

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Beaver High School
Beaver, UT
September 20, 2011
7:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. PRIVATE FISH PONDS RULE R657-59

MOTION: To accept the Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. FISHING CONTESTS AND CLINICS RULE R657-58

MOTION: To accept the Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58

VOTE: Unanimous

4. FISHING GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-13

MOTION: To accept the Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 as presented.

VOTE: unanimous

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
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 September 20, 2011
 7:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Chairman Steve Flinders Cordell Pearson Paul Briggs Mike Worthen Layne Torgerson Brian Johnson Clair Woodbury Mike Staheli Dave Black Sam Carpenter Rusty Aiken Mack Morrell	Douglas Messerly Giani Julander Mike Ottenbacher Mike Hadley Richard Hepworth Drew Cushing Roger Wilson Lynn Chamberlain Teresa Griffin Wayne Gustaveson Brent Farnsworth Jim Whelan Russell Stoker		Dale Bagley

Steve Flinders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 0 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Steve Flinders introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves.

Steve Flinders: It's 7 o'clock; let's get this meeting started. I'm Steve Flinders the Chair; I represent the Fishlake and Dixie National Forests. I don't see Jake here tonight. Let's start by introducing the RAC. Mack, do you want to start down there?

Mack Morrell: Yep. Mack Morrell from Bicknell, agriculture.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City, agriculture.

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

Dave Black: Dave Black, St. George, at-large.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli, Delta, at-large.

Clair Woodbury: I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane. I represent the public at-large.

Douglas Messerly: I'm Doug Messerly, regional supervisor with the Division of Wildlife. Myself and my staff act as executive secretary to this committee but we don't vote on the action items.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson, non-consumptive, from Cedar City.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson, sportsman's representative from Richfield.

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen, Cedar City, public at-large.

Paul Briggs: Paul Briggs, BLM offices throughout the southern region.

Cordell Pearson: Cordell Pearson from Circleville, at-large.

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Moving right along. We've got what I'd call a limited audience tonight. We'll skip over the meeting order and move to the approval of the agenda and minutes.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Steve Flinders: Any discussion? Did everybody see the meeting's minutes from last time?

Cordell Pearson: I'll make a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting.

Steve Flinders: And agenda?

Cordell Pearson: Yes, and agenda.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Cordell. Seconded by Layne. Those in favor? Any opposed? It looks unanimous.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as written. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Wildlife Board Update: -Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: In the way of Wildlife Board updates, information for the RAC, as you recall last meeting we talked about wildlife . . . well let me just look at the notes from the Board meeting. They focus on the changes in cougar management plan and harvest recommendation. What the Wildlife Board passed was a motion to accept the cougar management plan or advised harvest recommendations, including some changes on the South Slope, Bonanza, Diamond Mountain, Vernal unit. So everything else was as presented. So our change for the date went away. There was a lot of discussion. We didn't

have any organized houndsman that night at our meeting, but they were there at the Board meeting and voiced their opinion strongly and the Wildlife Board discussed it thoroughly. It seemed in the end if these changes that were brought on by the Division in terms of revising that cougar management plan and changing the harvest recommendations, and the quota units, and the females, they said that they didn't want to change too many things and so they left that transition date alone, the way it's been. It didn't appease the houndsman. They were still pretty upset. Anything else Doug that you recall from the Board meeting? Any questions? Sure.

Rusty Aiken: How did the houndsman react to the recommendation or what they passed?

Steve Flinders: Yu might want to pull up the minutes and look. You can see, you can actually listen to the meeting and you'll hear who was there. There were folks who were individuals that expressed varying opinions compared to a couple of organized groups. There were some outfitters there. For the most part they thought it was too aggressive. Too aggressive of changes; that we're going to kill more lions than it's going to be good for their business or their hobby. And I guess the take-home discussion for me was hey we've done this before. The Division has the data that shows we've reduced the cougar population and held it down, yet what have deer done? We can't show a change in the population. Maybe there's some local changes and that's why we're making these changes but; that's the discussion that I got out of it. Moving on, Doug do you want to give us a regional update?

Regional Update:

-Douglas Messerly, Regional Supervisor

Douglas Messerly: Thanks Mr. Chairman. Just a few items.

- We're still selling general season elk tags over the counter, over the counter at our license agents and on our web site. There are about 2,000. As of today there are about 2,000 spike tags left and about 3,000 any bull tags left. They've sold out the last few years and so if anyone is interested in getting one of those they probably ought to hustle to their computer or down to a license agent or one of our offices to get those.
- We recently held our annual Division of Wildlife awards banquet where we honor employees. Blaine Cox was named as the Southern Region employee of the year. Blaine is our dedicated hunter volunteer services coordinator and he's had an outstanding year and done a really super job helping all the sections in helping things in many areas of our responsibility of managing wildlife. In addition to that our own Paul Briggs received the Kevin Conway award, which is an award that was established several years ago to honor those who have done outstanding work in wildlife habitat restoration. And I can attest to having worked with Paul since that idea was first dreamed up; that he has done a super job and it was well deserved. A great honor. Kevin, for those of you who don't know is a past director and a dear friend of mine. It was his notion to come up with this habitat initiative. And I can assure you that it's grown way beyond his wildest dreams. But Kevin passed away a couple of years after that and this award was established in his honor.
- The RAC training that we had for those of you that attended I thank you for coming to that. It was, I hope you feel like it was worthwhile. There was some pretty good discussion and you'll see in front of you those that weren't

able to make it, the materials that were handed out at that meeting except for, of course, the trinkets and the goodies. In any event I would encourage you to attend that when you can. And I think those that did attend would tell you that they gained something from it. It was held at the Cabelas' facility and that in it self was kind interesting and exciting. In any even that was held successfully in August.

- Fall fishing is coming on. Of course our hunts are in progress. The wildlife officers are reporting very few problems. We have had a couple of significant cases but it's been pretty quiet hunt from the standpoint of law enforcement problems thus far. The weather's been good for all the openings. Most people that I've talked to about it, particularly with the archery deer hunt, have remarked about how uncrowned it was or how few people they saw in the field. I'm not sure exactly how to explain that, it's still statewide archery and it may be that people are adjusting to hunting closer to home in anticipation of what's coming next year; but that's just speculation on my part. But in any event things are going pretty quite with that.
- And don't forget the fall fishing. It's a great time of year to get out there as the water temperatures drop back through those ideal ranges, it's a good time to go. Wayne Gustaveson is here tonight from Lake Powell. I think he would tell you that . . . In fact Wayne why don't you if you don't mind if you'd give us a little update on what's happening at Lake Powell, just a few minutes on how great the fishing is there.

Wayne Gustaveson: I'm going to tell you how the fishing is going to be because right now we're in a problem with too much forage. And that makes biologists just grin because that makes all your fish species get bigger and better and stronger. And when the water's warm and there's too much forage why fishing by fisherman is not that good. But as soon as it cools we're going to have some great fishing at Lake Powell. Probably some surface activity as well, but the condition as far as fish and forage is probably as good as it can be right now. So that's good because it was just a year ago when we were forage limited and striped bass populations started to drop in physical condition, whereas now we reduced that population with angler harvest, which is our goal, and the forage came back. The brush really helps, the brush line that's been covered up at Lake Powell, and we're in great shape. If you have questions on Lake Powell I'll be glad to talk about them. That's a brief overview of where we are right now.

Douglas Messerly: Very brief. Thank you Wayne. How did I know he'd be ready to do that. In any event, don't forget the fishing this fall and have a good time. If there are any questions at this time Mr. Chairman I'd be glad to try to address them. If not, that's my presentation.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug. Any questions? Appreciate that. Well let's move into the agenda. First private fish ponds rule. Drew. It looks like it's just for the benefit of the RAC tonight so Drew (unintelligible).

Drew Cushing: I guess that's good, or bad.

Steve Flinders: First you've got to tell us about that picture though.

Drew Cushings: That a nice brown. That's one of our guys, Paul Thompson up in the Bear River drainage. And that's a 29.5-inch brown. Just great fish in a small stream no less. I thought that would be a good introductory slide. If you notice Roger's not up here; he took a new job, which is maybe good for him, maybe bad, we don't know. He's the new section chief and I've replaced him so I'm up here. We have three agenda items. I don't know if you want to handle them all at once with one vote or three separate votes. It's up to you guys. The changes in the first two are pretty simple.

Steve Flinders: We can move through them independently and stick to this agenda. It won't take us long to vote on them.

Drew Cushings: Okay.

Steve Flinders: You must be doing things right, I don't sense a lot of controversy tonight.

Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59 (action) 11:52 to 14:18 of 1:06:14
-Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Thanks Drew. Are those HUC references?

Drew Cushing: They are. Hydrologic Unicode. They're just drainage numbers. You know it's nationwide accounting for . . .

Steve Flinders: At what level are those?

Drew Cushing: Those are eights and tens.

Steve Flinders: Are they?

Drew Cushing: Yep.

Steve Flinders: Any questions from the RAC? Questions from the public? No comment cards. Open for a motion.

Clair Woodbury: What's an eight and ten?

Steve Flinders: It's just the relative size of a watershed.

Clair Woodbury: Okay.

Steve Flinders: Big versus . . .

Drew Cushing: Big versus smaller.

Clair Woodbury: Ten is the biggest?

Drew Cushing: Ten is smaller. Eight is bigger. Yeah, one would be like the Colorado River drainage and then on down to Birch Creek would be a ten.

Clair Woodbury: That's the smallest.

Drew Cushing: Yep. There's actually smaller but we don't deal with them.

Questions from the public:

None.

Comments from the public:

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Entertain a motion?

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make the motion that we accept Rule R-657059 as presented.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Layne. Second?

Sam Carpenter: I second.

Steve Flinders: Seconded by Sam. Discussion on the motion? Those in favor? Any against? That makes one Drew.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59 as presented. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Drew Cushing: Okay, moving on.

Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58 (action) 15:45 to 16:58 of 1:06:14

- Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator

(See attachment 1)

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Any questions for Drew?

Questions from the RAC:

None.

Steve Flinders: Questions from the audience?

Questions from the public:

None.

Steve Flinders: No comment cards.

Comments from the public:

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Motion? Brian.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we accept the, where are we at here,

Steve Flinders: Number six.

Brian Johnson: Number six, R-657-58 as presented.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Brain. Second? Seconded by Clair. Any discussion? Those in favor? Any against? It's unanimous again.

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58 as presented. Clair Woodbury seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Drew.

Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 (action) 17:52 to 25:24 of 1:06:14
-Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Any questions from the RAC? Go ahead Clair.

Clair Woodbury: On the small mouth bass in Quail Lake, Sand Hollow, weren't those originally stocked by the Division, the small mouth in those lakes? It seemed like that was one of their original stockings. Were they just large mouth?

Drew Cushing: I'm looking at our entire staff and they say no.

Clair Woodbury: No? So that was all illegally introduced.

Drew Cushing: Yes sir.

Clair Woodbury: And they've just escaped into the Virgin River or have they been put in there also?

Drew Cushing: Uh, they've probably been put in Gunlock, if I read the Santa Clare thing. They were found just below Gunlock Reservoir and so they were probably illegally introduced into Gunlock and then escaped through the exit. And the same thing for Quail Creek, probably escaped into the Virgin through the outlet there.

Steve Flinders: Other questions?

Clair Woodbury: On the Virgin River, how extensive is the small mouth problem in there?

Drew Cushing: They treat that thing yearly and they survey the heck out of it. And so there's probably just a few is my guess, that's what we were told. It's just that they, you know, you don't want any more. And this is more of a message that should be passed with the public, that if you put them there they won't be, they won't be tolerated. They won't be managed.

Steve Flinders: Good questions Clair. Sure Paul.

Paul Briggs: Did that uh, the Baker Dam Reservoir, is that not on the list because that water doesn't make it clear to the Virgin or is that just an oversight?

Drew Cushing: Did you hear that Mike?

Mike Ottenbacher: Which reservoir?

Paul Briggs: Baker Dam.

Drew Cushing: Baker Dam.

Douglas Messerly: Baker Dam is on the Santa Clara.

Mike Ottenbacher: Baker is on the Santa Clara. Really we could add that as well. It's dewatered below the reservoir for a substantial portion so there probably isn't near the threat that we have with those other reservoirs. But it's something that we could consider too; add that to the list.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

None.

Steve Flinders: No comment cards.

Comments from the public:

None.

RAC discussion and vote:

Steve Flinders: Further discussion? Motion? Sure Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I make the motion that we accept the Fishing Guidebook and Rule, R-657-13 as proposed.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Clair. Second? Second by Paul. Any discussion? Those in favor? Any against? Thanks.

Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 as presented. Paul Briggs seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: Do you want to go through that slide there? Guys, this is informational. I guess we'll see this probably in December as an action item.

Southern Region Native Cutthroat Trout (informational) 29:08 to 30:30 of 1:06:14

-Mike Hadley, Aquatics Biologist

(see attachment 1)

Steve Flinders: Any questions:

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Sure Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I'm curious why it's fishless. Isn't there the browns down in Corn Creek, they don't go up that far?

Mike Hadley: Yeah, there is a couple of natural barriers on that stream now. They're not what you would consider complete fish barriers but apparently they to this point have been sufficient to prevent any brown trout from moving up stream into the North Fork.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Sure Layne.

Layne Torgerson: So is it considered in the future to put the cutthroats in the main Corn Creek?

Mike Hadley: At this time no. Basically we're looking at this as a good opportunity to expand some fish population that we have and it's basically a good opportunity. We don't plan on expanding them any further down the Corn Creek. That's a really valuable brown trout fishery.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? Low hanging fruit it sounds like. This will be a good project. Thank you.

Questions from the Public:

None.

Panguitch Lake (informational) 31:54 to 33:47 of 1:06:14

-Drew Cushing

(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Questions? Hang on Drew.

Dave Black: I just want to make a comment on Panguitch Lake. I've talked to some of the store owners; been up there a little bit this summer. And for the most part everybody that I've talked to has been super happy with the quality of fishing, the size of fish. The stores are busy. I would say what we did in 2006 was a success. And so unless somebody would disagree, but I think we were very successful in what's happened up there. One question that I would have is right now they're taking a lot of water out of the lake, not on purpose, I guess the outlet structure is broken and they have to draw it all the way down. I'm just wondering if this opens up a window for anything. I know there were some plants in the lake that were kind of a threat. Is this open a window of opportunity to treat those? Does it open a window of opportunity to get a better count on the fish, or the size of the fish? It's just kind of an anomaly and I didn't know if we're going to miss this window of an opportunity to do something to evaluate the lake while it was so low.

Mike Ottenbacher: Dave, I'll give you a little bit information. We probably could have colluded it on the general regional information. We've had a lot of interest in Panguitch over this last year and part of it was generated by the problems with the outlet gate and the lowering of the reservoir this fall. Actually it's not going to be anything out of the ordinary. At last report from the water users and water rights folks and engineers, they're not planning on draining it down any lower than about what it is now. They're looking at maintaining about eight feet of active storage above the natural lake level, which really is not too unusual of a situation. We were actually down to near the natural lake level during the drought years in the early 2000's. Biologically it's really not going to have an impact on the lake. It might make it a little bit tougher fishing accessing the lake this fall or it might make it better fishing by concentrating the fish. But as far as major biological impacts we don't anticipate it, anything associated with repair work this year as far as windows of opportunity. Again, it's not much different than what has occurred in the past. Again, as you had mentioned there has been a lot of interest in regulations and the status of the fishery and the potential of perhaps increasing the quality there. We've heard from a number of anglers. So if the RAC thinks it's appropriate that we put a group together and reevaluate that management plan that's our recommendation. If . . . in your view things are going well. We're satisfied with our management and we're achieving the objectives and goals that we're developed by the committee that you were involved with Dave. I'd be happy to answer any other questions on Panguitch.

Steve Flinders: Any further questions? Sure Sam.

Sam Carpenter: You mentioned here that there's been a lot of input concerning the current and future management. What kind of questions, what's been going on there?

Mike Ottenbacher: Well the main interest which really was the result of our recent treatment and productivity to the reservoir. I think basically what people saw was what Panguitch Lake can produce when it doesn't have chubs in it. When it's a clean lake it grows fish fast, produces a lot of big fish. Our original regulation following the treatment, we wanted to try something a little bit different as far as protecting that cohort of predatory cutthroat trout and tiger trout that we stocked. We thought that one problem might be with that new regulation or trying to protect those fish is folks having a problem identifying cutthroat and rainbow trout. So as you might recall our original recommendation and the regulations following the treatment were a slot limit and it included both cutthroat and rainbow trout. As a result of that the new treatment and the rapid growth we had the rainbow trout grow quite rapidly into the slot so that both the rainbow trout and cutthroat trout, most of the fish were in the slot. We had hoped that there would be a group of rainbow trout below that slot where people would still be able to harvest those fish in those first few years. The major objection we had during those first few years is even though it was a lot of nice fish and they grew well there weren't many that were legally able to be harvested. Subsequently the Wildlife Board changed that rule to make that slot limit specific to the cutthroat and tiger trout the last two years. And we think it's worked well. We're protecting those cutthroats. Folks are able to harvest a lot of rainbows, like they want to do, and there are a few nice rainbows out there. So I think we're meeting the objectives of the plan. The controversy is arisen when I think some of the contingent of folks that were interested in catching a lot of big rainbows would like to have protection extended again to the rainbow trout

Sam Carpenter: So is this slot limit, it's going to be enacted into the future then? It's not a temporary fix it's something that we'll be living with at Panguitch from now on?

Mike Ottenbacher: Yes. Not necessarily a slot limit but our objective was protection of that group of predatory fish that will help control the chubs if and when they show up. So I think that's the main objective of our original management plan and we're going to maintain that. Whether that slot is changed to include some protection with rainbow trout I think was the main issue.

Steve Flinders: Mike do you see the need then to form this advisory committee and go though the management plan and look at new strategies?

Mike Ottenbacher: What we would recommend if the RAC feels there is a need based on input from the public. There's been a fairly vocal group on the Internet that's expressed that interest. Again, we felt that really we were meeting the general public's interest and their demand in the management plan that's in place.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. Rusty did you have a question?

Rusty Aiken: I was just curious Mike, are there any chubs showing up?

Mike Ottenbacher: No. We haven't seen any chubs yet. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

Rusty Aiken: It's been what, five or six years? So is that unusual or?

Mike Ottenbacher: It's unusual based on our history in the past, with our past treatments. We've had chubs show up subsequent to each treatment within that six or seven year period.

Steve Flinders: Based on what we see here tonight, you guys do what you think you need to do. But I don't see a contentious group that you need to sit down with in front of us.

Douglas Messerly: I'd just like to ask a question of the committee. Mike mentioned that there's been some controversy on the forums on the Internet. Have any members of this RAC been contacted by these people who are concerned about management at Panguitch Lake?

Sam Carpenter: I've heard some complaint about the slot limit. That's about all I've heard.

Steve Flinders: Good question Doug, thanks. Sure Mike.

Mike Worthen: Yeah, one question on this group on the Internet. Are they consumptive users or more recreational fisherman who catch and release?

Mike Ottenbacher: They're recreational, catch and release. Looking for more trophy opportunities.

Steve Flinders: Any further questions? We're kind in a nebulous area on the agenda here. I don't see a need to make a motion probably. Did that help you with some information? Thank you.

Questions from the Public:

None.

RAC Member Elk Committee Assignments (action)

-Steve Flinders: Chairman

Steve Flinders: Let's move on to number eight. Teresa do you have a flight or two? Doug and I put this on here so that we could talk about who it would involve on these elk plan unit, elk plan revision committees. If you recall a couple of years ago Rex Stansworth represented us on a statewide effort to redo the elk management plan. Essentially that effort was tabled for a year I guess to go out and redo these unit management plans so that they'll mirror the statewide plan. In that statewide plan it just talks specifically about the committees and their representation. And the Division would like to have a RAC member linked to those. And I think your role as RAC members, and Doug pipe in here when I finish, is to kind of keep that management plan in mind. Rex put a lot of time into it. We discussed it thoroughly. It was a negotiated plan; no one got everything they wanted. So hopefully we won't set that aside but use it as a template for these unit management plans and hopefully you folks can lend a balance to the discussion and see that the process is followed in those meeting and then report back to us. As we hear about these individual plans and sometimes we don't get a real good feel based on who comes to discuss those that night. You can tell us some of what goes on behind the scenes sometimes is very helpful. Anything you add Doug?

Douglas Messerly: I'm just going to add one thing now and then Teresa's going to say it again and then I'm going to say it again, and that is this, our recommendations are driven by these management plans. We have a big crowd show up when we make recommendations for harvest and people want to argue about whether those recommendations work or not. And what we can tell you as professional biologists is they fit the objectives listed in the plan. And what most people are really unhappy with is the plan

when it comes time to recommendations, to consider our recommendations. But in reality we are bound by law to make recommendations that are consistent with those management plans, particularly with elk. And so if you want to make a difference the plan is where you make the difference. And I cannot reiterate that enough because we're bound by law to make recommendations that are consistent with these management plans, both the statewide plan and the unit plan. And Steve mentioned, help us make sure that these plans, the recommendations, these committees are within the statewide plan. What I can tell you is that if they are not within the statewide plan I can't imagine them being accepted because the statewide plan has been ratified by this committee and the wildlife board, so whatever we come up with has to fit within the framework of that statewide plan. And each individual plan will also then list specific objectives. It doesn't go, particularly in the harvest strategies in depth, but we'll take the harvest data, production data and we'll come up with recommendations to meet the objectives that are listed in these plans. So this is a very great opportunity to influence how elk are managed and what our recommendations will be in the future. And you'll have a lot more impact here than you will in trying to work with our individual recommendations on an annual basis. So that's just what I wanted to say, thanks.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug. Teresa.

Teresa Griffin: Between the two of you guys I don't have anything else left to say. Good job. Thank you. All right, in 2010 we passed a five-year plan, statewide elk management plan. And it is on our website. That's really the best place to find it. It is easier to pull up. If you needed a copy I can e-mail it. But it's just as easy to go pull up the PDF on our website. But that plan addresses habitat, population size, hunting issues, poaching, predator management, disease issues, access management, depredation, private lands and CWMU issues, winter feeding and competition.

Steve Flinders: Hey Teresa, would you mind e-mailing that link out to these folks?

Teresa Griffin: Yes, absolutely. I can do that.

Steve Flinders: That's a real simple way to get to it.

Teresa Griffin: So in that plan in the population section of that plan it dictates exactly who needs to be on these unit committees. So the local biologist and myself, the wildlife manager, will be on each committee and we'll serve as facilitators. There will be one representation from the following: the Farm Bureau, one from the Cattlemen, Wool Growers Association, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, one elected official, RAC member, one from a CWMU association, if there's not a CWMU on a unit we'll substitute with a landowner or a landowner's association, one member representing Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, one representing Mule Deer Foundation, one for RMEF(The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation), a local land owner that is appointed by the local county commission or a city council, and then two local sportsmen at-large that are appointed by the Division of Wildlife. The tasks that are going to be before these unit committees to revise these plans, we need to review the individual herd unit management plans. Mostly we're looking to see if we can make any changes to our population objective. Currently we've got about 63- 65,000 elk in the state. The statewide management plan encourages us to try where possible to increase populations and the goal is 80,000 statewide. Again, like Doug and Steve said, we do have to follow all the sideboards set forth in those statewide management plans. And these unit committees do serve as an advisory capacity to the Division in our revision of these plans so we'll take everything that the group comes up with into consideration when we're revising these plans. Then

the plans will come back to the RACs and the Wildlife Board for approval. And once again the importance of these plans, in Utah Code 23.16.7 it does by law, it requires us to have unit plans for deer and elk on all of our units and upon approval by the Wildlife Board we do as wildlife managers and the biologists we do have to manage these herds consistent with the plan. So these are really our blueprints. So they are a huge deal. Once these plans are approved we follow those plans and our recommendations by law have to be consistent with those plans. So they really drive our future recommendations. So, here is the part for you guys. Doug and Steve sent out e-mails to you guys, the RAC members, asking if we have interested people to serve on these committees. This is what I got back. I don't know Steve if you want to, how you guys want to designate who will be on these. The first one is tomorrow night for the Fish Lake. So Steve had to talk to Layne and Layne was going to be out of town and he's here. We were going to have Mack. I don't know if you guys want to toss a, we still uh, I don't know if it would be better to have Mack on the Boulder and Layne on the Fish Lake.

Steve Flinders: I don't know. I invited Mack to participate tomorrow night. Layne's schedule has changed and expressed an interest. I, Rusty would also like to be on the Boulder. I'm not sure how to, the easiest way to sort that out. If you can keep that up there Teresa.

Douglas Messerly: Let me make a suggestion. Mr. Chairman, what I suggest we do is just consider each unit individually recognizing the ones that are coming up, looking at the table that she has, and make a decision on each of the units. And that we, that this committee agree on a make up as listed on the spreadsheet up there and then just have a motion on that, on the entire make up of the committee. That might be easier than voting on each and every individual unit, but just a show of support. One thing I heard there's some questions about how the names got on there. In the e-mail that I sent out a couple of things, I sent an e-mail to all of the RAC members and the statewide elk management plan was actually attached to that e-mail as a PDF so you already have it. The second thing is that in that e-mail I said if you have an interest in any particular unit you could respond to this e-mail to maybe save us some time at the meeting. And that's the names that are up there now are the results of those responses. So that's where we're at. But that's my suggestion for how we handle it.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Doug.

Teresa Griffin: And I am so sorry. Lynn had me push a button and now I can't get it back up there. I'll keep working on it, sorry guys.

Steve Flinders: Go ahead Paul.

Paul Briggs: And Doug I apologize, I was waiting to see what my agency was going to assign to those committees from the different field offices. But while we're considering that list let's add my name to southwest desert.

Steve Flinders: For the RAC or the BLM?

Paul Briggs: For the RAC

Steve Flinders: I'm kind of in limbo too. It looks like the district ranger's been invited to participate, which will be good, so I'm available if needed. But it looks like folks are pretty interested. Go ahead Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, in reading this e-mail from you Doug my understanding was we were supposed to come to this meeting prepared to throw our hat in the ring, that's why I didn't respond. But I would definitely like to serve on one of those local committees. And Teresa you also mentioned at the end that there would be two local sportsmen that I didn't see listed on the list of representatives on the elk committees, because I did have a concern that there were no public at-large members on these committees. Is that to cover the public at-large people?

Teresa Griffin: Well we don't really have public at-large because this is focused just on these elk committees, but we do have, I would like to call them sportsman at-large because we already have a seat for SFW, MDF and RMEF.

Clair Woodbury: That's right, I'm just saying there's 90 percent of Utah residents don't belong to any of those groups and that's the ones that several of us represent here.

Teresa Griffin: So that's the kind of people that I'd love to be on there as sportsman.

Clair Woodbury: Just the two, adding two at the end as sportsman's representative, or a local sportsman type thing, is that what you meant on that?

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, if I'm following ya.

Clair Woodbury: You just said at the end, after you read all of the members that there were two that weren't listed there, it said local sportsman or something like that?

Teresa Griffin: Uh huh.

Douglas Messerly: Can you go back to that slide?

Clair Woodbury: Local citizen, or sportsman citizen or something?

Steve Flinders: Actually sportsman's, sportsman at-large appointed by the DWR.

Teresa Griffin: Two local sportsmen. Yeah, they're at the bottom of the list.

Clair Woodbury: Okay, I just didn't see it on the copy (unintelligible).

Teresa Griffin: It actually, it says in the statewide management plan, it says Utah biologists and wildlife manager as facilitator, two local sportsmen. It's actually at the top in the statewide plan.

Clair Woodbury: Okay.

Teresa Griffin: And then down at the bottom it says they will be appointed by the Division of Wildlife.

Clair Woodbury: Okay. I just wanted to make sure that those people that I represent have some say in it. It's a vast majority of the Utahans

Steve Flinders: So if you know people Clair who may be as described get their names to Teresa.

Clair Woodbury: Okay. Anyway, I'd also like to be on one of those as a RAC member too.

Steve Flinders: So if you could pull that table up (unintelligible) big so we can see it from way over here. Is there some real simple ones right there? Mike Staheli, do you have interest in Fillmore? You live close.

Mike Staheli: Yeah, I would. Yeah I'd be interested in it.

Steve Flinders: You won't, is anybody else want . . .

Mike Staheli: Pahvant and Oak City maybe.

Steve Flinders: Well it will be treated as one unit.

Mike Staheli: Oh, okay.

Steve Flinders: And subunits discussed inside that, I would assume. But there's such a thing as a Fillmore elk plan. In the past that Oak City was a separate subject.

Mike Staheli: Was separate.

Steve Flinders: Yeah. And it will probably be handled the same way. So, anybody else feel left out if Mike does Fillmore? Let's try to keep this simple. Anybody else who? What's Beaver? Cordell? Are you don't Beaver?

Cordell Pearson: Yes sir.

Steve Flinders: That's done.

Douglas Messerly: (Unintelligible) make a list?

Steve Flinders: Yeah. She's doing it. She's got em.

Teresa Griffin: Well it's hard for me to have it big and then . . . I'll just write on a piece of paper so you guys can see it.

Douglas Messerly: We'll need you to read it back to us.

Steve Flinders: Let's go back to Mack. Are you planning to go tomorrow night Mack? Do you have any strong feelings of change? So Mack's got Fish Lake. That's Fish Lake, Thousand Lake. Let's talk about Boulder. Rusty's name is up there. Who else has an interest in Boulder? Layne?

Layne Torgerson: If Mack's gonna, if you want to go to Fish Lake I'll go on the Boulder.

Mack Morrell: The cattlemen want me to represent Boulder.

Layne Torgerson: The cattlemen want you on the Boulder?

Steve Flinders: (Unintelligible) both.

Douglas Messerly: That's an important point I need to make. And I've been asked this question because we have representatives from the federal agencies and representatives from agriculture and the affiliation that you have or the place that you have on these needs to be clearly identified on the committees. That's perfectly appropriate that the cattlemen ask you to be on that but we'll have a RAC member on there in addition. And so, but that distinction needs to be made clear that you're there, these appointments you're there to represent the RAC and gather information for the RAC.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah because I do believe I got an e-mail from the cattleman's association saying that they wanted you for that unit.

Douglas Messerly: Just for the RAC members, Fish Lake is Mack, Boulder is

Steve Flinders: We're still there with

Lynn Chamberlain: We're missing a lot of this discussion on the tape.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, have a mic in front of you.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, we've also got Rusty up there. Rusty's got a lot of knowledge on . . .

Steve Flinders: Let's do some of the other ones and maybe some of this will fall out. Rusty you've got your name on several.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, he's got a lot of knowledge on the Panguitch Lake, on the Zion/Pine Valley. And that's another note, we are combining, we're not combining the units but we will have the meetings together at the same time for the Zion and the Pine Valley. They should be pretty simple; they're both open bull units, low populations. Why don't we go from the top of the table down.

Steve Flinders: You need to trade me seats.

Douglas Messerly: Whatever order it is go. Let's (unintelligible).

Steve Flinders: Mike Worthen, do you want the Southwest Desert then?

Mike Worthen: Yeah, I'm fine with that.

Steve Flinders: All right. So the Southwest Desert's done, Fillmore's done, Beaver's done. Dale Bagley's expressed an interest in Monroe. Is that all right, with those? He's not here tonight. Trying to find a place for you to fit in here Layne, we'll get to it. Yeah, which one Brian? Dave you're one Mt. Dutton and Paunsagaunt.

Dave Black: I'd probably have more experience either on Panguitch Lake or Dutton. Both those

meetings are in Panguitch. I can't decide if Rusty would have more experience on the Paunsagaunt than I do. (Unintelligible). Those are the three areas that I would be familiar with. Probably Dutton and Panguitch Lake I would know a little more about.

Steve Flinders: So Dave on the Dutton. We're back down to the Boulder and Layne's trying to find a place to fit in here. Rusty, do you want the Panguitch Lake or the Boulder?

Rusty Aiken: Panguitch Lake.

Steve Flinders: There you go Layne, you got the Boulder. So Rusty's on Panguitch Lake, Sam's on Paunsagaunt. Dave's on Dutton. No Mike's on Southwest Desert. So all that's left is Zion/ Pine Valley. So it's . . . Mike's doing Southwest Desert. There's a new list. It's in her hands. She'll read it back. Zion and Pine Valley is all that's left open, right? Brian and Clair both expressed interest. Do you guys want to do it? I'm excited you both want to do it. I don't see a down side to that. Just wear a different hat. Let's do a coin toss. Has this proceeded okay? Is everybody feeling all right? All right. Just seemed better to sit and talk this out than for somebody to just decide. Tails, Clair. Will you read that back to us Teresa?

Teresa Griffin: Okay, for the Southwest Desert we'll have Mike Worthen. For the Fillmore, Mike Staheli. For the Beaver, Cordell Pearson. Monroe, Dale Bagley. Mt. Dutton, Dave Black. Fish Lake/Thousand Lake, Mack Morrell. The Boulder, Kaiparowits, Layne Torgerson. Paunsagaunt, Sam Carpenter. Panguitch Lake, Rusty Aiken. And the Zion, Clair Woodbury.

Steve Flinders: is that all right? As part of that e-mail there's also the schedule attached. Correct? In a PDF file, and besides tomorrow night's meeting everything else is in October. So check that schedule and I assume you'll turn those names over to the local biologist and they'll get details of time and locations. Thanks everyone. Any questions about what we're doing? We're not sure how many meetings that's going to be. I don't think so. Do we need to vote? I don't think so. Let's go to next agenda item. Thank you Teresa.

Start Time for November RAC Meeting
-Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: Start time for the November meeting. It's going to be lengthy, Bucks and Bulls. It's in Richfield at the high school. In the past we've rolled it up to 5:30 or 6:00. I heard a six down there. Six will give you time to travel and start an hour early. Is six all right with everybody? All right, we'll do that at six.

Other Business (contingent)
-Steve Flinders, Chairman

Steve Flinders: Any other business? I don't have any.

None.

Steve Flinders: Motion to adjourn? Thank you.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to adjourn. No second. Motion carried unanimously.

Steve Flinders: 6:00 P M on the 15th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main, Green River
September 21, 2011 ↻ 6:30 p.m.**

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda as written. (Minutes to be done at a later date)

VOTE: Passed unanimously

Private Fish Ponds, Rule R657-59

MOTION: To accept as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

Fishing Contests and Clinic Rule, R657-58

MOTION: To accept as presented.

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13

MOTION: To accept as presented

VOTE: Passed Unanimously

RAC Members Present**RAC Members Absent**

Kevin Albrecht, USFS
Seth Allred, At Large
Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor
Sue Bellagamba, Non-Consumptive
Wayne Hoskisson, Non-Consumptive
Todd Huntington, Vice Chairman
Derris Jones, Chairman
Christine Micoz, At Large
Pamela Riddle, BLM

Blair Eastman, Agriculture
Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official
Darrel Mecham, Sportsman
Travis Pehrson, Sportsman
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

DWR Personnel Present**Others Present****Public in Attendance**

Bill Bates
Paul Birdsey
Drew Cushing
Brent Stettler
Roger Wilson

Mike King, Wildlife Board Member

1

1) **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**
-Derris Jones, RAC chairman

Derris Jones- I would like to welcome everybody out, and we have one public. We will have the DWR group presentation of the recommendation, and we will have questions from the RAC, questions from the audience, and then if anyone in the audience would like to make a comment or suggestion, you can fill out a yellow comment card back there on the table, we would appreciate it. Then we will close discussion to the public and open discussion up amongst the RAC Members and get a motion and decision.

2) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
-Derris Jones, RAC Chairman

Derris Jones- Does anybody have any concerns as the agenda as approved? We will just so order and go with that agenda then. The minutes, I don't remember seeing any. Did anyone get minutes the last meeting? I guess we won't be able to approve the minutes.

Bill Bates- Brent, do you know what happened to the minutes? I know we had them typed up.

Brent Stettler- I thought I had emailed them to everybody, but nobody got them?

Bill Bates- So, nobody did? Did anyone even get a RAC packet this time? I didn't get a RAC packet.

Brent Stettler- I will send up the minutes.

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Informational)**
-Derris Jones, Chairman

Derris Jones- At the RAC training last month, the director requested to involve our board members a little better, to try and keep them involved and excited about what we are doing. So, Mike and I talked about, instead of me giving the board updates once every RAC meeting, Mike will give our board updates, so we will go ahead and have Mike give us an update from the last meeting.

Mike King- I haven't met most of you. I have met some of you, but it is good to be here with you, I appreciate the opportunity to come and interact with you. I spent some time on the RAC several years ago, and enjoyed that opportunity to help with the process and I am looking forward to this new responsibility here on the Wildlife Board. I have forgotten how much fun these meetings were until I attended the last one and the first agenda item took about three hours and we went through the same thing at the Wildlife Board Meeting in August. That was my first Wildlife Board Meeting the day before we

had the orientation for the Wildlife Board and RAC Members. I learned a lot and got some direction on the kind of things that I need to have. I am looking forward to interacting with you all and hope you will free to contact me anytime that you have a question or an issue that you would like me to take to the board. That is part of my responsibility to represent all of Southeastern Utah and I would like to be able to do that. So, anytime I can be of help, or anytime you would like me to take something onto the board, I would be happy to do that. As far as the meeting went, I think you probably imagine how it went, it was fairly similar to what went here in this RAC. Several agenda items, and of course the top issues the folk were concerned about were those that had to do with the cougar plan and the predator management plan. Both of those were approved by the board, and I believe Derris, you guys were there and you can tell me if this is the case... I believe the cougar management plan and harvest recommendation was approved six, four, one against, it was one descending vote, and then as far as the predatory management and predatory wildlife species was concerned, I think that was unanimous, I am not sure if there was a descending vote on that one or not. But anyway, those two are both approved after a lot of discussion. We had a very long agenda that did not conclude until about four o'clock or so in the afternoon. Again, the same kind of concerns were raised in that meeting and after having heard a lot of input that sportsmen gave to the board, making the decision that they thought this new plan and revision to the plan is going to be something that would be a good program and we will look forward to see how it all works out. Of course, anytime you have to invent something new, it is going to take a little bit of time to see how it works, I guess that was some of the concerns from the last time, that is was actually in its second year and haven't had enough chance to run its course yet. In any event, we will proceed along those lines and see how things work out, I think there were some concerns again, like you all heard about some of the cougars that might be harvested and there was concerns about how some areas might get over hunted and some areas might get under hunted. Again, some issues came up again about the deer mortality study and how a lot of the land hunters were concerned that that wasn't really looking at what was causing the mortality. Same kind of things that came out in this meeting came out in that meeting as well. Just a couple of other things, and I will let you get on with your agenda. Derris, you can comment on other things too that you thought were important that came out of the meeting, there was a couple of things that they discussed, the CIP Rule Amendment, that was discussed here and then the other RAC's was postponed for an action at a later time. I am not sure exactly why that was, except they wanted to look at some things in a little bit more detail, so I am not sure if that will actually come back to the RAC's or not before the board takes a look at it.

Derris Jones- It will.

Mike King- Another thing that came up was the approval of a falconry five day non-resident meet license that was not discussed at the RAC and the question was raised about why that didn't come to the RAC as well before it came to the Wildlife Board, and I think that decision was made that those types of things would come to the RAC's before it gets to the Wildlife Board in the future, there is a Falconers event around Thanksgiving time over in Vernal to do a lot of hunting with the birds and they had to approve this special hunting permit so they could do that, I believe that that type of thing will come to the RAC's before it comes to the Wildlife Board in the future. And then, one other thing, I would like to talk about the Walk-in Access Rule, I am not familiar with all of the

terminology yet on what we do and how to say things. The Board made a recommendation to the Division that they actually look for some watchable wildlife type of activity, non-game like activities that could be tied into that program, so instead of just Walk-in Access being for hunting and fishing and trapping and those types of things. Bird watching might be a suitable activity that a landowner might want to have happen on his or hers property, so that is something the Division will be looking at in the future to see if there are ways to incorporate that and take advantage, I guess there is watchable wildlife fee now?

Bill Bates- For ten dollars we gave an opportunity for non-consumptive users to help with the finance of division activities, through the Wildlife Heritage License, but there was never a product that came out of it. They talked about this as a mechanism that would make that effective if somebody had a small game license or a combination license, a hunting, or heritage license, they could access the Walk-In Access for bird watching. I don't know where it is going to go. I don't mind it, it sounds feasible to me.

Mike King- Those were the highlights of the things that I jotted down, that may be just a little different than what had come out of the RAC's. Derris and Bill, is there anything else there you would like to say?

Derris Jones- No, Does anyone have any questions for Mike?

Mike King- I should have brought my cards, I have a really easy email address if you want to jot it down, it's just mike.king@usu.edu and my office phone number is 435-613-5400 and my cell phone number is 435-650-0471.

It is good to be here and I appreciate the chance to interact with you and again I am looking forward to working with you and hope you will get in touch with me anytime you have something you would like to discuss. Thanks.

**4) Regional Update (Informational)
-Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor**

Bill Bates- Mike, I remembered as you were talking that both Todd and Kevin were at the RAC training as well. Other than Seth, have you guys all been to the RAC training in the past? I've got some materials that if anyone needs a RAC training booklet, I have got extra copies. I will be brief tonight, we don't have a lot to report tonight, but the last time we talked about Walk-In Access, Leroy Mead has been hired as our Walk-In Access Coordinator and you may know Leroy, he is actually been doing a really good job, he made the transition, it has been a little over a month ago and he has signed up already about over five and a half miles of stream access, he has been so effective that Paul has had to come up with more priorities for him to go after. It's really been a good change for Leroy and a good change for us. Just last week we hired Makeda Trujillo to take his place as a Habitat Impact Biologist. For those of you from Federal Agencies, when you used to work with Leroy, Makeda is the person in that place now. She is the a Utah State University graduate and she was the first recipient of the Jessica Clark Scholarship, and

she started as an intern with us last year and she has been doing a really good job and we are happy to have her on.

The next thing that is on here, I guess you have heard we have gone back to five-eights, so the office is now open Monday thru Friday from eight o'clock to five o'clock, unfortunately for most of us, now we are back to five-ten's. It was nice to have four ten's but now it is back to the way it was back in the old days, just three years ago.

A couple of weeks ago our office staff went down to Aneth, Oljato, and Navajo Mountain and we sold our Navajo Nation Permits. We have a memorandum understanding with the Navajo Nation, where we sell them two hundred and fifty Southeastern region permits and twenty Southern region permits each year in exchange for hunting rights, to give them access to historic hunting rights.

This next year we go unit by unit, it is going to be a little difficult and what we have decided to issue their permits for the entire region. In order to change their permits, we would have to initiate a new memorandum of understanding or work through a new treaty and we are not going to do that at this point, what we are going to do is just make their permits still good for the entire Southeastern region, which will include all of the units that they are used to, so they will still be able to hunt region wide, instead of just one unit. The Aquatics section has been really busy. Tomorrow in fact, they are leaving about six o'clock; we are going to do the Ferron Reservoir treatment. What they are going to do is take Rotenone and they have drawn it down to base storage and going to poison all of the fish in there and restock it with Colorado River Cutthroat and Triploid Rainbow Trout that are sterile. It will not be managed as a Trophy Fishery, however. It will still be basically a family fishery with a limit of four fish. Tributaries will not longer be closed for spawning trout, so it is basically going to be managed like a regular fishery. This is really part of the Colorado River Cutthroat Trout recovery plan, but we had to manage Ferron Reservoir to keep other trout species out of the drainage, so it should be exciting, I think it will still be a good fishery up there. It has always been outstanding in the years past.

I have some good news. A couple of years ago we stocked Wipers in Huntington North and last year we had a very difficult time finding any. But this year the Aquatics Crew has found some three or four inch Wipers in Huntington North and there has been people sending us pictures of fish in the seven to eight to fourteen inch range. That means we have had fish survive from the two previous years stocking. We are excited about that and hopefully this is going to be effective and successful. It is probably going to take a different sampling method to find those fish and find Wipers out in there that we have been using in the past. If you have questions on any of these, Paul is here and he could answer them. Utah State University just also initiated study on Scofield Reservoir and they are using sonar or something and going out and measuring the biomass in the reservoir and just doing some really cool science stuff. We have gotten all of our tests back on Electric Lake and we have found no evidence of any more Quagga Mussels or Zebra Mussels. Gill netting is coming up for Scofield for October and any of you are invited to come and I think it is the fifth and the twelfth, just be at the office at seven o'clock or let Paul know if you would like to come. It is a pretty good day to go out and see what's there and get your hands on some fish. The Aquatics section is also sponsored two fishing events and Brent actually played a big role in both of these. In Green River we had a fishing event on September 10th and we had about seventy people participate

and then this Saturday we will have an event on the Huntington Game Farm, hopefully it will be well attended. Just so you know, what we have done is, those of you that are familiar with the Huntington Game Farm, we have opened the gate and put in a fence, so people can drive clear back to the pond instead of having to walk the half mile back there, so it is a lot more accessible than it has been in the past. Also, we are running more fresh water through there, so the fish are actually doing better.

State Fair just wrapped up this last week and Brent played a big role in that and several regional employees went up there. This is interesting, I don't know if we have already reported on this but, we held a bat watch at Nash Wash on July 30th and I thought man, nobody is going to drive out to Nash Wash to go look at bats but Tony Wright and Brent went out there and we had seventeen people show up for it.

Brent Stettler- Well I think it was twenty, I had to turn people away because Tony said lets hold it at twenty, so I turned about fifteen people away.

Bill Bates- So it was well attended, really surprising. Brent doesn't even know about this, but we have changed our Moab Big Horn Sheep Festival. Brent, are we going to hold it in Price or Green River this year?

Brent Stettler- I guess we need to talk about that. I held it in Price last year but only three or four people came.

Bill Bates- Yea and we always had standing room only in Moab. We are going to be part of a festival in Moab now on the 12th, they have asked that we go down and give a presentation. We have had issues with safety with people looking for Big Horn Sheep along that road. Brent has also been involved in Boy Scout and Summer School programs and has had six fishing events this year.

Law Enforcement, I don't have a whole lot to report on what they have been doing this year, they have just been taking care of business as usual, and they have been really busy checking antlers. People have found a lot of antlers out in the field. They have been checking bear hunters. They have quit a few investigations going on. Our new officer in the Price area, Devin Christensen found a gut pile from an elk that was killed in a CWMU and it was hauled away in a Toyota Corolla, and if anybody has any information on this Toyota Corolla, we would sure appreciate it. It was last seen going over to Fairview when it was last spotted.

The Habitat section has been very busy. They just finished the Porphry Bench Cliffrose seeding. It went really well. They are working on the Grimes Wash Pinion Juniper lop and scatter. The Bitter Creek burning is this week, they are working on it. As you can see we have several others, Matheson preserve vegetation enhancement we have been working on, they haven't started that yet but it is coming right up.

Dan Keller and Paul have been working on a project on the San Rafael River and we just wanted to show you this slide. There are 39 miles between the diversion on the Hat Ranch and the confluence of the Green and San Rafael Rivers. We have now completed removal of Tamarisks from about 15 river miles. That is 39% of the area and hopefully that will make a big difference in returning the area to Native Cottonwood Willow Association. We have been working on this for quite a few years and should improve habitat for endangered fish and also the sensitive fish species.

The Wildlife section, there are some things here that didn't end up on here. A couple things we have been working on specifically with the help of Law Enforcement, is we have had more bison show up on the East Tavaputs Plateau up on The Nutter Ranch and also some clear over North of Price. These bison came from the Ute Tribal Lands and in the winter they came across the river on the ice. We have had about 135 or so that came across and there were some efforts in herding them back. There have been some that have shown up on The Nutter Ranch and some on the North of Price. We have had six bison hunters out, what we did is just called them off of that alternate list for the Henry Mountains bison permits, the hunters choice permits, and we have harvested five of them. Regional personnel accompanied the hunters. It appears we may have headed them back to public land. Only one person wasn't able to harvest, Stacey had to go and rescue him. He got off of the beaten path with a small pickup and got stuck.

That is about all that is going on, do you have any questions? Okay, thanks.

I can think of one more informational thing I can bring up. I thought you might be interested, you might have heard about our bison survey this year? This year we went out and put 44 GPS collars and we were able to count 39 of the collared animals during the surveys, that is about close to 90% of the collared animals and according to our model we also counted about 90% of what we thought we were going to count. Things are lining up really well and Utah State is in the middle of bringing together a report on the project. During the survey each of the people in the helicopter wore a web cam so they can actually look at the animals as they were counting, then they could go back and verify where the animals that had the collars on were at. In some of the groups, we may have missed some collared animals, but we will have a report later in the year and so far we are right where we thought we were going to be. That is good news.

**5) Private Fish Ponds Rule R 657-59 (Action)
-Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**

Drew Cushing- You guys can vote once on three agendas items, the first two are fairly small with slight changes or you can just vote on them individually.

Derris Jones- Does anyone have a preference?

Drew Cushing- Okay lets do them all one time. If you have any questions or feel the need to do anything different, just let me know.

I am Drew Cushing and Roger Wilson is here, he no longer has this job, he is the new Aquatics Section Chief, I am taking over for him and hopefully we get somebody to replace me someday soon. We have three things; we have the recommendations for the private fish pond rule, the fishing contest rule and then the guidebook and fishing rules. To start with this year, we changed up our public process for angling which I am sure you are all aware of. The spring informational RAC was discontinued this year, instead of that we tried to solicit a little bit more public input through radio news, television. We did pretty well, we had quite a few emails and letters and really thoughtful suggestions for us to think about. We also implemented an online survey that was up and running for six weeks and we received over 1200 responses from our angling public, which we thought, was a huge victory considering the limited amount of input we get at RAC's. Some of those guys had some really valid points as anglers and let us

know kind of what they were thinking. In each region, this region included, held open houses this year which was a benefit to us and what we are trying to do is get a better relationship with our anglers and get more feedback and kind of get our finger on the pulse of our angling public since they pay our bills.

First one is a private fish ponds rule, this is rule 657-59, this one we rewrote a couple of years ago, three years ago I believe and this last year we went through a kind of an added interest in these tag fish contests and so we wrote it kind of protecting ourselves and what it ended up doing is limiting us in what we could do and how we could react to the interests in these tag fish contests. There was a number of them we couldn't do, which the ones we couldn't do most mainly was the Walleye fishing contest for tag fish on Utah Lake which would benefit our management there and we were kind of held back from that, so we just made a quick change to allow ourselves to be... oh, this is the wrong one, sorry about that. This is the private ponds rule, we rewrote this one at the same time and this is just some additions, we are going to do some Cutthroat restoration work on a few rivers and drainages, in the Northern region, Otter Creek, Little Creek, and Birch Creek are the three that we are going to do restoration to. Adding these rivers to this section, we just add protection to those and regulate what species of fish could be stocked there with our approval. The Southern region, they are going to do some restoration repair in Garfield County, there is Center Creek and in Piute County, Ten Mile Creek, Birch Creek and Clear Creek, and then in Sevier County there is Clear Creek and Clear Creek is actually a bigger drainage so we would remove the Pole Creek drainage which is included in Clear Creek and once again, these are just restoration efforts that they are doing to restore Native Cutthroat and remove Non-natives. By doing so, we don't want these Non-natives being reintroduced there.

Moving on, fishing contests, the tag fish contests, what we want to do is remove the COR application deadline which we thought this would be a work load issue for our regions, and so we wanted some added notice as when these took place, it ended up not being a work load issue for our folks, so we would like to remove that deadline, it was December 31 and we would like it to be the same amount of time as all the rest of the fishing contests, which is 45 days. There is a list of waters in the tag fish contests section and we would like to remove that and also remove the species of fish that are mentioned there and instead, just look at them on a case by case basis, it would allow us to be more responsive, this might benefit us financially and they definitely in one case would have benefited us in our management and so this is something we would like to do. And that is it for that one.

**6) Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R 657 -13 (Action)
-Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**

Drew Cushing- This is the one thing that is in a different section of 657-13, it's actually 16 and at Lake Powell, which is kind of in the Southeast region, fish may be filleted anytime and anglers may possess filleted fish at any time. Lake Powell is unique, we have people that go up and camp for multiple days, boating, fish, park days, several days, and always have fish either at their camp or in their boat. Especially going from their camp back to their boat ramp where they exit, they still possess those filleted fish, this creates kind of a unique situation and as such and the other reason is that Lake Powell is full of exemptions anyways, so one more is just one more. That being the case and trying to

make it easier on our anglers to do what they want to do and this benefits our management down there as well as you know, the key to success to Lake Powell is removing Striped Bass and that just a benefit for management. Recommendations in the Northern region, Willard Bay, it is rather a larger water up by Brigham City, it has a six Wiper limit and we are trying to propagate our own Wipers in Utah, we are getting there, we are not quit there, we are having trouble getting Wipers in state, purchasing them from out of state in enough numbers to fill our management needs, this would help us reduce the number of Wipers that are coming out of Willard Bay and this was actually brought up some anglers in the online survey and in some letters we received. East Fork and Smith Fork River in Summit County is in the Northern region, right now it is closed to fishing and what the Northern region would like to do is let the people who go up there in the fall and bow hunt and rifle hunt, be allowed to fish, but protect the Kokanee, which was the intent of the regulation all along, and so it would be closed to the possession of Kokanee of any red color, other than that, you can fish up there.

Lost Creek Reservoir, this again is in the Northern region, this is an experimental limit, five year draw period, and right now it is a four fish limit period. No bag restriction, but what the Northern region is recommending is a four trout in the aggregate, no more than three trout can be under 15, no more than one trout may be over 22, and all trout between 15 and 22 must be immediately released. This is for a couple of reasons, one is there is some chubs in there that are getting to be an issue, and so one of the fish they are looking at are Bear Lake Cutthroats that are growing right now and as you know those need to be fairly large to protect Utah Chubs. The other thing, we have a growing number of our angler groups and angling public that have an interest in larger fish and this water in Lost Creek Reservoir is in kind of a cluster of other reservoirs that are basic yield trout fish with four fish and no side restrictions. There are actually seven of them in that area within 30 miles of each other. That would just add a variety to the angling out there and provide a different kind of experience for folks. Other Northern region recommendations, these are community fisheries, Garden City, Good Sea Lake, Adams Reservoir, they will all be under the two fish limit which is our community fisheries limit. Mountain Reservoir, this is right next door to Layton, it is actually in Layton and it is surrounded by a couple of other community fisheries, its unique, it is about a 60 acre reservoir, fairly deep and good water quality, the region would like to put a different limit on that since there is other reservoirs within a mile or two of this one and this would be a two trout limit and the trout would have to be under 15 inches, all trout under 15 inches must be immediately released and it would be artificial flies and lures only. The rest of the fisheries have a two fish limit, no side restrictions, this would add that variety perhaps attract different anglers in the event there is something to do up there. Southern region, The Virgin River, we have an agreement that there is some endangered fish out there, we have a program down there that invests millions of dollars a year to treat Non-natives, Small Mouth Bass have been identified as a treat in the recovery agreement. It has been confirmed in the Southern reservoirs and in Santa Clara and Virgin River problems; this is a real issue down there. All of those reservoirs that have been documented with Small Mouth Bass, which were illegally introduced in the Virgin Rivers and Santa Clara Rivers, there would be no limit on Small Mouth Bass. This is to send a message that we will not tolerate it, we won't manage them, and we don't want them there. Our recovery folks are busy sampling all through the year every year, and hopefully they can get on top of this and figure out they are coming from and get them removed. Lake Powell, this would be in our water specific section, fish may be filleted at any time, anglers may posses fish at

anytime and there has been an increase in Walleye in Lake Powell, also Walleye impact Large Mouth Bass, down on the Reservoir, no limit would benefit other species of fish in the reservoir and anglers as well. Other Southern regions, we have some new fisheries, Monroe Pond and then Sullivan Virgin River Park Pond, they would have the two community fishery limit. Southeast region area, Wellington Pond, brand new community fishery, it would have that 2 limit community fishery on it and the Ferron Reservoir Tributaries and that would just come out in the specific waters section, it would just go to the general with no closures or nothing. Central region, one is Deer Creek Reservoir, last year we found a documented White Mouth Bass and had a catch and kill regulation put on them, this year while we were out sampling, we found White Bullheads, another illegal introduction, and Black Bullheads, anglers must not release any and all must be killed immediately. Utah Lake, this is another illegal introduction, Northern Pike, we documented at least three times that I know of this year. In our surveys, this is an issue, we have an endangered June Sucker in Utah Lake and we don't want them in there, we don't want to manage them, do want to see them. There is no limit on Northern Pike and anglers must not release any and they must be killed. Spring Creek, this is a little creek that runs right through the Springville regional office. It's right next to the hatchery if you have ever been there. There is a lot of kids that would like to fish that and it doesn't seem any problem now that the West side of the hatchery is closed and so we are going to open that to fishing. Red Fleet Reservoir, Walleye were illegally introduced sometime in the past, we had a catch and kill put on them last year. Between then and now there is a contaminant issue, mercury in Red Fleet Reservoir, it hazardous to eat. Instead of a catch and kill, we would like to put a no limit on Walleye in Red Fleet Reservoir. Lastly, this is just some information, we have a lot of anglers that are interested in historically and currently on Panquitch Lake and in 2006 we treated it with Rotenone to the tune of \$300,000 and that wasn't the first time we treated it, this is about a 10-12 year deal where we treat Utah Chubs out of Panquitch Lake. It allow has had a lot of public interest on both sides, you have your trophy anglers and family fisheries and they compete with one another, they tell us both we need to do what they want us to do, so you have two angler groups that are really pitted against each other. Right after we treated Panquitch Lake, we put a committee together to try to get to the bottom of what anglers wanted to do with Panquitch Lake, while at the same time, we were protecting it from deadly Cutthroats, the same as Scofield and Strawberry, so we don't have to spend \$300,000 that we don't have every 10 years. We put this group together and made up of some of the lodge owners, RAC Members, other public, and sat on it and came up with a management plan. That management plan is what we have been running on over the past five years, we heard from the RAC last night that they were fairly happy, but there are still two publics that aren't happy with what's going on down there. Ones happy and the other is not, and then if you changed it you would have the party happy and the other one not. What we would like to do is maybe put together a new committee and look at what is going on down there and things have changed. We would definitely like to put together an angler's survey down there and get an idea as to what the best for the DWR and the anglers would be for Panquitch Lake.

Todd Huntington- This Panquitch Lake situation sounds like the same thing that is going on at Joe's Valley. Could you tell us what is going on and what the plan is for Joe's Valley?

Drew Cushing- We have always had Splake in there, Joe's Valley has always kind of struggled. You have trophy Splake. The general angler has trouble catching trophy Splake. We put Tiger Trout in there, those tend to run up streams and hopefully the Tiger Muskie or something that would attract people and reduce the Chubs and assist everything else in there.

Paul Birdsey- You are probably aware that Joe's Valley was traditionally a family fishery up until about 20 years ago when the Chubs were discovered. They took off in there and soon they affected the growth rate of the Rainbow Trout that had been stocked in there. Our Rainbow Trout and our Cutthroat both discontinued in about 1995. That's when the Splake were introduced as a biological control on the Chubs, and you can certainly go up there and catch trophy Splake, one of my favorite places to fish actually. They weren't doing a really good job of controlling the Chubs, so we did go in there with the Tiger Muskies to provide that additional control on the Chubs. It is my hope, that as the Chub numbers are reduced, what we are going to see is better growth and better condition on the other Trout species that are in there. We have already started to see some evidence that we are improving. Ultimately, but there is still a lot of people that would like to go up there and fish from the shore and catch a Rainbow 10 inch fish. If we can control the Chubs, we will attempt to balance these predators with the Chub numbers and try to meet this desire to provide us more family oriented fishery. Only time will tell if we will be able to achieve those goals. Emery County Commissions has been very interested in the management up there because the use of Joe's Valley Reservoir has declined dramatically by some 90% over the last 20 years. We are starting to see more use up there, but any given day you can see 4 or 5 boats fishing, where it used to be on a busy weekend, you would see 4 or 5 boats out there and so we are seeing more use. The Marina has failed at least 3 times in the 7 years that I have been in the region. We are very aware of the economic impact of that reservoir, the desire, but I don't know where it is all going to land out right now, only time will tell and the key is to control the Chubs.

Todd Huntington- So we don't know what kind of time frame we are looking at?

Paul Birdsey- It is hard to say, the Tiger Muskies are doing really well up there and we will be sampling again next spring as we do every year. I did have a crew up there looking for Blue Head Suckers, they found a lot of Chubs still and unfortunately no Blue Heads, but that could be just because they found so many Chubs or they weren't in the right spot.

Todd Huntington- I know the last couple of years, you really hammered the Chubs and removed thousands and thousands of pounds. Is it gaining at all?

Paul Birdsey- We did a 3 year removal project there, we proposed it as an experiment, and it is very labor intensive effort for 3 weeks 7 days a week we had that set up. We removed over that course of time over 40,000 pounds of adults spawning Chubs, which estimated removing about 950,000,000 eggs out of the system. At the end of that, based on the gill net surveys we saw absolutely no change. We did start to see a change in the condition factor of the Splake, they were starting to get fatter and changing from that pencil shape they used to be to having some girth and putting on some weight. We also have seen some really nice Tiger Trout in there over the last couple of years. We can't

commit 5 guys 7 days a week for 3 weeks to maintain that effort, so I am really hoping the Tiger Muskies do that for us. We sampled 18 Tiger Muskies as part of our gill netting this past spring, 17 of them had Chubs in their stomach and one of them was long.

Todd Huntington- My next question has to do with the new irrigation reservoir that is going in on Cottonwood Creek, Adobe Wash Reservoir? Is there going to be fish in there?

Paul Birdsey- My short answer is I'm not sure. The water users would like to have a ten foot high chain link fence around the whole reservoir, not allowing public access. Because part of the reservoir is on BLM property, we have commented to the BLM that we would like to see a fishery created there. There is a gas pipe line that runs past there. There are some security issues, right now, I can't answer that question, but we have commented that we would like to see a fishery there and the water users have said no. What we may end up doing, is there is another pond not far from Orangeville, which we have been trying to get access too to provide a community fishery in there, some of the same water users are involved, so we may tell them we don't want access to Adobe Wash, but we want access to this pond. The other pond would probably wind up being a better fishery. Part of my job is to provide maximum opportunities, so if it has water in it, I would like it to have fish in it.

Derris Jones- Questions from the RAC?
Are there any questions from the public?
Are there any comments from the public?
Entertain a motion then?
Did we have any comments from the RAC?
Are we accepting as one? I would just do it as presented.

Wayne Hoskisson- I would suggest that we accept R657-59, R657-58, and R657-13 as written.

Todd Huntington- Seconded.

Derris Jones- Motion has been made to accept R657-59, R657-58, and R657-13 as presented by Wayne and seconded by Todd.
Any discussion on motion?
All in favor?
Passed unanimously.

VOTING

**Motion was made by Wayne Hoskisson
Seconded by Todd Huntington**

MOTION

Passed Unanimously

Meeting started at 6:30 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY-MOTIONS PASSED
Bingham Research Center, Vernal/September 22, 2011

5. PRIVATE FISH PONDS RULE R657-59

6. FISHING CONTESTS AND CLINICS RULE R657-58

7. FISHING GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-13

MOTION: to accept as presented

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY
Bingham Entrepreneurship & Energy Research Center (Bingham Center), Vernal
September 22, 2011

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Christopherson, NER Supervisor
Floyd Briggs, Chair
Andrea Merrell, Non-Consumptive
Carrie Mair, At Large
Mitch Hacking, Vice-Chair
Wayne McAllister, Elected Official
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Jack Lytle, NER Conservation Officer
Drew Cushing, Aquatic Pgm Coordinator
Roger Wilson, Aquatic Program Chief
Trina Hedrick, NER Aquatics Manager
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager
Ron Stewart, Conservation Outreach

RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Bob Christensen, Forest Service
Beth Hamann, Non-Consumptive
Brandon McDonald, BLM
Ron Winterton, Elected Official
Kirk Woodward, Sportsmen

1. WELCOME, RAC INSTRUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURE: Floyd Briggs

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: Floyd Briggs

Rod Morrison: MOTION to approve agenda
Wayne McAllister: second
Unanimous

Trina Hedrick: I would like to give an informational update on Red Fleet Reservoir in tonight's meeting.

Floyd Briggs: You can give the update during Kevin's Regional Update.

Rod Morrison: MOTION to approve minutes
Wayne McAllister: second
Unanimous

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE: Floyd Briggs

Changes on cougar management plan: Josh Horrocks brought up a harvest objective change and it was passed, so Diamond Mountain will be a harvest objective area instead of the limited entry area. The rest of the cougar management plan passed as presented.

There's a bill to reclassify wolves so they will be treated the same as cougar and bear, and the BLM sage grouse plan is due out in 2015

The sage grouse will have a final decision in 2015 as to whether it will be listed as sensitive or endangered.

Mitch Hacking: Aren't there a couple members leaving the Wildlife Board?

Floyd Briggs: Yes. The new members were there. John Bear replaced Tom Hatch and Mike King replaced Rick Woodard.

Rod Morrison: What about Bear Top? Was that a harvest objective?

Jack Lytle: It was already a harvest objective area. That didn't change.

Kevin Christopherson: Let me fill you in on a few of the details about sage grouse issues. When the FWS reviewed the sage grouse, it was identified as warranted but precluded. The FWS went back to the BLM and requested a revised national management plan for sage grouse. So they set the 2015 deadline and want BLM to develop a nationwide, multi-state plan for how to manage sage grouse so they don't become extinct. We (DWR) just got a copy of that plan last week. They gave the State one week to comment on that plan. It's the preliminary plan which will be put in place until they get a permanent plan. In the past, each area had their own plans and stipulations. Now it will be the same nationwide.

Mitch Hacking: If you have an area that's good like Diamond Mountain, and another area isn't, I guess they're considered endangered everywhere?

Kevin Christopherson: Diamond Mountain's a good example. It's doing well and Strawberry Valley as well. But they ignore state borders and look at the historic range. Wyoming has the bulk of the historic range. If Wyoming succeeds, we all succeed. If Wyoming fails, we all fail. Our numbers are stable. We would like to push Utah's plan to be incorporated into the national plan. They find historic range and what they consider a healthy population in that range. If there are too many declining populations in that historic range then that's how it will go.

Carrie Mair: What is the population of sage grouse in Utah?

Kevin Christopherson: I don't know.

Mitch Hacking: If they don't have enough, will they be taken off hunting?

Kevin Christopherson: That's up to the Fish & Wildlife. The bigger deal would be for oil and gas production, etc. It could curb production. The State's position is that we are managing this successfully; let us continue in the direction we're going.

Mitch Hacking: It's more ammunition for environmentalists.

Kevin Christopherson: There are some success stories out there in Utah. Some areas are struggling, but other areas have done well.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE – Kevin Christopherson

Correction from April meeting: I need to make a correction to some statements I made back in April. I've had a few questions about this. I mentioned the State general funding was being cut. What I meant to say was the State Wildlife Grant was being cut. The State Wildlife Grant is a Federal program. The Legislature has been very good to DWR. Many agencies took cuts last year, and we did not. I wanted to clarify that. The legislature has been very supportive of our programs, and locally Kevin Van Tassell and John Mathis know how important wildlife is to their constituents and have been great supporters.

Whirling Disease: has been found in the Green River. We knew it was coming. There was an article that came out in the Tribune. We don't think it's going to impact fishing on the Green River because brown trout have a natural resistance to the disease. The rainbow we stock are larger, which are not impacted like smaller fish are. Also, the waters that tend to be impacted are streams that aren't that healthy anyway. We don't expect it to impact the fishery but we don't want to transport the disease out of there either, so we'll try to increase awareness and prevention, such as require anglers to wash their boots, etc.

Fall Electrofishing: was held last week for two nights in Dutch John. They had some technical problems the first night but were able to fix them and the numbers the second night were good. The data isn't finished yet, but there were fat, healthy rainbows.

Kokanee in Sheep Creek: have been declining for a number of years but this was a good year. 1500 were counted this year as opposed to 1000 last year. We have been stocking kokanee to help restore the numbers, and it is working. Ron Stewart had over 200 people in attendance at Kokanee Salmon Day last weekend.

Andrea Merrell: How are your control efforts on burbot going?

Kevin Christopherson: It's tough to measure, and it's tough to do. We had a Burbot Bash with help from Wyoming last year. It was hugely successful. Four tons of burbot were taken out. That's a big lake and there are a lot of fish in there. It's difficult to overharvest fish like that.

Andrea Merrell: Are you just trying to suppress their numbers?

Kevin Christopherson: Yes, They compete with sport fish and eat some of the sports fish that fishermen like. Some fishermen like them though.

Andrea Merrell: Is it having an effect on the kokanee numbers?

Kevin Christopherson: This year the numbers are up but we've been stocking. It'll be a wait and see thing. It may work, it may not work.

Cutthroat trout spawning at Lake Canyon: Habitat project like the one at Lake Canyon stream restorations are very expensive and very difficult. Other than some trespass cows this spring, it's looking pretty good. **It would be a good tour for the RAC to see what has been done.**

Fishing Contest: (sponsored by KNEU-KIFX). 70 tagged fish were returned for prizes, including some nice grand prizes.

Trout production: is at an all-time high. The hatcheries are all up and going. **I can arrange a tour of our Whiterocks Hatchery if you're interested.** They're mixing water to give just the right water temperature for different species.

We have passed out RAC Training Handouts and Wildlife Code Book: Hopefully they're useful to you.

Red Fleet information by Trina Hedrick, Regional Aquatics Manager: Drew will propose a regulation change about walleye in Red Fleet. I'm going to give a little background information about why the regulations change. Walleye were illegally stocked in Red Fleet in 2002. Walleye recruitment was first observed in 2008. (slide show)

Floyd Briggs: How successful would a rotenone treatment be?

Trina Hedrick: If it's done correctly it's very successful. You have to understand it's a culinary reservoir and take into account all the factors. We would look for a time to treat it when the water isn't being used.

Floyd Briggs: Does it dilute?

Trina Hedrick: My hope is that there's a time of year when they're not releasing out of Red Fleet. There is a potassium permanganate which neutralizes it but there would still be a quarter mile which would be affected.

Carrie Mair: What would be the length of time before it could be restocked?

Trina Hedrick: By the following year. We'd want to get with the warm water folks and see which fish they would want to restock with the rainbows.

Carrie Mair: One out of five anglers are fishing for walleye with a 4% success rate. Would they continue to fish Red Fleet for other sport fish?

Jack Lytle: Were the walleye anglers only fishing for walleye?

Trina Hedrick: I believe there was one group of people focusing on walleye or bass.

Carrie Mair: I'm just wondering economically what would make more sense to get it back to a successful facility. Killing it off for a year may be the best opportunity for everybody, especially if we could restock with fingerling in the future, which would be cheaper.

Roger Wilson: We'd have to do a campaign to make sure walleye is not restocked in the water.

Carrie Mair: I think that should be on your fishing license. "Do not illegally stock." I don't think people understand the ecological damage.

Roger Wilson: There's an interstate committee formed to address that. Utah isn't the only State having problems, not even the worst. It happened in 500 lakes in Montana [that have had illegal introductions]. It is a serious problem and we need to inform anglers to let them know it is improper procedure.

Andrea Merrell: Didn't we rotenone Steinaker?

Ron Stewart: Yes, it was in the late 80s. They treated it with powder and tried some of the techniques they were planning for Strawberry. They mostly learned what not to do.

Carrie Mair: People are still talking about Strawberry. If we do end up using rotenone on Red Fleet, I would love to let people know it's a response to illegal introduction.

Trina Hedrick: It also sends a message to the right group. Otherwise, you're punishing others.

Roger Wilson: Sometimes they close fishing altogether if those things show up.

Wayne McAllister: Were there prior high mercury samples?

Trina Hedrick: There was a listing in either bass or bluegill.

Mitch Hacking: Where do they get that mercury from?

Trina Hedrick: DEQ hasn't gotten back with me on that. I think it's a question that more people in the Basin need to ask.

Kevin Christopherson: I want to introduce Roger Wilson as Chief of Aquatics. He replaced Walt Donaldson who had that job. We appreciate Roger coming down and being with us tonight.

5. PRIVATE FISH PONDS RULE R657-59 – Drew Cushing ACTION

6. FISHING CONTESTS AND CLINICS RULE R657-58 – Drew Cushing ACTION

7. FISHING GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-13 – Drew Cushing ACTION

Drew Cushing received permission to present all three fishing action items and then have the NER RAC vote.

Northeastern Region recommendation: Red Fleet Reservoir – No limit on walleye.

Questions from RAC:

Wayne McAllister: In Washington County, why the "no limit" on smallmouth bass?

Drew Cushing: Smallmouth bass are prohibited in the Virgin River. We have the ability to manage largemouth bass throughout the drainage. It would be palatable to anglers and keep limit on largemouth. The Virgin River recovery team removes fish annually and will continue. If they can't keep them out we'll probably go to a rotenone treatment.

Carrie Mair: Can you explain why smallmouth bass are a problem and what the damages are?

Drew Cushing: Dewatering and salinity. Pockets of cooler water that exist throughout the year, that's where naturally reproducing and endangered species congregate. When smallmouth congregate on top of other fish, it will win. They're a top level predator. Their food source will

be the native fish. We spend millions of dollars in Virgin River every year to keep the fish from dying out. If you allow this to go on and the smallmouth bass to take hold, the other endangered fish would die out.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Mitch Hacking: Kevin, what groups do we have in our region as far as fishing groups?

Kevin Christopherson: We don't have a lot of groups. Trout Unlimited is starting, they're mostly interested in Daggett County and the Green River.

Mitch Hacking: There's nobody here to contest anything.

Kevin Christopherson: The Green River Outfitters are active in Daggett County. Fishing is pretty good in our region. People are happy so they're not motivated to get involved. It's kind of a funny paradox that we have. We like public input but we only get it when they're disgruntled and want a change.

Mitch Hacking: So when they're unhappy that's when the groups form.

Kevin Christopherson: We're all busy and have busy lives and have got to be motivated. That's a good way to get changes done. We're fortunate. This area is probably one of the best areas in the west for fishing opportunities. For warm water: Pelican Lake is a great bluegill fishery, Flaming Gorge, etc.

Floyd Briggs: Northern pike, are there any tributaries in Utah that have northern pike intentionally planted in them?

Drew Cushing: I don't think so.

Kevin Christopherson: They put them in the Sevier Drainage in Redmond in the 70s or 80s but water doesn't leave that reservoir.

Floyd Briggs: They should not be introduced in any water.

Kevin Christopherson: They come down from Colorado, drifting downstream.

Mitch Hacking: If you manage the wildlife like you do your fish you won't have so many groups?

Kevin Christopherson: The habitat here makes us look good as far as fishing.

Mitch Hacking MOTION to pass all three proposals presented by the fish and game biologists.
Second by Rod Morrison
Passed unanimously

Rod Morrison: Where are the buffalo? Moon Ridge and Ten Mile had them but I haven't seen them lately.

Kevin Christopherson: They move back and forth, onto the Tribe and back. They get around, so the first year we were a little concerned because they moved, but they came back.

Floyd Briggs: I'd like to see them on Goslin.

Carrie Mair: Southern Region implemented an elk committee at their last RAC meeting. Do you have any information on that?

Kevin Christopherson: The Director is trying to increase the number of elk statewide, so they're looking at places with habitat and agriculture tolerance that can expand. Most of the potential for growth was identified as south of I-70. We get local landowners and sportsmen together and see if they can come to some sort of an agreement, and then it comes through the RACS from there. There weren't many places north of I-70.

Carrie Mair: I didn't know if there's anything we need to consider in our region.

Kevin Christopherson: You're going to see some of that. We will form some elk committees to see what kind of tolerance agriculture has for more elk.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 pm.

Next meeting: November 17, 2011

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S. Main Street, Springville
September 27, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59

Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58

Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13

MOTION: to accept the private ponds rule R657-59, the fishing contest and clinics rules R657-58 and the fishing guidebook and rule R657-13 as presented by the Division
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S. Main Street, Springville
September 27, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Timothy Fehr, At Large
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service
Karl Hirst, Sportsman
Kristopher Marble, At Large
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Vice Chair
Jay Price, Elected

Members Absent

Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
George Holmes, Agriculture
Michael Gates, BLM
Richard Hansen, At Large
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Chair
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive

-
- 1) **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**
- Gary Nielson, Vice RAC Chair
 - 2) **Approval of the August 2, 2011 Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
- Gary Nielson, Vice RAC Chair

VOTING

Motion was made by Jay Price to accept the agenda and minutes as presented

Seconded by Karl Hirst

Motion passed unanimously

- 3) **Regional Update (Informational)**
- Mike Slater, Central Regional Aquatics Manager

Wildlife

- CWMU applications completed and submitted to Salt Lake Office
- Walk-In-Access program emphasizing angler access to streams and reservoirs
- Biologists identified priority sage-grouse habitats for the BLM's Interim Sage-Grouse Guidelines that will influence energy development on public lands
- Riley Peck successfully defended his thesis on sage-grouse ecology at BYU
- Biologists reviewing hunts and hunt boundaries for 2012 recommendations
- Gathering disease info on moose

Habitat

- Completed the Badger Hollow mowing (250 acres) and harrowing (350 acres) project in Strawberry Valley – sage-grouse habitat improvement project
- 700-ac wildfire rehab project planned for private land on the Gilson Mtn
- Conservation easement inspections planned for this fall
- Planning projects at Dairy Fork and Maple Canyon for 2012
- Taking care of “archery-only” signage and map boxes in Emigration Canyon

Aquatics

- Annual trap-netting survey at Utah Lake completed in September
- Upper Provo River fish survey (electro-shocking) taking place this week

- Fall fish survey (gillnetting) at Strawberry to take place in October
- *Add what you know was accomplished or is planned for this fall*

Conservation Outreach

- Kokanee Salmon Day held last Saturday
- Raptor Watch Day held at the Squaw Peak Overlook on Saturday, Swainson's Hawk released by Great Basin Wildlife Rehabilitation
- Committee to begin work on increasing hunter recruitment – continuing education program after Hunter Education
- “Watch Out for Wildlife” Week declared for Sept. 18-24 by Governor Herbert – initiated by the Wildlife Preservation Society based in Park City

Law Enforcement

- All officers busy working the fall hunts

- 4) **Wildlife Board Update (Informational)**
- 5) **Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59 (Action)**
- **Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**
- 6) **Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58 (Action)**
- **Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**
- 7) **Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 (Action)**
- **Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Kristopher Marble – Did the recent fishing survey tell us that maybe the public is not as interested in simplification of the regulations and they want different regulations for different waters?

Drew Cushing – Yes they did. There are polarized view points. Some want simplification because they say that it is the complexity of our rules that is driving them out of the sport. At the same time we are losing people because we offer a four fish trout limit in all of our waters so you don't have that variety of experiences. In order to capture the most anglers you need to offer that variety. There are biologically sound regulations and then there are social regulations. What we have done in the past is try and weed through those that are social and come down to a set of regulations we can live with biologically and benefit the anglers.

Kristopher Marble – You talked about some recruitment initiatives and some of the limits on community fisheries. Do you know how the limit effects recruitment?

Drew Cushing – I don't think it does. We are doing a creel survey and have done other creel surveys on community fisheries. We have a high percentage of youth that use community fisheries but we also have a high percentage of older folks. With the economy going to hell the way it did we have a really high number of people using them period. The creel survey from Bountiful pond, Syracuse pond and a pond in Roy showed about 60,000 angler hours on those about 15 acres. About 20 percent of those people said they would not fish if not for those fisheries. You have to try and accommodate everybody and with the economy the way it is there are people who perhaps can't afford to go, and I am one of them. I have to make fewer trips but spend more time out in the

field when I go to make each trip pay the best it can. There are other anglers in the same boat and there are a number of anglers who can't afford to go out of town at all.

Karl Hirst – Strawberry Reservoir, Scofield Reservoir and Panguitch and the small mouth at Jordanelle have their own file rule. Why does that same rule not apply to all of the slot limit waters?

Drew Cushing – Those are three waters that were identified as places we are going to have law enforcement do spot checks with people leaving the body of water because of the regulations and concerns there. We have road blocks set up on those reservoirs to check anglers as they are leaving. The other waters, all of them, our law enforcement section said we enforce the law up to the fish cleaning station and that's all. This is a way to separate those out.

Matt Clark – Can you explain about the wipers at Willard Bay. Are they not doing well?

Drew Cushing – They are doing well but they don't reproduce, they are a sterile fish. What we have been doing since we started stocking wipers in Willard Bay is we've been buying them from a place in Arkansas. We can only afford so many. Our budgets are tight. Last year we tried to raise our own. We took white bass from Utah Lake and collected striped bass from Lake Powell. We didn't meet our quota. We are still buying them from out of state and still trying to do what we can in state to get our quota up to what we can stock. Instead of spreading it thinner and thinner we are trying to keep the fish in Willard Bay there for a little longer until we can get our own propagation program going.

Matt Clark – A lot of people are screaming about this Boulder Mountain poisoning. Can you touch on what is going on there and why you are doing that?

Drew Cushing – We would be removing non native fish and restoring it to native fish and basically that is to secure fish that could one day be endangered. Right now we have a unique situation. There are people who were born and raised there and they have joined with a group who came from California. They have formed a pretty strong front down there and they don't like the thought of restoring anything to native fish or the thought of using rotenone. They view rotenone as a threat to their health. There was an article in the Tribune that talked about rotenone and the impacts of rotenone on people. What they didn't say was the trials they did were injecting rotenone into the carotid artery of a rat every day for six months. At the end of that trial those rats had some health issues. I challenge anybody; you could inject soda pop into the throat of a rat for six months and see how they interact there. It's one of those things where they didn't tell the whole truth. It was a jab at rotenone instead of talking to what it really is. Rotenone comes from a tree root, it is a natural substance. The natives in South America use it to go fishing. We have used it for years to treat trout. It has been used in the agriculture business for years to treat all kinds of insects. The anti-chemical battle is happening throughout the west. It's a battle we are going to have to fight. If you lose it once you will continue to lose that battle from there on. There was an EA done on the boulders with the help of the Forest Service that was done well. It is one of those things that we are going to pursue and do what is in the best interest of the people and the fish.

Kristopher Marble – Can you tell us where are we at with Panguitch Lake and the broken dam and the biological impact of that?

Drew Cushing – There won't be a biological impact. If you are familiar with Panguitch Lake it has two levels. The outlet structure that is broken is down at the first tier. It still allows 50 to 60 percent of the reservoir to maintain water. They are going to repair that this fall. It looks bad but in a drought situation it gets that low anyway.

Questions from the Public

Ken Strong – At the first of the year in your presentation you talked about Little Creek and Otter Creek and no planting of fertilized rainbow. What is the species of fish in there we are trying to protect by doing that?

Drew Cushing – Native cutthroat.

Comments from the Public

Greg Porter – I am an angler, I do hook and line and fly fishing but I am also a spear fisherman. Speaking with the very small community of spear fishermen here in Utah we would like the spear fishing season to mirror the hook and line season. Currently the spear fishing season begins the first Saturday in June. Since we are in the water and under the water competing with boats and poor visibility are problematic factors. Earlier and later in year are safer times for us. Also dealing with the algae bloom and visibility issues, when the water is clearer it is safer for us.

Matt Clark – What is the reason for that season?

Drew Cushing – We worked with this group extensively a couple of years ago and we would again. It was friendlier then than it is now. We had an issue down at Fish Lake. There were some spear fishermen, not you (Greg), but we had an incident where some spear fishermen took some trophy lake trout which would have been okay but then they interacted poorly on the internet with the regular anglers and when you pit 100 anglers against 400,000 anglers and you make them mad you are probably going to lose a little. There is room to grow and we are willing to work with these guys it's just that you have to do it productively and I think this is a good start. I think they have to earn some respect back from those 400,000 anglers first. I think that is where you are going to lose this battle is you lose it.

Mike Slater – We have worked with Greg at our open house this spring. Greg came and presented their proposal to the Division. They asked for a season change. We took that information internally and felt like the timing wasn't the best. Not that we disagree and perhaps sometime down the road in the near future it is something we will bring up where we can discuss further and probably go back to somebody like Greg who represents himself well for their group and work with the spear fishing communities and let them know where we are at and the things we need to do and talk about maybe some things that need to change to change the perception that is being perceived by the general anglers. I think we are on the right track.

Gary Nielson – How do you feel about that?

Greg Porter – Obviously there is nothing I can do about the past. For me it's about safety rather than these other issues. I understand the situation at Fish Lake and some poor representatives of the spear fishing community and that having lasting effects. Speaking with most people this is a social issue rather than a biological issue, understood.

However would still like the change.

Gary Nielson – With the social and the biological, I have watched these guys for a lot of years and they are getting pretty good at making the two merge. It has to happen or change is not possible. I still remember the pictures from Fish Lake. That is still a vivid

memory. I think it is worth pursuing. I know we talked about keeping them away from the spawn and there were some timing issues with that.

Greg Porter – All anglers use the spawn to their advantage. You harvest fish when you know when they are spawning or feeding and fattening up for winter or when ice off is coming. I would hate for that one incident to taint the whole sport. Everyone knows Jordanelle is a great place to go in the spring when the bass are spawning because genetically they are aggressive and they will chase stuff. Spear fishermen do that too but everyone does.

RAC Discussion

Gary Nielson – Do you want to treat these separately or as one.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kart Hirst to accept the private ponds rule R657-59, the fishing contest and clinics rules R657-58 and the fishing guidebook and rule R657-13 as presented by the Division

Seconded by Timothy Fehr

In Favor: All

Opposed: none

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

19 in attendance

Next board meeting November 3, 2011 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake City

Next RAC meeting November 10, 2011 at Springville Jr. High School

Northern Regional Advisory Council

Sept 28, 2011

6:00 P.M.

Place: Brigham City Community Center

RAC Present

John Blazzard- Agric
Robert Byrnes –At Large
John Cavitt- Noncon.
Paul Cowley- Forest Service
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large
Russ Lawrence- At Large
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected
Ann Neville- Noncon.
Jill Silvey- BLM
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Scott Walker
Paul Thompson
Drew Cushing
Roger Wilson

Wildlife Board

Ernie Perkins
Bill Fenimore

RAC Excused

Jim Gaskill- At Large
Jon Leonard- Sportsman

RAC Absent

Joel Ferry- Agric
John Wall- At Large

Meeting Begins: 6:08 p.m.

Number of Pages: 7

Introduction: Robert Byrnes-Chair

Agenda:

Review of Agenda and Aug 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Regional Update

Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59

Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58

Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13

Item 1. Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of RAC Members

Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Aug 3, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Neville- Approve the agenda.

Second: Cowley

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Motion: Blazzard- Approve the minutes.

Second: Cowley

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Item 3. Wildlife Board Update

CIP Rule was tabled.

Passed the cougar management plan.

Most actions followed our recommendations.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Scott Walker, Acting Regional Supervisor

Personnel Changes

Regional Supervisor Ron Hodson retired. Scott Walker is acting. Position has been advertised and has closed. Box Elder Biologist retired and looking at interviews.

***NRO RAC chose to have RAC Agenda items: Private Fish Pond Rule R657-59, Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58 and Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 presented at the same time instead of broken down into separate items.**

Item 5. Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59

- Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Cowley- Do you think Ferron Reservoir will be able to sustain a four fish limit? I know a lot of our other brood lakes, we have struggled to maintain.

Cushing- There is not a brood lake associated with Ferron Reservoir, the creeks so yes.

Cowley- Why wouldn't we treat Panguitch Lake the same as the proposal with Lost Creek Reservoir?

Cushing- The limit is the same basically.

Cowley- I mean the slot limit that is being proposed tonight for the same reason.

Cushing- It has the same limit on it. It has one over 22 and 3 under. What people want is to protect all the rainbows or not protect any or be able to keep a fish in the slot. Those are the things we are probably going to be discussing. We had rainbows in the slot protected at one time and what happened was there was enough biomass in trout in the Reservoir that they never came out of the slot. They just stuck at about 20 inches and never came out.

Cowley- Over populated.

Hicks- Question on the Willard Bay wipers. Are you dropping the limit to three?

Cushing- Yes.

Hicks- Is that for the next 5 years or is this going to change if you can get your hatchery going?

Cushing- Once we are successful, that limit will be reverted.

Hicks- So this is just a year to year type thing?

Cushing- Yes but I feel confident that we can get our feet under us.

Hicks- How come you chose to do artificial lures only at Hobbs Reservoir?

Cushing- It is an efficiency move. We are lacking in number of trout we can produce. It is to be more efficient. With Holmes Creek, Adams, Kaysville ponds and Farmington Pond, all of those are community fisheries. We felt like picking one and it seems to be it is the deepest and best water quality to actually hold those kind of fish in there. Also, to offer that variety so that the other anglers that are not looking for the community fishery outing have something right at home that is a trophy opportunity which we do not have right now.

Hicks- I think it is a great idea. It is a good variety for that area.

Neville- Tagged fish contests is confusing to me on when you have to have your application for the COR's so if there is a competition between one water body and a whole bunch of people wants to have a contest on it.

Cushing- For all the rest of the contests, with the exception of tagged fish, it is 45 days. 45 days prior to the start of your contest, you have to have your COR application in.

Neville- If there is more than one group, they are out of it?

Cushing- Only one contest on a body of water at a time. First come, first serve.

Hicks- Is it a cut and dry rule that one per body or is this up to someone to make a management decision on this? When possibly two groups would be different and utilizing different areas, picking different fish, not in the same areas.

Cushing- It is cut and dry.

Hicks- It seems to me if you have a walleye tournament somewhere else and you have guys in the back end waiting around shooting carp, why would you not allow two different people on the same body of water like Utah Lake.

Cushing- Lake Powell is the exception to that rule. It is a competition of resources for those in there for the money and everybody else. We have had issues in the past and we probably still will in the future because people hold illegal tournaments or they are too small for us to monitor. It is not to protect the tournament people, it is to protect those not in the tournament and trying to limit that competition.

Hicks- O.K.

Silvey- What is driving the change in the fillet regulations at Lake Powell?

Cushing- The type of water it is. If you go to Lake Powell, a lot of people go out and fish for multiple days. They tent so they will go up to 50 miles down lake, 20 miles up lake. They will camp and tent and move around for a series of days. They will have fillet fish with them because there is no limit on striped bass and a lot of people go catch and keep striped bass.

The intent is to make it easier for those folks to stay legal because rules written right now that you can't possess fillet fish while you are in the act of fishing. If you are boating and you have a bunch of fillet fish and are headed south to the boat launch, you might want to stop and fish on your way. The way the rule is currently written, you could not do that.

Byrnes- Is there an availability of sterile rainbow trout commercially for people who are not getting a COR?

Cushing- No, we have Neil Barker who is raising sterile rainbow trout. We have trout lodge who is one of the big producers of sterile trout. They sell them to commercial people. Neil Barker is out of Ogden and has actually sold or provided his technique to people within the state to allow them to do it. Neil is not charging anymore for his sterilized fish than he did for his diploids. It must be fairly easy to do and fairly reliable. He does a good job and comes back with 100% sterility every year.

Public Question

Rick Culver -Bass Federation of Utah- Questions on decreasing wiper plan. Drew clarified some rumors. Any electroshock surveys taken to see what the balance is of wipers in the fishery there or any sampling? Angler surveys? Talk from anglers coming off the water at Willard Bay?

Cushing- If I'm not mistaken, they are going to go out on Willard Bay within the next two weeks for the fall sampling?

Paul Thompson- I am actually not the one over the sampling at Willard Bay but I do know when we do our gillnet surveys, it is in the fall. Typically it is fall surveys.

Cushing- There was a creel survey just completed. I think it came out this last spring. The survey is available and we will provide that to you if you are interested.

Rick Culver- What is the ultimate goal or management plan for Willard Bay?

Cushing- The quota, I believe, is 300,000 historically. I don't believe we have ever hit it. We would like to and that is the intent.

Rick Culver- Is the limit statewide going to go down or is that just for Willard Bay?

Cushing- Just Willard Bay. The reason is because that is about 99% of our fish.

Rick Culver- After looking at all of the stocking data online, over the past 10 years, they have planted warm water fisheries and I know the wipers come from out of state. It is like 3.2

million and that covers the largemouth and small mouth. On the flipside, for trout the last 10 years, they have planted 83 million trout. Is there any reason we can't convert one of those cold water fisheries to warm water fisheries and expand that capability for warm water?

Cushing- Are you talking about a hatchery or a fishery?

Rick Culver- A hatchery.

Cushing- We are actually looking at that right now. We are about a month and a half from formalizing a plan to do just that. You are right; we are looking at it and trying to look at not just their current needs. We are asking for not just this year but also 2015 and 2020 what the projected needs are and design a hatchery based on those needs, not today's needs. We are going through that process right now. We had a meeting earlier this year dealing with this very thing. We are not very far away.

Rick Culver- Is there a dollar value or do you know the dollar value for a hatchery to raise a trout vs. Hatchery raising wipers or warm water fishery. Everything is going to come down to dollars and with the economic situation what it is.

Cushing- I can give you ballpark on some basic species. There are all kinds of variables. We buy a million wipers a year. This year, we bought 2 million. I think it was a thousand dollars a million but they are so small they are invisible so they are really cheap. The return on that if you stock them at that size is 1%. Blue gill are 50 cents apiece or so. This is to buy them; this is not raising them ourselves. Largemouth bass we are buying for \$1.50 a piece. Tiger musky we bought this year for a dollar an inch. We bought six inch fish and they were 6 dollars apiece. We don't have a dollar value associated with tiger musky yet but we will get there. It will be a lot cheaper than a dollar an inch. Catfish are about 2 dollars a pound and to raise them ourselves, it is going to be interesting to see. I have a guess it is somewhere around there. May be more, may be less.

Rick Culver- What are we producing out of Wahweap which is the warm water hatchery for the state?

Cushing- A lot of the fish that come out of Wahweap are native fish. Upper Colorado recovery program puts a lot of money in Wahweap. Historically, we have raised tiger musky down there. This is the second year we are raising catfish down there ourselves. Every year, up until last year, we have bought them. We have bought over 100,000 pounds a year. I think we have our feet under us. We were able to produce 20,000 on our own last year.

Public Comment

Scott Hausman- Utah Bass Federation- Concerns about cutting current limit in half. Understand why we are somewhat limited. Look at the economic impact of cutting that in half. Consider whether or not you are going to just discourage people from making the trip. Comment about contests. Concerned is that the rules put in place for fish contests really impact our ability to get these kids out on the water fishing. I would like to try and work with the commission on coming up with a way that we just make sure when we hold these youth events, that we can do so without worrying about violating the regulations and still putting on a good event for the kids.

RAC Question

Silvey- Not quite clear what the issue is with obtaining a permit for an event?

Scott Hausman- We try to keep this program as limited in cost for the children when they come out. When we have to buy a permit, there are fees associated with that. If we are on a body of water and I have 8 boats that are taking kids fishing and I can't get out there that particular Saturday because there is another contest that has 4 boats and we are on a lake that is 84,000 acres or something, that needs to be looked at and addressed. Especially if we are not competing for the same species. I have never seen it be an issue at boat ramps where we are tying it up. What I see more is an issue at any boat ramp which is folks who don't know how to launch their boat properly.

Rick Culver- It all comes down to a money issue. It is something that needs to be addressed.

Blizzard- How much does a core permit cost to put on a tournament? Is it a standard flat rate?

Cushing- No, it is based on the impact. A small tournament is \$25 dollars, \$50 dollars for a medium sized tournament and \$250 dollars for a really large tournament which we really don't have in Utah.

Blizzard- So, on an 8 boat tournament, the permit would be \$50 dollars?

Cushing- 8 boats would be \$25 dollars I believe.

Scott Hausman- \$25 dollars is typically the impact it would be to our association. I have 3 contests with the youth but there is actually 6 we hold each year. That is because we have two governing bodies which sanction youth fishing. The 45 day period also impacts it to make sure all the paperwork is in.

RAC Comment

Hicks- Hope that if the wiper limit is biologically based and you have to drop it, that is one thing but people are not going to be happy about this. They like to eat those things.

Blizzard- If the 45 day issue is a problem for scheduling, is that really a hard fast problem if we go shorter than that like 30 days. Would that cut them some slack as far as scheduling?

Cushing- It is something we could think about. I don't think it is a recommendation tonight but you could make it something for us to look at. I am happy to work with these guys. If you want to recommend we get together and work on this issue, we can. It is the processing time and there may be other solutions we can look at. Once we get a COR, we have to process it through our regional folks. We have to make sure all the paperwork is in line. It takes time and I can't answer right now that 30 days is enough time.

Blizzard- I can just visualize trying to get a bunch of volunteers together to take a bunch of kids together.

Cushing- If you guys would like to recommend we get together, you actually don't even have to recommend it. I am happy to work with them again.

Motion

Motion: Nelson- Recommend to the Wildlife Board approve the Private Fish Ponds Rule R657-59, Fishing Contests and Clinics Rule R657-58 and Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13.

Second: Thurgood

Motion Carries: Unanimous

Motion

Motion: Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board look at shortening the application period for youth fishing contests or creating a variance for youth fishing contests.

Second: Neville

Discussion on the Motion

Cowley- It seems to me like there definitely needs to be some time. I think Drew can work with these folks and find some balance there to meet both needs.

Silvey- I am not particularly in favor of that. There is a lot of work that goes into it and I have to trust that the DNR is doing the best they can.

Lawrence- Biologists are gone a lot in the summer months and into the spring and fall as well.

Cavitt- Wondering if there is a way in which you know a timeframe which these things are normally occurring, if you could have a dialogue with Drew and so forth, so that the process can begin even though exact dates are not set in stone.

Scott Hausman- That can be done fairly easily. If we are going to have a dialogue, I think a dialogue that would be helpful to us and at least for consideration, we are basically done after this Saturday until next April. It is a great time to have the conversation. Perhaps a variance that might state something like: for youth fishing contests where participants are 18 and under and under 25 boats, a variance would be helpful. All the rules and regulations would still have to be followed. I still have to do my paperwork for the tournaments. That just might make it easy because I promise you for the \$25 dollars we would typically have to pay, the state will have to pay their employees a lot more money to go through the paperwork shuffle. It takes a lot to put one of these on safely, maintain insurance, parents checking the paperwork and entry forms, etc. My biggest fear is that I miss one rule and get a ticket from the DNR in front of the kids while trying to put a tournament together. Most of the kids do not come from families where their parents are outdoorsmen.

Motion Passes: For 9, Against: 1

RAC Training

Meeting Ends: 7:11 p.m.