane Smith

Opposed: John Bair, Sarah Flinders, Matt Clark

Motion passed 5 to 3

- 8) **2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals (Action)**
- **Rhianna Christopher, Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Gary Nielsen – We had sent a recommendation to Salt Lake to possibly allow dedicated hunters to put in as a group. With five boys and the way this is set up now we could each draw a different unit for dedicated hunter and be stuck hunting by ourselves for the next three years.

Rhianna Christopher – You can apply as a group for up to four together.

Richard Hansen – Have we been under the cap the last two years and by how much?

Rhianna Christopher – Right now we are sitting about 6,700. In 2008 we did hit the cap and then in 2009 it dropped 15 percent.

Richard Hansen – Why do think that is?

Rhianna Christopher – In my mind I think it is multi faceted. I think it is the economy, the price of gas, the hours did affect that.

Richard Hansen – I have had a lot comments on this. You are asking these guys to do a 40 hour week out of their life. Things are a lot tougher. Have you considered going back to 32 hours? I think you would get a lot more participation.

Rhianna Christopher – We are trying to maintain the current structure as close as possible because there are so many changes going on. As a RAC you are welcome to make a motion.

Duane Smith – I am on the other side of the coin with the hours. I have a question about the hours being required as 8, 16 and 16. If a dedicated hunter harvests his two deer in the first two years you may only get 24 hours out of that person.

Rhianna Christopher – We have a provision for that. I recently sent out 1,300 letters to folks who have received permits in years one and two and are now in year three, harvest limit or not, they are required to complete those hours or face being put on administrative hold and unable to apply in any future division drawing until they pay for the value of their hours. We sent out this letter because we wanted to give them a head start because we would rather have them on projects than opening their wallets latter.

Duane Smith – I would like to see some way of enforcing that. Is that in the proclamation? We need to hold them to the hours.

Rhianna Christopher – It is in the dedicated hunter rule.

Sarah Flinders – Are these recommendations coming from you the state or the board?

Rhianna Christopher – There was a committee put together to address unit hunting and all of the programs that were going to be affected. This has basically been a two year process to come to what we have come to here.

Sarah Flinders – Based on your recommendations or the boards?

Rhianna Christopher – Based on the fact that we are going to unit hunting.

Fred Oswald – As a follow up when the board went to the unit system they knew full well that something like this was going to have to take place.

Sarah Flinders – My concern then would be the board recommended the increase to 40 hours which decreased the number of participants. That was not a recommendation of the RAC or the public either. My biggest concern with some of these proposals is if I knew it was strictly a Division recommendation I would be more apt to vote for something like this. But I know that the board can override and create their own designation on this. The 15 percent allocated bothers me a little bit as well as the hours still concern me a great deal.

Richard Hansen – What was the reason behind discontinuing the limited entry draw?

Rhianna Christopher – You know all Utahans are having to give something up right now and we felt like asking for a dedicated hunter to maintain a unit for three years is a pretty good carrot to join the program so we wanted to give those back to the public. It doesn't mean dedicated hunters can't apply it just means it is not going to be part of the program.

Questions from the Public

Owen Boyer – I live here in Springville. I am one of those who will be in the Wasatch and don't want to compete for the tags down here with the extended archery hunters. You mentioned that there are a lot of changes going on in this program and there are going to be a lot of questions about what affect this is going to have on all the different units. You are allowing them to choose five different choices for their application why then do you commit them to three years? If they end up getting their fourth or fifth spot but they have to go hunt that for three years that doesn't seem fair to me.

Rhianna Christopher – Each hunter puts their application in with their selections and if a hunter is not willing to hunt on that unit for three years then don't put it on the application. It's really as simple as that. They can have up to five units on their application it doesn't mean they have to put five.

Sarah Flinders – But if they only put one and they don't draw they are not in the program.

Rhianna Christopher – If you don't draw you get a preference point for the future.

Gary Nielsen – But if they don't draw that unit doesn't that mean that unit will not have any open dedicated hunter spot for the next three years?

Rhianna Christopher – No because people are constantly expiring out of the program.

Mike Christensen – So you put in for limited entry and you don't draw that and then you put in for dedicated hunter and you don't draw that and then you put in for general season and you don't draw that even though they are all micro units.

Rhianna Christopher – Correct.

Dave Davis – What about lifetime license holders in dedicated program.

Greg Sheehan – We are going to talk about all the other programs after this presentation.

Basically lifetime is going to have a chance to pick but if they apply into the dedicated hunter program then it would void out the lifetime request.

Dave Davis - If you don't draw dedicated hunter then do you go back to your lifetime choice.

Greg Sheehan – No.

Comments from the Public

Mike Christensen – We are making big changes to our deer hunting program. I have been a dedicated hunter since the inception of the program and think it is a great program. I really worry that we are making this so complicated and complex that only the dedicated people are going to end up hunting. I am going to get a point for this and a point for that and the other all to hunt deer. I can only imagine how much time and effort the Division spent trying to come up with this proposal and it is a good proposal but I fear that we are taking our hunting way of life and turning it into having to make it such a part of our life to even understand what is going on. I will understand it and most the people here will understand it but most of the people who are not here who buy our licenses they are not going to understand this. We are making it too complicated and I think we need to maintain the dedicated hunter program but I don't know that we need every different type of point to go along with that.

Owen Boyer – We have commented on the worth of the dedicated hunter program and how we are underutilizing the program. We keep asking them to do more and more, they are already paying more for the privilege of harvesting less potentially. Now you are making it so hard that I may be relegated to my fifth choice for three years. In the time of so much confusion when we don't know how many people are going to be applying for units and if I am applying for 17a and am competing with everyone who wants to hunt in the extended hunt area I may not draw that permit. I have grown up hunting here I want to hunt here and I do dedicated hunter so I have a better opportunity of hunting where I want. Then to be told I may get my fifth choice if I am

lucky to get a choice and then if I draw it I have to hunt that fifth choice for three years when I am already contributing 40 hours and extra dollars. I don't think it is equitable and I don't think it is right. I don't think there is a good reason that has been expressed as to why I can't be allowed to apply the second year for a different unit. I would like to suggest that somebody on this board make a motion that that be adjusted. Everything else I like about the program. They have done a great job, I love the program. I think it is an innovation that other states should copy. I think it contributes a lot to the state. I think this is a real deterrent and will further reduce applications. I think you should allow changing your application each year.

Dustin Brown – I want to back up what has been said. I think the dedicated hunter 40 hours is great because I know you get reimbursed for the hours but I know a lot of my friends fell out of the program because of the hours. Less hours would make it so you would get more people. I had over 100 hours my first year but it is getting difficult. The points are a good way to get your area but you should be able to change units every year. If you are used to hunting one area and then you can't hunt that unit you may fall away from hunting itself.

Steve Scow – I was at a RAC meeting where we talked about fishing regulations and how families fell away from it. I think the way this program is going the same thing will happen.

RAC Discussion

Richard Hansen – I would like to see us change the service hours to 32 and we require the hours 16 first and 16 the second years.

VOTING

Motion made by Richard Hansen to change the service hours to 32 total, require 16 hours the first year and 16 hours the second year and accept the rest of the recommendations as proposed

Seconded by Duane Smith

John Bair – I would like to make a substitute motion. I agree with what Richard is saying about the hours. We are better off at 10,000 dedicated hunters at 32 hours a piece than fewer dedicated hunters each year. Some people want to do the hours but can't fit in 40. **I would like to amend the motion that if I draw my fifth choice then I can apply for my first, second, third or fourth choice the next year.**

Larry Fitzgerald – So every year you could apply for your first choice unit.

John Bair – If I draw my fifth choice the first year then the second year I could apply for my first choice and if I get that unit then I could stay there for the last two years.

Larry Fitzgerald – If I am not a dedicated hunter I have to apply for my area every year so I think dedicated hunters should have to apply for their unit every year.

Fred Oswald – So the example you gave wasn't the motion.

John Bair – She said we could put in for five units if you want to.

Fred Oswald – But your motion is if you draw your second choice you can still go back.

John Bair – The next year you could apply for your first choice.

Fred Oswald – If you draw your fourth choice you can go back again, so if you draw anything other than your first choice.

John Bair – I can improve my situation for the next two years of the program.

Fred Oswald – I understand your motion, is there a second?

Seconded by Richard Hansen

Fred Oswald – If it is okay with the RAC I want to go back to our staff and have them comment on this motion.

Greg Sheehan – The complicated thing with this is we didn't set the pick your unit and you are there for three years because we are trying to reward you or punish you. The challenge we have is that we have a 15 percent cap on each unit some of the units the proposed permit numbers will be really low maybe only 500 tags. If you have 15 percent they you only have 75 tags. The reason we have you lock it in for three years and the reason it is a multi year program is that once

the say 75 slots are taken we know going into the next draw how many spots there are if say 23 people expire there would be 23 spots available. If we tell all the other people you can hop units if you can get a different unit otherwise you probably want to keep that one. We don't know how to figure out in the draw how many units to put out for the draw. It becomes this big mess. What that would force us to do, which we didn't want to do is to go to a one year program. We have 30 units and thousands of dedicated hunters it would be almost mathematically impossible to have you be allowed to stay or change units. We talked about this for two years and one thing we talked about was to go to a one year program and forget all this business.

John Bair – Okay - you win.

Byron Gunderson – Isn't there any value to the fact that if you draw your first choice you get that for three years? We are always looking at the negative side. As scarce as permits are going to get in the future isn't 40 hours a small amount to pay for the opportunity to have three years on the same unit locked in?

John Bair – I want to withdraw the amendment with consent of second.

Fred Oswald – So we have one motion on floor with a second to accept the program with 32 hours.

Sarah Flinders – I want to make an amendment to that. I would like to keep the hours at 32 to try to increase but propose that we have a trial period for a year to get comments back from more dedicated hunters and then start with the three year period. I don't know if that would work but I don't know if you want a large fall out after trying this and people getting stuck as they are saying for three years. Is there a possibility to try this for a year or two to see if it works or not because I don't think it's going to work for your customers, for our participants, who are the meat of the program? It is not for them. It is for them with us on the receiving end. And I say us as federal and state agencies because we receive an extreme amount in value and not even talking monetary. Fed Oswald – I am going to let Rhianna comment. But I have a lot of good interesting discussion from you but I didn't get a motion so let's try again.

Motion made by Sarah Flinders to change the required service hours to 32, 16 the first year and 16 the second year, and add a one year trial period before we put these recommendations in place
Seconded by John Bair

Rhianna Christopher – We are not opposed to decreased hours but if draw results are not out until the end of May we will have a difficult time notifying folks before the middle of June and say we get 5,000 people in one year for them to fulfill 16 hours between June and August would be extremely difficult and I think we would be moving toward quantity and moving away from quality projects that we have worked really hard for.

Sarah Flinders – I understand where the Division is coming from with that. The hours are extremely controversial. You lost quite a few already. I know we would like to see more come back in. The quality is an issue as well as running the program from the agencies side as well as trying to complete hours. Watching the program from the very beginning the dedicated hunters are the key and the heart of this issue. We are in a tricky situation because you have been instructed to change boundaries. We have 30 units now and how do you make a program like this work? It is sounding like this is not going to work. I still think a trial period would be good. I would expect that you will see decline in numbers and attitude.

Gary Nielsen – Your point is well taken about getting your hours the first year. What if you just had to have 32 hours done by second year?

Rhianna Christopher – I might suggest 8, 16 and 8.

Gary Nielsen – Why 8 the last year? Are you afraid people are not going to do the last hours?

Rhianna Christopher - Going back to the reason the Wildlife Board wanted to add hours for each year is to encourage dedicated hunters to participate each year.

Duane Smith – We need to address the amendment – I don't think one year will do anything when you are trying to establish a three year program. We need to call question on the motion.

Fred Oswald – I understand what you are trying to do with your amended motion but I think it is impractical to make the program work on a one year trial and then go back to three. If we are going to have a dedicated hunter program we need to sign ourselves up for three years and make it happen.

Call question on substitute motion – 16 and 16 hours make dedicated hunter a one year trial period program

In Favor: Sarah Flinders, John Bair

Opposed: Gary Nielsen, Richard Hansen, Larry Fitzgerald, Matt Clark, Byron Gunderson, Duane Smith

Motion failed 6 to 2

Original motion amended by Richard Hansen that all 32 hours must be before you receive a tag in the second year

Second stands by Duane Smith

John Bair aren't we stuffing 32 hours into 18 months – to me that is tighter than 40 hours in three years – I am in favor of 32 hours I would like 8, 16, 8.

Motion to accept the recommendations as presented with the exception of the service hours being reduced to 32 hours that must be completed before a dedicated hunter could get their second year tag

In Favor: Gary Nielsen, Richard Hansen, Larry Fitzgerald, Duane Smith, Sarah Flinders

Opposed: John Bair, Matt Clark, Byron Gunderson

Motion passed 5 to 3

9) 2012 Lifetime License, Landowner, Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies (Action)

- Bryan Christensen, Licensing Specialist

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – When are we going to know what the tag allocations are by unit?

Bryan Christensen – The recommendations come out in May.

Richard Hansen – When will we know how many tags there are for each unit?

Bryan Christensen – May.

Greg Sheehan – I think what you are saying is now that we have all these units we don't have any history on how many people are going to put in for what unit. Our wildlife section did sort of a distribution where deer population are and buck to doe ratios and all that and they have that drafted now. What we would like to see is maybe a possible scenario. Of course we won't recommend those numbers until after we have gotten through winter but maybe we could show what it might look like with a disclaimer that it may not look like this once we go through a winter.

Fred Oswald – Could you go back to the last power point screen? It seems to me that not all units are created equal in terms of popularity so how could you come up with this scenario when it is possible that a very popular unit might only have 30 percent of tags left for the general public?

Bryan Christensen – You are right; there most likely will be some units that you will get a lot of interest and others where there will be less interest. This exact graph may not represent every unit exactly. Overall what we have looked at in these proposals and creating the power point is some history of data and what we found was that for example lifetime license holders actually distribute themselves very well over the 30 units. We looked at dedicated hunters and found that

for the most part distribute pretty well. There are definitely some areas where they are more concentrated. Overall this could be taken with an average situation based on what we found through prior years and a little bit of educated guess work for what we would hope to have happen.

Fred Oswald – It might turn out to be a little bit of false advertising though because as a matter of fact all units are not going to be equal so an average doesn't really mean anything.

Greg Sheehan – You couldn't have more than 30 percent be in the dedicated or youth. The only thing that could drive that bottom section down is the lifetime. Only about three and a half percent of the permits in the state are lifetime people so if we had a wildly popular unit we certainly talked about if the lifetime guys all swarm on one unit we may need to come back and adjust that but we are hoping that doesn't happen. Other than that it really couldn't look a whole lot different than what is there.

Fred Oswald – So the highest percentage of dedicated hunters on a unit is 15 percent.

Greg Sheehan – Yes and 15 percent for youth so the only variable is the lifetime people. Like Bryan said we know what units they have been in and they distribute themselves pretty evenly.

Byron Gunderson – How many lifetime licenses are there?

Bryan Christensen – There are just over 4,600 total lifetime license holders. This year I believe there are 3,926 that have actually put in an application so just under 4,000 that are hunting.

Fred Oswald – Isn't it fair to say that under the hierarchy scenario you would have to be a pretty dumb lifetime hunter to be a dedicated hunter?

Bryan Christensen – Not necessarily. There are definitely perks to being a dedicated hunter.

Over the years a lifetime license holder may want to do that program with a family member or take advantage of the multi season hunting where they can't do that with their lifetime license.

Fred Oswald – But if I am a lifetime holder I know that every year I can get the unit I want. If I am a dedicated hunter I know it is very possible that I might not get to hunt at all. Why would I want to take that chance?

Richard Hansen – So the lifetime holders are not guaranteed their unit are they?

Bryan Christensen – In this proposal they would be. I guess one clarification would be that not all lifetime license holders have that perspective. Some of them really do just want to hunt with family and if family is in dedicated hunter then they want to do it too.

Larry Fitzgerald – How many lifetime license holders are there left still alive?

Bryan Christensen – Of the 4,605 - We have had 91 whose family members have indicated to us that they have passed away. Not all of them hunt, some just fish. Typically the permits are issued between 3,200 and 3,500. This year there are 3,900.

Larry Fitzgerald – What was the last year you sold them?

Bryan Christensen – 1994.

Questions from the Public

Mike Christensen – What is the number of landowner tags you are going to give per unit?

Bryan Christensen – General season landowner has the possibility of up to 600 per region. We haven't chopped it up into units. It still would be administered on a region wide basis and the cap would be at 600. Of note, no region has ever hit that and only one region has come close. Most are under 30.

Mike Christensen – When you mentioned there are some units that may only have 500 permits I wondered how that would play out with 600 landowner tags per region.

Bryan Christensen – The landowner permits are an allotment of permits that are separate from our general season quota.

Dustin Brown - Why were the lifetime license holders guaranteed their unit and the dedicated hunters, who put in his time and hours, paid extra for his permit as well but has to draw?

Bryan Christensen – That is a good question. Probably a primary answer to that would be stemming back from an original agreement. When lifetime license holders purchased their lifetime license the agreement was that they would get a general season deer tag. Over the years administrative rule and some changes have made them subject to changes in the general season permit process. They went from a statewide permit to a region permit and now they are going to

a unit based permit. The short answer is to keep that program as close as it was when they first signed up as possible.

Dustin Brown – Wouldn't it be fair to say we have to put in for five units so why don't they?

They are still going to get a tag for one of those five units, it may not be their first choice.

Bryan Christensen – It is a good question. I guess whichever side of the lifetime license card you're on is what answers it. It is a very valid point to ask that question. Our goal really was to try to keep as many of these programs as intact as they could be and keep things as fair as they have been.

Josh Atkinson – So if my son applies for his first choice as a youth then again as a general hunter that 65 percent you showed us is actually smaller because some of those permits could go to youth or dedicated hunters who didn't draw.

Bryan Christensen – I don't know if I understood that right.

Fred Oswald – Let me see if I can clarify that. Part of the 65 percent is going to include people who didn't get their first three choices.

Josh Atkinson – What I am saying is if you have 15 percent dedicated hunters and 25 percent put in 10 percent aren't going to draw and those 10 percent can reapply for a general hunt. With the youth if 20 percent apply only 15 percent can draw so the other 5 percent get to apply again.

Bryan Christensen – If you have a youth applies and draws he is in that up to 20 percent and if he doesn't then that means that there wasn't any more space but we have a cap there. He does have a chance to draw with everyone else in the general draw.

Greg Sheehan – If your question is does he get to be in more draws than some one else? Yeah he is. Just as a dedicated hunter who puts in for dedicated hunter and doesn't draw then puts in for the general draw had two opportunities to draw but pays the ten dollar application fee again. He only takes one tag. We all put in for lifetime or limited entry as well.

Comments from the Public

Dwaine Beebe – I am a lifetime license holder and a dedicated hunter. You made a comment that I should not be a dedicated hunter if I am a lifetime license. My family hunts on private property and my boys are dedicated hunters who also have lifetime license. I put in more than 80 hours in three years. If I will not be able to hunt my private property anymore I will give up the dedicated hunter program. Not only do I pay 75 dollars extra to be able to hunt those extra hunts I put in a lot of extra hours working with youth and doing all kinds of activities. I wonder how many lifetime license holders are dedicated hunters because they like just being in the field?

Dave Davis – I have been a dedicated hunter since day one but I also have a lifetime license. My concern is do I give up a guaranteed tag to try to be a dedicated hunter? I have enjoyed doing the hours and projects. I love to hunt and love the outdoors that is the reason I do dedicated hunter even though I have a lifetime license. Whether I am a lifetime lice layer or dedicated hunter I won't affect that 65 percent but I would like to be able to revert back to the lifetime tag if I don't get dedicated hunter. I would like to have the option of trying for both but I don't want to give up the opportunity of hunting period. Hopefully you can figure out a way to let us revert back to our lifetime license if we don't get the dedicated hunter rather than give up being a dedicated hunter. That program is valuable. Maybe you won't miss my 50 or 60 hours a year. The hours aren't the issue for those of us that like to be in the program but we don't want to give up hunting either.

RAC Discussion

Greg Sheehan – In response to his comment, right now we have it stair stepping down. Certainly if that is a direction that the RAC and board wanted it to go we could make that work mathematically. If you told us what your lifetime license choice was and then you put in for dedicated hunter but didn't draw you could have your lifetime choice. That is not how we recommended it but it wouldn't be the end of the world for us if that is the direction you wanted to go.

Gary Nielsen – On the going back to the lifetime, are we talking about that same year or not until the next year?

Greg Sheehan – Again it is not what we proposed but if we through the draw process said give us your lifetime choice and if you didn't get dedicated hunter we could right then without asking them again give them their lifetime tag. Like the gentleman said you are in the top two bars somewhere anyway. Some lifetime people feel like it is kind of cold to say if you don't get the dedicated hunter you are out of everything.

Gary Nielsen – You would still get the dedicated hunter; you just might not get to go where you wanted that year, right?

Greg Sheehan – If a lifetime guy draws the dedicated hunter he is there for the next three years but if he tried for a difficult unit as a lifetime guy and didn't get it he could revert back to his lifetime unit. Certainly we appreciate the effort and time and money these dedicated hunters put in for us.

Larry Fitzgerald – Why would they try for dedicated hunter if they are guaranteed a lifetime tag. Why would you take the chance of not drawing at all?

Greg Sheehan – They get to hunt all three seasons with dedicated hunter.

VOTING

Motion was made by Duane to accept the recommendations as presented with the exception of those lifetime license holders who apply for the dedicated hunter draw but do not draw can revert back to their lifetime license deer permit choice

Fred Oswald – The word first choice is what concerned me a little bit. If a lifetime person puts in for dedicated hunter he gets a chance to put in for one, two, three, four or five. If he only puts in for one and doesn't get it he reverts back to his lifetime choice but what if he gets either his second, third, fourth or fifth choice?

John Bair – If they have three pretty good units and they would be fine with any of the three why not just leave that option on the table for them. If they are okay having the unit then they put in for it and if they are not then they don't put in for it.

Duane Smith – But if it goes back to their lifetime they would get that unit anyway.

Fred Oswald – But his question to you is he has the option of putting in for up to five choices and if he draws one of those why not let he take that choice and be a dedicated hunter. He didn't have to put and second choice. Let's say that a lifetime license holder puts in and has two units he really likes to hunt and puts in for both units and he draws his second choice then he is a dedicated hunter. Is your motion that he can revert back to lifetime because he didn't get his first choice?

Duane Smith – Yes, that is their argument.

Audience – if we put in for a second choice and draw it we would still want that choice and to be a dedicated hunter. If we don't draw anything as a dedicated hunter we want our lifetime tag.

Duane Smith – Okay, if they don't draw out as a dedicated hunter then they get their lifetime license.

Seconded by John Bair

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

10) R657-12 Rule Amendment – Veterans Fishing License (Action)

- Kenny Johnson, Business Analyst

Questions from the RAC

Byron Gunderson – Does that include senior citizens? Aren't they getting that already?

Kenny Johnson – They are getting the five dollars off currently.

Byron Gunderson – But if they are disabled?

Kenny Johnson – Would they get an additional five, right now no.

Byron Gunderson – And this would have to go through the Division offices?

Kenny Johnson – What we are hoping for on that one is the first year have it issued at region office and we verify the service connected disability and once we identify them in the database we can push that out to our license agents.

John Bair – Why can't we just make it for veterans that the whole license costs five dollars? I would rather see it that way. If we are going to give them a discount for what they have done for us, give them a discount.

Kenny Johnson – That is a great question and a good point. Honestly we have worked really close with the office of veteran affairs in Salt Lake and this is just a place to start. There were some unknowns with what the impact might be fiscally and so this was a place to get a baseline and then at some point we might be able to look at a better benefit.

VOTING

Motion was made by Byron Gunderson to accept the proposed disabled veterans license discount

Seconded by Duane Smith

In Favor: All

Motion passed unanimously

John Bair – Can we seriously take a look at something deeper for the veterans? I would like to see something significant done for veterans. If there is a disabled veteran out there that doesn't seem like a very big benefit.

Duane Smith – Find out how many there are.

Kenny Johnson – I think that is what this step will do is identify that cohort.

Duane Smith – Not just with fishing licenses but I would like to see how many there are and then look at that implication over the hunting and fishing license and see where that goes. A lot of states are doing that.

Fred Oswald – It might be nice to see what other states are doing with regard to that too.

11) 2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities (Action)

- **Kenny Johnson, Business Analyst**

Questions from the RAC

Byron Gunderson – What degree of disability are we talking about?

Kenny Johnson – There are different requirements but generally blind paraplegic, quadriplegic or the physical loss of a lower extremity or the loss of use of a lower extremity which confines you the use of a wheelchair or crutch.

VOTING

Motion was made by John Bair to accept as presented

Seconded by Byron Gunderson

In Favor: all

Motion passed unanimously

12) Other Business

- **Fred Oswald, RAC Chair**

RAC member interviews have been done and we will have three new RAC members at the August RAC meeting.

There is a training on August 17th and I would encourage all of you, regardless of whether you have been to a training the past, to come to the training. It is really a good day and there is a lot of information given out. Lunch is provided.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

50 in attendance

Next board meeting June 8– 9th 9:00 a.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting August 2nd 6:30 p.m. at Springville Civic Center, Springville

Northern Regional Advisory Council

May 18, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Place: Brigham City Community Center

RAC Present

Robert Bynes –At Large
Paul Cowley- Forest Service
James Gaskill- At Large
Shawn Groll- At Large
Russ Lawrence- At Large
Jon Leonard- Sportsman
Bret Selman- Agric
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman
John Wall- At Large

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Randy Wood
Justin Dolling
Ron Hodson
Jason Robinson
Rhianna Christopher
Bryan Christensen
Kenny Johnson
Sam McKay
Dean Mitchell
Phil Douglass
Paul Thompson
Sam McKay

Wildlife Board

Bill Fenimore
Ernie Perkins

RAC Excused

John Cavitt- Noncon.
Ann Neville- Noncon.

RAC Unexcused

Joel Ferry- Agric

Meeting Begins: 6:03 p.m.

Number of Pages: 15

Introduction: Robert Byrnes-Chair

Agenda:

Review of Agenda and April 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Regional Update

Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations

2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries

2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals

2012 Lifetime License, Landowner Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies.

R657-12 Rule Amendment - Veterans Fishing License

2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities

Least Chub Presentation

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of RAC Members

Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda and April 20, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Cowley- Motion to approve the amended agenda. Item. 11 It is an information item only.

Second: Lawrence

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Motion: Cowley – Approve the minutes as amended.

Second: Wall

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 3. Wildlife Board Update

Should have received a summary of motions with a description on the Wildlife Board meeting.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Ron Hodson, Regional Supervisor

Nothing at this time, but would like a few minutes at the end of the meeting.

Item 5. 2011 Upland Game, Turkey and Crane Recommendations

-Justin Dolling, Wildlife Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Explore reasoning behind the limited entry turkey hunts.

Dolling- You would like a synopsis of how we got there?

Gaskill- Yes.

Dolling- We have been hunting turkeys now under a limited entry followed by over the counter hunt structure for the last 2 years, we are in year 2 now. Prior to that, we had strictly a limited entry framework set up where we made recommendations based on populations at the unit level. So, we would issue permits at the unit level and that was strictly limited entry. The feeling was that at some point, we wanted to try and transition into eventually becoming over the counter with our turkey hunt program. The feeling was that we wanted to transition but not necessarily shock those folks that were enjoying those limited entry hunts so we set up a two tiered structure and that is the limited entry hunt followed by over the counter. We set up those performance targets and will evaluate how well they did over the period of this experiment and decide whether we can transition totally into over the counter.

Gaskill- What is the biological reason for limited entry followed by over the counter as opposed to just over the counter followed by limited entry?

Dolling- It is a socially driven reason. The way we are hunting has very little impact on the population if any. It is primarily social why we are retaining those two hunt structures.

Gaskill- Isn't that giving a significant hunter advantage to the limited entry hunters?

Dolling- It depends on what year it is. I don't know that the limited entry hunters had any better success than our over the counter hunters based on the weather.

Gaskill- Do you have any data from last year?

Dolling- I do. Last year, our hunter success was higher on the limited entry hunts than the over the counter hunts.

Gaskill- Percentage wise? What would have been the result had we just gone to over the counter?

Dolling- I don't dare venture a guess on that one.

Gaskill- What was our hunter success with limited entry?

Dolling- Limited entry ranged from about 30% all the way up to about 38%.

Gaskill- So, we killed 700-800 turkeys on limited entry?

Dolling- I could tell you exactly how many we killed.

Gaskill- An estimate is ok.

Dolling- Roughly, yes.

Gaskill- And we killed how many during the over the counter.

Dolling- Our hunter success for the over the counter was running about 15-16%. We had roughly over 10,000 hunters that participated.

Gaskill- Mathematically, even if the advantage is not considered, we would have had to have another 4,500 over the counter hunters to equal the number of turkeys taken. In effect, we are taking more turkeys with this program than we would if we eliminated limited entry unless we increase the number of over the counter by 4,500.

Dolling- I am not following your logic there. Could you help me?

Gaskill- At 15-16% success with over the counter, if we are going to kill 800 more, we have to have significantly more hunters right?

Dolling- We actually harvested more turkeys in the over the counter portion of the hunt than the limited entry portion of the hunt.

Gaskill- We had 2,500 turkey hunters that drew and 10,000 over the counter.

Dolling- Right.

Gaskill- In order to increase the number of turkeys taken by the over the counter guys, we would have to have a whole lot more of them because the percentage success in limited entry is greater.

Dolling- I am still having trouble following your logic.

Gaskill- It is not logic, it is arithmetic.

Dolling- I don't know if that is our objective to increase harvest.

Gaskill- That is why I am asking why are we doing it?

Dolling- Why are we staying with these two hunt structures?

Gaskill- If we have a higher total harvest with this program than we would if we just went to straight over the counter, why are we doing it?

Dolling- We may or may not. Our harvest would be based on the success and if the success increased, then potentially we would harvest more with just over the counter. But it is not about harvest, we are only hunting the male component of the population so biologically, it does not influence the population. It is more of a social issue. It is strictly social whether you want to hunt them on limited entry structure or over the counter structure. In the feeling by the committee was that we probably ought to ease turkey hunters into this program rather than just come out and shock them and go strictly over the counter.

Gaskill- Do we have hunter surveys to back that up or not?

Dolling- That was just the feeling of the committee that met and discussed this current structure that we are recommending.

Gaskill- O.K. I will let you off the hook.

Lawrence- How many ptarmigan hunters do we typically have?

Dolling- Do you want to know exactly?

Lawrence- Just roughly.

Dolling- Jason says 50.

Lawrence- How successful are they?

Dolling- They harvest about a half a bird per person, 20-21.

Leonard- I was on that committee and the proposal we came up with was a compromise and it was intended to transition hunters and those felt like they would trade away opportunity once every ten years and stick with limited entry could certainly choose to do that. We were pushing hard to maximize the opportunity and I know you are a supporter of opportunity for the folks to get out there and hunt. Success and turkey hunting hinges a great deal on knowledge and experience of the hunter. There are some skills and abilities that are unique to turkey hunting and you have to hunt every year for a number of years to really be able to pick up and be skillful at it. Those that will take the time to develop and learn those skills know how to pattern turkeys; will be much more successful than those that don't. We are in that transition period now for the hunters out there. I think we are on the right track and I commend the division for helping promote this.

Byrnes- If we only had over the counter sales, we would not move that hunt up to the time period of limited entry hunting would we?

Dolling- We could move it earlier than it currently is. We would have to look at whether we want to have that hunt a little bit later in April than our current limited entry hunt.

Byrnes- You would have a lot greater impact on the breeding at that time.

Dolling- It is kind of a bi-mobile breeding that takes place in April and then another spike in May. We would have to look at that and at some of the other states around us and make a judgment call.

Byrnes- Do federal regulations set the possession limit on those migrating species?

Dolling- They do. There is some discussion about going to three times the daily bag on some migratory birds but it won't happen this year.

Byrnes- So that is why we are still at two on those?

Dolling- Correct.

Gaskill- Do you know what the other states around us and close to us, when they start their turkey seasons?

Dolling- I don't off the top of my head; I would have to look into that.

Gaskill- April 15.

Dolling- So, you asked a question you already knew the answer to.

Gaskill- Yes, I do that occasionally in case you hadn't noticed.

Dolling- I did notice.

Leonard- Biologists basically say that the second weekend in April is the recommendation for not starting turkey hunting season before that. By that time, pretty much all the hens have been bred and they are not interfering with breeding.

Wall- During the ptarmigan hunt, have they turned white?

Dolling- Yes, they will turn a modeled white and as winter progresses, they become completely white.

Wall- But during the hunt they are not completely white?

Dolling- During the hunt they are in that transition phase.

Cowley- We talked about growing the youth hunts by allowing the adults with them to carry guns. Is that for other species that have open seasons during that period?

Dolling- Correct.

Cowley- Doesn't that put out too much of a temptation for them to shoot the youth hunt species.

Dolling- They are on the honor system and hopefully they would the youth to harvest those species that are currently open.

Cowley- It seems like a higher risk. Can you tell me the counties that are open for pheasants on the extended season?

Hodson- They are on the honor system but there is also a group of game wardens out there so it is not completely the honor system.

Dolling- The counties that are open to the extended pheasant hunt just includes state and federal lands in Carbon, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, Juab, Millard, San Juan, Sanpete, Sevier, Tooele and Uintah counties.

Cowley- Having grown up in Sevier and being down there frequently, I just don't even see the pheasants there to justify the extended hunt. Do we have numbers that suggest they can handle the additional pressure or because there is none there, it does not really matter?

Dolling- It is kind of based on those things I laid out in the beginning of my presentation where hunting has very little impact on upland game populations, so it is an opportunity thing. There may be some birds there and I am not familiar exactly with where you are talking about. There are pheasants in Sevier County so it is an opportunity thing. Because hunting does not really impact upland game populations, we do not feel there is any biological impact by extending those seasons in those particular counties. In fact, if it was not sensitive from the standpoint of

private landowner hunter relations, we would probably recommend a longer season for pheasants statewide.

Cowley- Why would we not open the entire state for the extended season given that argument?

Dolling- There has been a lot of resistance in the past in certain counties that they did not want to have to deal with hunters day in and day out for a four week period. It boils down to landowner tolerance because pheasants are primarily found on private land.

Cowley- Can you talk a little bit about the bag limit and why we are extending that from 2 to 3 for many of these species and also about what is found in the states around us?

Dolling- The reason why we opted to increase the possession limit, the bag limit has stayed the same.

Cowley- Right.

Dolling- But the possession limits we opted to increase those because it would provide opportunities to those who travel long distances and want to hunt several days in a row to come back with more birds than they would under our old structure. Biologically, we did not feel that was an issue and virtually all surrounding states allow for three times the daily bag for those particular species.

Cowley- Birds in possession, how does that differ for their bag limits in other states?

Dolling- The possession limit applies in the field and also applies to the birds you have home in the freezer.

Cowley- There is a difference if the bag limit is 3, you are allowed 3 possessions vs. a bag limit of 4 and you are allowed 3 possessions.

Dolling- Correct.

Cowley- So, my question is do you know what the other states are as far as total birds that can be held at any one time?

Dolling- The other states tend to have a smaller one bird less in the bag. Some have four times the daily possession. In that case, there could be 12 birds in possession. Some only have 3; in that case, you could have 9 in possession. We are sitting in comparison to the other states, we are setting one bird higher in the bag and our recommended possession would be pretty much in line with the other states with the exception of one state that has a possession limit of four times the daily bag. I am thinking it is Wyoming.

Cowley- There again, it is an honesty issue.

Dolling- It is an honesty issue except when you are in the field, as Ron indicated, if law enforcement approaches you and you have more than three times the daily bag in possession. When you get them home, it is more of an honesty issue.

Cowley- It is a trust issue.

Groll- Clarification on shot size. Can you use number 8 or is it not allowed?

Dolling- You can use down to size number 8?

Groll- And including size 8?

Dolling- Yes.

Public Comment

Todd Ballantyne-Self- There is a restriction against falconry for hunting turkey. There is no one out there that I know of clamoring to hunt turkey but the prohibition is there. A few people are hunting with eagles these days more than use to. If they want to is there a reason why we could not remove the restriction?

Byrnes- Do you want to respond to that Justin?

Dolling- I think we spoke on the phone about this and I don't have the history on why turkey were excluded. Biologically, I can't see any reason why we could not allow for falconers to take one turkey per year if they obtained a limited entry permit or over the counter permit.

RAC Comments and Questions

Gaskill- Limited entry turkey. It clearly is a social thing and, according to Justin, there is no biological reason for limited entry turkey hunt. It flies in the face of all our other limited entry hunts. I don't see the value of it.

Leonard- If we are working on a three year plan and this is a compromise that has worked out pretty well and is transitioning to over the counter eventually. When the plan comes up for review after next year it will be looked at. It is very important with turkey hunting that we only take the males out of the population; I think that may be a problem with hunting with eagles.

Gaskill- We are working on a three year plan but what this guidebook does is make it a six year plan. We are not reviewing turkey regulations until 2013 which means 2014 when we implement them. We have essentially doubled our little experiment which didn't have a good reason to start with. Now, we are just extending what I think is a bad idea.

Cowley- On the limited entry, how long of a break in period do you think is needed there? I understand Jim's question here.

Dolling- The committee settled on a three year period. The thing that is problematic is that we are hunting turkeys in year two as we speak and we will not have data for this particular hunt until well past the turkey season. We almost have to hunt turkeys for four years before we get three years worth of data. I don't think it will extend it for six years, I think what it will do is take it for five years. We would have a little bit of breathing room to actually sit down after the fourth year, have three years of data and bring this committee back together and have some discussions to see if things could be modified for the fifth year.

Gaskill- What data is going to be relevant?

Dolling- We would be looking for the three performance targets: hunter success with the limited entry and over the counter, crowding and hunter satisfaction.

Gaskill- Not biological data, just hunter satisfaction.

Dolling- Yes. Hunter success would kind of be biological.

Gaskill- But not really because it does not have effect on turkey population.

Lawrence- Many times we do a hunt just because of satisfaction. You think about the Henry Mountains, you could hunt a lot more deer down there but from a standpoint of crowding and things like that. Limited entry has value.

Cowley- What additional costs are there in running the two types of hunts? If the state were to do away with limited entry, what would be the cost savings financially to the state and people of Utah?

Dolling- Would one of you guys in licensing even dare venture a guess at that?

Kenny Johnson- Administrative Services Salt Lake- It is a fair question. There are two things going on. Over the counter sales through our licensed agents and our counters and applications through our draw contracts in Nevada. Over the last couple of years, we have seen those numbers in applications decline a little bit. We would probably actually lose some revenue there specifically for turkey by going just to over the counter. We sold about 10,000 over the

counter last year. This year, the last number I saw was just over 6,000. It is kind of self regulating a little bit. Just the supply and demand right now. Doing away with limited entry, you would lose some application money.

Cowley- Thank you very much.

Selman- I think we are famous for starting a three or five year plan and then interrupt it in the middle and start over. Let it run its course. If it takes five years, that's fine. I don't see a problem with the way it is. If you get a coveted limited entry tag, you are all by yourself. If you want to go later, if you didn't get one, you can go later and endure the crowds. To me, everybody wins. I think it is a great program, let it run its course. Let the committee do what it has set out to do.

Gaskill- Do we have any data on forest grouse that would affect your proposed changes to the season and the bag limit? Is that also based on letting more people hunt because you don't think it is going to hurt anything?

Dolling- That is a big part of it. I think our forest grouse population is underutilized. We don't have any data one way or another to venture a guess at how many forest grouse we have here in the state. I did hear some concern last night at the RAC about dusky grouse populations not doing as well. I don't know where that was coming from. Whether that was actual research or anecdotal stuff people were seeing in the field. The biologists are not voicing any concern about the current health of our dusky grouse populations here in the state. We feel that they can sustain that little longer season and also increased possession limit.

Gaskill- I tend to agree with that but I am anecdotal this time. I think one of the areas that the population is underutilized but also understudied. I would really like to see some work on forest grouse; maybe some habitat proposals would be in order that we might find out how many forest grouse we have.

Dolling- I think those are good suggestions and I would love to do more work on forest grouse.

Leonard- Turkey conservation tags, we need to fix that. It was originally intended that they would revert to statewide during the late season and that did not get done. I understand it takes a rule tweak that we could incorporate with some other stuff that are going to the legislature.

Just a reminder that we try and fix that. We have had to get the late season added on last minute. Maybe we could fix that once and for all. They had to be limited to one region because of this rule change that is required when you go from a limited entry to a general hunt.

Dolling- If my memory is correct, that comes under a different rule. That is the conservation permit rule where we would lay out how those permits could be utilized and what the seasons are and when they are valid.

Leonard- Right. Whatever rule needs to be changed.

Dolling- I can definitely put the bug in Alan's ear.

Cowley- How many falconers do we have in the field and do you think that if we did allow them to hunt turkeys with their birds there would be a significant hit on the females? Would that be a concern or are there not enough falconers out there for it to be a concern.

Dolling- I can't answer that question of how many are in the field. We have a coordinator that coordinates our falconry program. In my discussions with the gentleman back here, I don't see a lot of interest and he did not see a lot of interest in falconer's actually pursuing turkey because they would have to fly golden eagles. I did talk to our falconry coordinator and he said that currently there are only 2 licensed falconers that have golden eagles. Even if they take 2 hens every year from here on out, it will not have a biological impact. If it grows to 50 or 60 then we would have to put some limitations to it.

Cowley- You would have to allow the taking of females correct? We don't have the selectivity?

Dolling- Yes, it would be any turkey.

Cowley- In that instance of a falconer taking a turkey?

Dolling- Yes. That would probably have to be a formal recommendation from the RAC for us to consider that. We would have to incorporate that into our rule.

Lawrence- Like the direction the youth hunt is going. Commend the division.

Motion

Motion: Gaskill- Move to accept the recommendations with the exception of the limited entry turkey.

Motion dies due to lack of a second.

Motion: Wall- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the recommendations for Upland Game, Turkey and Crane as presented.

Second: Gaskill

Question

Cowley- Does that allow for falconry hunting?

Motion Passes: For 6: Against 2

Gaskill- I don't think this RAC would be opposed to appropriate falconry regulations regarding turkey. I don't think Todd was here to make that proposal. I think he wants to bring it up and if he wants to bring back up a formal proposal, I would listen to it favorably.

Byrnes- Since it has been brought up and we have our Wildlife Board representatives here, they might consider putting it on an action log. Or, at least discussing it.

Item 6. 2012 Buck Deer Unit Boundaries

- Randy Wood, Regional Wildlife Manager

See Handout

RAC Questions

Cowley- On limited entry; do those actually have unit numbers associated with them?

Wood- Yes.

Byrnes- When people apply for these units in 2012 and if they wanted to apply for 4, 5 and 6 is it going to be a number like that? Or, are you going to renumber the system?

Wood- I'm not exactly sure. Licensing may know.

Byrnes- It is somewhat confusing if you combine 3 units together. I can certainly tell by looking at the name that you combined them but if I am applying for 4, 5 and 6, it is a little strange to me.

Bryan Christensen- Licensing Specialist Salt Lake Office- If it were up to me, I would do it by numbers. I think we will see it continue to be hunt names. Names that people have been familiar with.

Byrnes- Are we going to renumber the units now that we have combined them?

Christensen- No.

Wood- I don't know what it will look like when you get to that application.

Motion

Motion: Gaskill- Move the Wildlife Board accept the Unit Boundaries proposal as presented.

Second: Leonard

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 7. 2012 Dedicated Hunter Program Proposals

- Rhianna Christopher, Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Gaskill- Could you tell me the status now in the dedicated hunter applications. Did it increase or decrease this year?

Christopher- It decreased. We had about 1,100 applicants since 2000. We went down 15% in 2009 and another 10% in 2010.

Gaskill- Do you have a known reason or good speculation?

Christopher- I have speculation and I think the reasons vary. I think the increase in service hours contributed to the decrease. I think we also need to be realistic and realize the economy also had an effect on that. In our application period for 2011, the uncertainty to going to unit by unit certainly affected our enrollment.

Lawrence- I think a lot of it was uncertainty on what was going to be happening in the future. We still have a cap at 10,000 even though probably all those southern region units will end up at 15% and maybe these other units that dedicated hunters have not been hitting maybe as low at 2-5%. Does it matter that we have a cap?

Christopher- Right now, certainly not. That 10,000 cap was an arbitrary number. It is a cap; it does not necessarily mean we have to have that to make the program successful. The 15% was to make sure that dedicated hunters were being distributed evenly. So, of course that number will fluctuate depending on the unit.

Byrnes- On your slide for the dollars, that was just within the division correct? That was not without matching dollars that we receive?

Christopher- That is correct. These were pretty hard numbers that we could actually firmly identify. So, we did not take into consideration the matching dollars.

Byrnes- You received some additional money in matching for all of that work?

Christopher- Absolutely.

Byrnes- I am a little confused on the drawing. If I chose a unit and I get a tag for 3 years on a general unit, let's say it is the La Sal, I can still apply for limited entry tags during that period or not?

Christopher- Yes, the trick is the first year, if you apply for limited entry and draw that, then you will just receive a point for dedicated hunter. If you apply on your second year and you are in the program, then you will actually forgo that year in the program if you draw a limited entry permit.

Lawrence- Why do we do that?

Byrnes- Let's say I receive a general unit tag the first year. So, I am going to get that for 3 years.

Christopher- O.k.

Byrnes- The second year, I apply in the limited entry system and get a limited entry tag, I am assuming that general tag goes back to the public or someone else in the dedicated hunter program.

Christopher- Yes.

Byrnes- Then, in the third year, am I going to bounce someone out of that general unit and get my tag back again?

Christopher- The tag is held for you for that three year period. Applying for limited entry is optional.

Byrnes- But if I drew limited entry in the middle, that tag hopefully goes back in the dedicated hunter 15%.

Christopher- Those numbers do go into general season quota.

Byrnes- O.K.

Gaskill- Still, you only get to shoot 2 deer in 3 years.

Christopher- Right, general season deer.

Byrnes- Any 2 deer in 3 years irregardless correct?

Christopher- Well, the way the rule is written right now, there is a kink where you can, if you draw a limited entry permit, you can actually harvest. A limited entry permit outside of the program, you can actually harvest 3 deer in 3 years.

Byrnes- If someone draws a limited entry tag, they would be basically suspended that there dedicated hunter program would be extended a year. Could you do that?

Christopher- Certainly, anything is possible. It is a 3 year COR so I am not really sure what process would need to be put in place to be able to extend a COR.

Byrnes- Alright.

Lawrence- With the limited entry, there is not that many hunters that would draw every year that are in the program. So, why make them have that count as one of their years of service? I have missed 2 years and the reason I skipped is because I knew I was going to draw that tag because I had enough points. Wouldn't it be just as easy if once that hunter draws, have them notify you and just credit them with another year on the back end?

Christopher- It is certainly possible but you would be surprised how many folks do draw a limited entry permit during the year. This dates back before my time so I am not really sure why it was written that way.

Selman- You can still go donate your time.

Lawrence- You know me, I am out there all the time.

RAC Comments

Gaskill- I think this is a really valuable program. I have not participated in it but I see the value in it. It seems to me that we ought to do whatever we can do not let the number of dedicated

hunters decrease significantly like they have. I am thinking maybe one of the things we could do would be to reduce the number of required service hours from 40 down to 32.
Cowley- From the forest service perspective, we use a lot of dedicated hunters. They make a real difference out on public lands and we certainly appreciate that extra effort that the division puts in to helping us maintain both the various structures and features on the land to benefit wildlife.

Motion

Motion: Gaskill- Move the Wildlife Board accept the recommendations as presented with the exception of the reduction of hours from 40 to 32.

Second: Lawrence

Discussion on the motion

Gaskill- If we reduce it by 8 and we pick up one more, we have actually increased it.

Motion Passes: For: 5 Against: 3

Item 8. 2012 Lifetime License, Landowner Permits and other changes required to implement buck deer unit hunt strategies

- Bryan Christensen, Licensing Specialist

See Handout

RAC Questions

Gaskill- How did you arrive at that likely scenario? Just give me an overall idea since we don't have any experience with it.

Christensen- The 4% of lifetime license holders is based off of how many we know are applying. Currently there is about 4,600 licenses. Not all of them are obtaining hunting permits from year to year. They typically hover between 3,200-3,500. This year is a little higher, just about 4,000. If we kind of base that around a 95,000-100,000 permit scenario which we know is not going to be that high, in 2012 it is roughly 4%. If it is in the 3,200-3,500 permit range, the lifetimes have taken in years past 87,000-90,000 is probably pretty close to that 4%. That is what we expect to be taken by the lifetime license holders. The dedicated hunter group number varies. They would like to see up to 15% for dedicated hunters. That does depend on how many lifetime license holders are applying. The more there are there, the smaller the quota to base the 15% off of. We just adjusted a little bit thinking that maybe it might not hit the full capacity of 15%. The youth we would like to see it reach the full 20% but the only way that can be achieved is if there are no dedicated hunters and no lifetime license holders. In most scenarios, that number is probably going to be a little lower than 20% but not a lot. Does that make sense?

Gaskill- Yes.

Christensen- They are really all intertwined.

Gaskill- This is not really based on any preference for a particular unit. This is just a scenario based on the number of dedicated hunters and lifetime licenses etc. It may fluctuate mildly if we looked at a unit that no one likes opposed to a unit that traditionally everybody thinks has big deer.

Christensen- The one difference there, you mentioned it could fluctuate up. Lifetime licenses is the wildcard. Dedicated hunter and youth are a percentage so it can't ever exceed a certain percentage. Those two are very well controlled. Lifetime licenses is a different issue where we are guaranteeing them a unit choice, there could be a scenario where there is a lot of interest in one unit and a lot of lifetime licensees flock to one unit. We just have not seen that in the past. We have seen and heard comments from our lifetime license holders and traditionally, they go to the same spot. We just have not seen migrations in these units. We have to get through one year and see how it goes. We will keep our eye on it and adjust accordingly.

Gaskill- Why do we want to reduce the number of guys that can hunt together? Why limit it to 4?

Christensen- There are a couple of reasons for that and I can understand the concern from reducing it from 10 to 4 especially when we live in a state that traditionally hunt with family and friends. What we originally looked at in these conversations with these proposals was what does a unit look like with quotas, numbers and permits in each unit compared to what it looked like within the region. One of those conversations was that in a region scenario, we have 14,000 plus permits that go out so it is a huge chunk for a big area. When you go into a unit, you might break that down into it might be 100 permits for a unit. I don't know the exact numbers that go into each unit. It would be a fraction of what it used to be. What reducing the number of people in a group does is it actually increases the number of families or the number of groups that can be up there. It will reduce the number of people in a particular camp that have permits but it will increase the number of families or the number of groups. Some of us will go hunting whether one or all have permits. That is just one way of looking at it where the intent was not to make it hard. It was just to be able to spread out the opportunity among groups. One thing that we looked at real hard was something we had never actually looked at before and that was how many groups are actually applying as groups and in what quantity. We found that 94% of the applicants are applying in groups of 4 or less. If I look at it right, it was like 2-3% were actually doing groups of 8 or more. It was a very small number.

Gaskill- Why change then if it is not significant?

Christensen- It is a proposal we had.

Gaskill- There has to be a reason to change.

Christensen- The main reason is just to increase the number of families or groups and not necessarily the number of permits within one family or group. It is something that is debatable. It would also be consistent with all other drawings.

Lawrence- With the unit by unit being probably more difficult to draw, the demand for putting in as groups might actually increase now. Going with Jim's argument that maybe we would want to keep it at 10 and see what happens. I could potentially see that demand increasing just because it is a lot harder to draw now for a unit that you want.

Motion

Motion: Cowley- Move the Wildlife Board accept the proposal as presented with exception the group size remain at 10.

Second: Gaskill

Motion Passes: For: 7 Against: 1

Item 9 R657-12 Rule Amendment - Veterans Fishing License

- Kenny Johnson, Business Analyst

See Handout

RAC Questions

Cowley- How do you determine whether a person is 40%, 50%, 60% disabled? How do you make that judgment call?

Johnson- We actually don't determine that. The veteran's board does. They provide every service connected veteran with some sort of certification indicating that level of disability. That is already done at the federal level.

Motion

Motion: Gaskill- Move the Wildlife Board accept the proposal as presented.

Second: Van Tassell

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 10. 2011 General Season Extensions for Hunters with Disabilities

- Kenny Johnson, Business Analyst

See Handout

RAC Questions

Cowley- Who makes the decision here on disability and what percentage?

Johnson- These are not really related to what we just talked about with veterans. There is really no percentage. We do have an application process that the legislature introduced several years ago and it identified several areas. We still have a process and have updated our rule about a year ago. If it is a life impact disability outside of what we have identified, we can actually review it under the ADA guidelines. My office does the majority of those.

Cowley- That is one of the comments I heard from the public is the judgment on what is really a disability.

Johnson- We try not to make that determination. During the application process, they fill it out and explain what the disability is and the doctor attests to that.

Gaskill- How many people are we talking about?

Johnson- We offer a few different things. General season extensions, there are about 350, last year 345. That has been pretty constant the last 4-5 years.

Motion

Motion: Cowley- Move the Wildlife Board accept the proposal as presented.

Second: Wall

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 11. Least Chub Presentation

-Samuel McKay, Native Aquatic Biologist

Short informational presentation on Least Chub.
Utah's smallest native chub.

RAC Questions

Gaskill- I seem to recall there was some talk about these chubs being valuable as mosquito eaters. Is that still true or am I thinking of something else?

McKay- Yes, the mosquito abatement district has been experimenting with putting these chubs into private ponds, mostly the Salt Lake district.

Paul Thompson- Last year, Salt Lake county did a study between the chubs and mosquito to see if they could eat mosquito larvae. They found they were fairly comparable. Last year, I believe Salt Lake county went entirely from mosquito fish to these chubs.

Gaskill- How does that interact with what you are presenting to us now?

McKay- They are considered experimental.

Gaskill- So you don't regulate them or attempt to do anything with them?

Thompson- No. It is a temporary placement of fish to control mosquitos.

***Presentation of framed art work in recognition of service on the Northern Region RAC to out going RAC members Shawn Groll and Bret Selman by Ron Hodson.

Meeting Ends: 8:25 p.m.