

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Richfield High School  
Richfield, UT  
September 18, 2012  
7:00 p.m.**

**1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

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

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**2. 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  
 Beaver High School  
 Beaver, UT  
 September 20, 2011  
 7:00 p.m.**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Chairman Steve Flinders Harry Barber Sam Carpenter Brian Johnson Mack Morrell Clair Woodbury Mike Worthen	Giani Julander Mike Hadley Richard Hepworth Drew Cushing Roger Wilson Lynn Chamberlain Paul Birdsey Branden Davis Vance Mumford Stan Beckstrom Gary Bezzant Bruce Bonebrake	Jake Albrecht	Rusty Aiken Dale Bagley Dave Black Cordell Pearson Mike Staheli Layne Torgerson

Steve Flinders called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 4 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: Shall we get this started tonight? I'm Steve Flinders; I'm the Chair. I represent the Fish Lake and Dixie National forests. I'd like to start out by introducing the RAC. How about we start down on this end Brian.

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

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

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

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

Harry Barber: Harry Barber, I represent BLM.

Bruce Bonebrake: Bruce Bonebrake, regional supervisor, DWR.

Mac Morrell: Mac Morrell representing agriculture.

Steve Flinders: I'd like to recognize Jake Albrecht with the Wildlife Board, in the audience. We've got a few from the public. Talk about how this meeting is going to proceed; we'll hear presentations from the Division of Wildlife. I'd ask you to hold your questions and comments until after they're done. And fill out a comment card, one of these yellow cards here on the table, if you want to make a comment. We'll move things right along.

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

Steve Flinders: We've got a fairly short agenda. I'm looking for a motion on the agenda and minutes from the last meeting guys.

Mike Worthen: I move that we approve the minutes from the last meeting.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Mike. Seconded by Sam. All in favor? It's unanimous.

**Mike Worthen made the motion to accept the agenda and minutes as written. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Wildlife Board Update:**

**-Steve Flinders, Chairman**

Steve Flinders: In the way of Wildlife Board update; the last meeting was on bobcat recommendations and waterfowl recommendations as you recall. The Wildlife Board passed things as we did as a RAC. There was a lot of discussion about convention and conservation permits. If you want to hear more go to the website; it went on and on and on. Unless there are any questions about that we're ready for a regional update.

### **Regional Update:**

**-Bruce Bonebrake, Regional Supervisor**

Bruce Bonebrake: All right, I don't have too much tonight. But a couple of things that I wanted to point out, one was the new program that the director unveiled last week. I don't know how many of you saw it in the paper but it's a push called the wildlife recreation program. And what it's going to do is it will be housed within conservation outreach but it rolls together several programs. It takes community fisheries program, the dedicated hunter program, youth fishing clubs, hunter education, shooting ranges, shooting sports, watchable wildlife program, volunteer program, Great Salt Lake nature center, and special events and rolls them all under one program. The main emphasis of the program is hunter and fisherman retention. The director's office has uh, recognizes that we've been kind of falling a little short on those and they want to put some direct emphasis in it. They will be hiring a coordinator for that;

announcements should be out this week, and then on rolling out the program. Um, a couple of things coming up, I don't know how many of you have heard of the Leave It To Beavers Festival. It's going to be the 21<sup>st</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Escalante. That's this Friday and Saturday. We will have a booth there. There will be some festivities and stuff like that, but it's trying to promote the beaver as an ecological tool for fisheries and for other wildlife values. They're great habitat managers. And lastly, I just wanted to mention that we've been very busy, Gary Bezzant, who's here, particularly on fire rehab in the region, as you all know we've had some major fires this year. Just a few of them that we're working on, the Clay Springs fire, which is over by Oak City, New Harmony fire, Quail fire, White Rocks fire, which took out some sage grouse habitat. The quail fire took out some desert tortoise habitat and endangered species concerns there. The Baboon fire had sage grouse and winter range for deer. And the Shingle fire of course had big game summer and winter range. So we've had some pretty major, that's just some of them, there's been a lot more than that. So a lot of the seed will be going out in the next couple of months. And if anybody has any questions on that Gary could probably answer those for you. And that's about it for the regional update. Yes.

Sam Carpenter: Have you got any information on the coyote program, and also have they sold out on spike elk tags yet? Do we still have some of those available? I've been asked by a few people.

Bruce Bonebrake: Yeah, the last time I checked there were still around, well it's probably less than that now, but there were about 4,000 spike elk tags still left. There were still quite a few any bull tags left, till about the same. As far as the coyote program, I mean we've been moving ahead with that. I don't really know what the numbers are that were actually turned in but I know it was over 500 in the first two weeks. So it's been, we've had people bring in one and then one guy brought in, I think, 43. So they've been turning in a lot of coyotes. Any other questions on anything? Okay.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Bruce. Nice questions Sam. Anything else? We'll move into the meat of this agenda with the first action item, Fishing Guide Book and Rule. Drew, no that's Paul. I was reading ahead.

**Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 (action) 6:37 to 28:20 of 1:14:17**  
**-Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator**  
(See attachment 1)

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

Steve Flinders: We can act on this I think while it's fresh in our minds. Anybody have any questions? Go Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Just two questions. One was concerning the carp; you said you were considering the use of crossbows for the disabled only. And if we're interested in getting rid of all of the carp we can why not just open that up to anyone? And two, on the East Boulder Creek, if we're wanting to remove those brookies while having a limit of four, why not just open that up?

Paul Birdsey: Let me address that first one part, in discussion with some the Wildlife Board members on crossbows, as well as our attorney general representative, there is some concern that if we open up the use of crossbows to anyone for carp it's going to spill over into a desire to use crossbows for deer, or big

game hunting. And nobody is quite ready to take that step yet, if ever. So this is just a cautious approach I think. It does accommodate a segment of the population that we've made accommodations for in other areas without moving into an area that, frankly, has a lot of people nervous. The second part of that is, you know, a very valid point. But at some point in time in the past there was a decision made by the administration to say that if we're going to have a bonus limit of fish that number was going to be four. And it's just a standardization issue. It really has no biological concept or backing. And that four has been around for a long time. So people are just used to if there's a bonus limit they know that number is four.

Steve Flinders: Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, my question really doesn't pertain to anything in the presentation. Do you want me to address that now Steve?

Steve Flinders: What's that?

Sam Carpenter: My questions don't really pertain to the presentation. One of them does pertain to Panguitch Lake.

Steve Flinders: Sure, ask it now, absolutely.

Sam Carpenter: Might as well just do it. Okay. What I'd like to know is if there's any biological reason that Duck Creek pond cannot be open to winter fishing? And if there's any possibility that anything can be done on moss treatment there? I've fished that all my life and it's got now to where it's even hardly fishable with the moss. Even down stream, you go down stream a quarter mile or so you just can't, there's a little channel out in the middle and the rest of it is moss from there on. And the other question while you are there is on the Panguitch Lake on these slot limits. I probably fished twenty times up there this year and boy, I see so many of those Bonneville's floating around you know. They're just getting slaughtered. We've got vultures living up there now on the shore. It's a cache for them.

Richard Hepworth: I'll tackle one at a time. The first one on Duck Creek, the winter fishing issue. It was open to winter fishing at one time. UDOT, the Department of Transportation came to us and said we've got a real problem up here with parking. We can't keep an area cleaned off enough and it's a dangerous situation the way people are pulling off the highway. So . . .

Sam Carpenter: Can I make a comment about that? Because now they've got, up there today they have these chili cook offs, their traffic is a problem. That highway is so narrow and we have bikers. It just doesn't make sense that they can go up and do everything else but they can't fish. It's a problem, winter or not, I understand you know you have to clear an area and sometimes you have six or eight foot bank there but people can park responsibly if they want to fish. It's still, you know, there's a lot of people in that area now and I think we need to take a look at possibly opening that back up for the fisherman and address the problems with UDOT as they pop up..

Richard Hepworth: Let me visit with UDOT again. I'll report back to you. Look into that a little bit more. But that was the reason it was closed. It's been a number of years back now; it was a safety issue from UDOT's standpoint. You got a comment there or? Okay, the week issue, you know, there's not a lot we can do. Some years it's a lot worse than other years. Years like this year when we have low water, we

have warm temperatures, the weeds are a lot worse. But really there are not a lot of other good options with the weeds up there. I mean we've got that at Fish Lake, we've got that at Navajo Lake; it's just part of the ecosystem. In a way, and the way I tell a lot of people, it's kind of like going up and cutting down all the trees to make the deer hunting easier.

Steve Flinders: We do some of that.

Sam Carpenter: I don't guess we have a fish we could put up there that eats moss then that could help? t

Richard Hepworth: Not really, no. There's a grass carp but we wouldn't allow it up there. What was the last part? There was one other thing . . . oh, Panguitch lake. The slot limit we know there's going to be hooking mortality associated with that. We see it at the other lakes where we've got it. We do lose fish but if we don't have the slot limit we lose 100 percent of the fish. Right now it's probably somewhere around 10 percent of the fish that are caught die. Without that slot limit it's closer to 100 percent. Does that make sense? You know we can reuse those fish a lot of times.

Sam Carpenter: I'd probably argue the 10 percent though, the number that I see floating around. But I have no idea and I'm sure you keep track of that stuff.

Richard Hepworth: Yeah, it's pretty close to 10 percent. And certain times of years it's higher, other times of years it's a lot lower.

Sam Carpenter: Well what about barbed hooks and regulations that way? Can you, I actually squeezed the barbs down and then I had trouble keeping a worm and stuff on there.

Richard Hepworth: Yeah, and some literature on the barbed hook stuff says it doesn't make that big a difference.

Harry Barber: I just want to go back to the Duck Creek piece for just a second. I spend quite a bit of time up there in the winter and I think the perception is that if you're a fisherman you don't know how to park. But if I go up there with my snow machines and trailers, and if I go up there with boy scouts and snowshoes it's not a problem. Obviously you guys know how to park but if you bring a fly rod or something like that you don't know how to park and you can't fish. And so I hope you take that seriously when you talk to UDOT. There are a lot of people using that area for a lot of reasons. I'm going to go up there and grouse hunt, I hope, in the wintertime. I've got to park my vehicle somewhere. But if I go up there with a fly rod in hand I'm going to get a ticket because I don't know how to park.

Richard Hepworth: You know people change, things change in these different departments and maybe we'll have somebody right now that's a lot more willing to work with us and figure something out there. But I'll definitely go to UDOT and talk with them about this. It's really easy, they're in the same off we are.

Harry Barber: And if there were a biological reason, you know, that would be awesome.

Richard Hepworth: It's not biological.

Harry Barber: It just seems like it's kind of backwards to (unintelligible) to that.

Steve Flinders: Other questions from the RAC?

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

Steve Flinders: Questions from the audience? Jake and Lee.

Jake Albrecht: Jake Albrecht. On the Panguitch Lake, the 8 people that attended your meeting, how many of them were business owners or had something to do with the process around the lake?

Richard Hepworth: We had one of the lodge owners, him and his wife, did show up at that meeting.

Jake Albrecht: So overall what did the people want changed in the management plan on the Panguitch Lake then?

Richard Hepworth: What we had is we had 24 people that wanted that changed. 13 of them wanted more restrictive regulations. 13 of them wanted us to protect the rainbow trout, the bottom line. Put them in the slot with the cutthroat. 11 of the people I got comments for wanted us to take the cutthroat out of the slot and not have a slot at all. So, does that answer your question? It was really split. Some people want more restrictive, some want less.

Jake Albrecht: (off mic) What did the business owner want?

Richard Hepworth: I got comments, I got one from the lodge, the big lodge right as you're coming in from the west side, they wanted to remove the cutthroat. The main lodge down by the new marina area, Panguitch Lake Resort, that gentleman sent me an email, he wanted to include the rainbow trout in the slot. So of the two business people we talked to we were split there as well. And I'll look at that data again to make sure I'm telling you right, and if I'm wrong I'll send you an email letting you know.

Steve Flinders: Lee.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. I have two questions. One of them is kind of a generic question. I'm not sure who can answer that but I've looked for quite a few years through that fishing regulations and I have a question about the method of measuring fish and why that was placed that way. It seems to me that the more you handle those things the worse chance they have of surviving. Is that pretty standard or statewide or what; where you have to pinch the tail? It seems to me like uh, you know, measuring a man by having him stand on his tippy toes.

Paul Birdsey: Paul Birdsey. There are 3 standard ways to measure fish, scientifically; one is called the total length, which is what we recommend as part of the regulation. That is from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail with the tail squeezed together. The other one is called the fork length, which would be from the tip of the nose to the deepest part of the indentation on the fork. And finally there's the standard length, which is from the tip of the nose to the end of the spinal cord, which is in the caudal peduncle of the fish. The total length is actually the easiest one for people to understand and it is a standard method that has been used for over one hundred years in fisheries management and that's why we have used that.

Lee Tracy: Okay, my other question is for Richard. Could you give us an update on Navajo?

Richard Hepworth: Yes, that's easy. I did that all day today. What's going on right now, the bid is out to patch the hole up there. That closes on the 25<sup>th</sup> and will be awarded right there the 25<sup>th</sup>, maybe the 26<sup>th</sup>, is when the bid will be awarded. Construction to patch the hole should start by the 1<sup>st</sup>. It may be even a little earlier, right there about the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. And chances are it's not going to take them much more than a week to two weeks to get that patched.

Steve Flinders: Other questions?

Mark Fuller: Mark Fuller, US Fish and Wildlife Service from Vernal, Utah. This has, this pertains to the limit that is to be changed on the non-native fish in the Green River drainage. When those limits were set it was assumed that having a limit would result in more take because anglers, because of the anglers that wished to hit their limit, to take their limit. Does this have any merit and if so would it be better to just change the limits so that they can take more numbers?

Paul Birdsey: That was true 20 to 25 years ago, that people had a real desire to take their limit. I remember when I was working up at Bear Lake, the guy I worked for's father got very angry at the aquatics manager in the Northern Region when the limit on Kokanee trout at Porcupine Reservoir was increased from 12 to 24. Because he said there is no way I can catch 24 trout, or Kokanee and then I can't come home. So, but that was a case 25 years ago. What we find now is that over 50 percent pushing 70 percent in some surveys that people like to release fish. And the way that we need to compensate for that is by telling them that in this particular case on this body of water for this species it is illegal to release the fish. So it's just a change in the paradigm of the fisherman that's causing us to move that direction.

Steve Flinders: Other questions? I've got no comment cards.

Brian Johnson: I've got a question. Just a dumb one.

Steve Flinders: Jump in there Brian.

Brian Johnson: So we force them to not turn them back and then we still put a limit on so the poor guy has to go home early?

Paul Birdsey: No, there is no limit on it. There is no limit on that catching, catch and kill regulation, no limit, just what you have to kill everyone of them, you cannot take it home, or I mean cannot release it.

### **Comments from the public:**

Steve Flinders: Lee. It's the only comment card I've got.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. We have taken a similar survey of our membership and here's the statement that they've asked me to read. Based on member input received through the internal survey and comments, the United Wildlife Cooperative has the following positions on the RAC agenda items listed below. Number 1: We support the changes proposed for the Blacksmith Fork. Number 2: We support the changes proposed for the Weber River and recommend that this approach be



considered for other trout streams with small native cutthroat populations. We support the proposal to permit nighttime bow fishing for carp. We support also the changes proposed for Fish Lake. And item number 5, while not an agenda item; although we heard about it, our survey indicates that a large majority of our members favor no changes to the regulations at Minersville Reservoir.

Steve Flinders: Thanks Lee. Those are the comment cards that I have.

### **RAC discussion and vote:**

Steve Flinders: Discussion. Motions from the RAC? We heard about, a few things we've heard about for years. It's a little (unintelligible) than it has been. But things are working pretty well.

Clair Woodbury: In spite of my questions on the Boulder Creek, and I love the brook trout; I think it's been a great success story. But I also understand what we're doing over there with the Colorado Cutthroat. So rather than muddy up the water I would just make the proposal that we accept the recommendations as proposed on the Fishing Guide.

Steve Flinders: Motion by Clair. Seconded by Sam. Further discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous

**Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Fishing Guidebook and Rule as presented by the Division. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Steve Flinders: Thank you. Let's talk about illegal species movement.

### **Illegal Species Movement in Utah (informational) 45:59 to 52:40 of 1:14:17**

**-Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator**

(see attachment 1)

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

Steve Flinders: That's interesting. Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, I've got to know more about that super-male. Does that cross several species? Is that just one species that they've worked with?

Paul Birdsey: Right now all they've managed to do it with is Brook trout. It is a concept that is entirely unique and it seems like it is something that we want to pursue in the future with a bunch of different species.

Clair Woodbury: I'd haul them a bunch of Utah Chub males real quick if I were you. Have them test those.

Paul Birdsey: Yeah, Utah Chubs, Yellow Perch, there's a whole bunch of them that are on the list there.

Steve Flinders: Other questions?

## **Questions from the Public:**

Steve Flinders: Questions from the audience? It's just an informational item. Time well spent.

None.

Steve Flinders: Moving on. Monroe Mountain Working Group. Tell us what's going on up there Bill.

## **Monroe Mountain Working Group Update (informational) 53:46 to 58:25 of 1:14:17**

**-Tutor Ogden, Sevier County Commissioner**

**-Bill Christensen, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**

(see attachment 2)

## **Questions from the RAC:**

Steve Flinders: I want to open it up to other RAC members to ask questions and respond to that question. Maybe we'll sum up at the end. Go ahead Mike.

Mike Worthen: I'm not sure I can respond to the question but I do have a question for you. Is this project for the whole mountain or is it just for a few permittees, or allotments, or how is it set up?

Tudor Ogden: This is for the whole Monroe Mountain. We've identified various areas on the whole project. It's basically for the whole Monroe Mountain area.

Mack Morrell: Just a comment. On the West Boulder, we've used rest rotation grazing, and if the last 20 some odd years or so, and what we have found is that there is no rest in rest rotation. There is on the forest where (unintelligible) is concerned, but the pasture that we rest that's where the wildlife comes and goes.

Tudor Ogden: Yeah, we're addressing that concern in this livestock management plan. They've restructured a lot of this on the Monroe Mountain. And we do have two or three pastures on the Monroe Mountain that we are doing some rest periods but we are also addressing the concerns with the elk and the deer and trying to monitor that as well. So that is in the plan.

Steve Flinders: As I understand there's a number of enclosures, some for cattle, some for all ungulates, some control areas.

Tudor Ogden: It's basically for, we've identified everything on the Monroe Mountain. There is areas that the elk are more concentrated than others. And we hope that through some of this fire and mechanical work, possibly we can maybe deter the elk and the deer to some of these other areas that hopefully once we have fire, fire and mechanical is a great thing for the aspen restoration, we're hoping that some of that's going to help in this process.

Steve Flinders: Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Is this aspen restoration problem just on the Monroe or is this going on throughout the west, and what are they doing about it in say, Colorado and other areas where?

Tudor Ogden: I think they're, this specific group, if we're successful in this, with the parties that are involved, we hope that this will be something of a kind of a model for some of these other areas. Yeah, it's a concern. I think the aspen on the Monroe Mountain is at about 50 percent of what it should be because of the conifer encroachment. You've got a lot of the sub-alpine fir that's crowded it over and so we've got to take that out to try to get this back to an aspen stand.

Steve Flinders: Harry.

Harry Barber: I'm not as familiar with this area as I am with Kane; Kane county is where I spend most of my time, parts of Garfield. I see BLM is not listed as a participant. Is there not any BLM land involved?

Tudor Ogden: Not on this project.

Steve Flinders: There would be winter use by elk on BLM lands adjacent to the project area. I . . . What do you guys think about our interaction with this group? I guess I see them as an extension of the elk plan, elk management plan working group. Or the Division's integrated with them as recommendations are made for antlerless harvest that we might, that we're involved in, you know, to know what discussions went on there, and adjustments in the elk management plan itself, or antlerless harvest. I'm trying to think where else it might go. I . . . Whether the Division has their support or not. Uh, they may have to get creative in ways to move elk from certain favorite areas up there. This has been tried in the last decade. I know with trying to herd elk, and they may have to get creative and this is where we may see some of these recommendations in the future, is that right? Any other thoughts or questions? I think it's a great effort. I think it probably will be the model for every herd unit in the state of Utah. Everyone I've worked on there's aspen recruitment issues.

Tudor Ogden: Well we're really excited about this. We're now approaching going into the mechanical side of this and also the fire side. So we're hoping to have a proposal together by the 1<sup>st</sup> of November and going forward.

Steve Flinders: Thanks very much commissioner for your time. When we talked about elk management plans this was one of the limiting factors to herd expansion in many areas. It's always a struggle. Sure Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Just one comment, I've read quite a bit about this particular problem. And just about everything I've read they just seem to want to blame the elk on this. I wonder how the elk foundation feels about that and if they're going to be a participant what are they willing to do to try to turn that one around?

Bill Christensen: Great question. I think that we're still gathering information because there's a lot of incomplete data out there. There's a lot of little pieces of data that can't be pulled together into one big whole. Sam St. Clair and other people from BYU are involved with other projects that will tie into what we're doing and tie in with the Forest Service supporting this and the other groups. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation really feels strongly and wants to work closely with the Division of Wildlife. We feel like that there are still answers that we need and we're gathering those. But when we do receive answers we need to act on them. We need to be prepared to do it but we need to do it in a holistic manner so we don't . . . There's a lot of people that say it's all elk and a lot of hunters say it's all cows.

Frankly it's a combination of that; but loss of habitat is the biggest issue. Conifer encroachment, improving the distribution of aspen, regenerating young aspen, new buds, new saplings, is of upmost importance. So yeah, we are going to certainly defend, if elk are unfairly focused too much. But we have to accept the fact that elk are part of the issue here and we need to manage them like we do everything else. So it's important. I think I made that clear last time I spoke to this RAC. I spoke in favor of supporting larger elk numbers on one elk herd unit and then a minute later I supported the local elk group in reducing those elk numbers. My opinion is once we get the information we need the best decisions are going to be made locally with input from groups like our group that can bring about, I think, the answers we need to make, I think, very informed decisions while making sure we have good input from the public who use those lands and who hunt elk and otherwise enjoy it, and never forgetting the permittees and the people that make a living on that land as well. So I hope that answers your question Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah it does. One other thing maybe Steve can answer this. Are they still considering one of the old ways of taking care of these conifer problems, things like timber sales and things of that nature? Is that on the board?

Steve Flinders: Yeah, they're doing some creative things up there. There's some stewardship contracts that the Turkey Federation, of all entities, that are helping to remove and stimulate aspen. There was a prescribed burn last year that was one of those that escaped and took off and some think did nothing but good. It did (unintelligible) some private property. But as Bill mentioned it's an ocean of opportunity to increase aspen where they've been over topped by conifers for decades now. So Harry had something to add.

Harry Barber: A couple of things. If you don't mind I'd still like to at least give this piece of paper that we were given to the BLM. I think where they're only involved in the periphery, not specifically in the project where winter ranges are concerned; I think there's still going to be a connection there. I'm the field manager in Kane- Garfield County on the Kanab side but I'll give this to Wayne Wetzel who's the acting field manager in this area.

Bill Christensen: I believe the BLM has received copies of the guidelines. They were produced about a year and a half ago and those could be used by any organization, NGO that's interested in this.

Harry Barber: Okay. And then secondly, as a manager and having to deal with a variety of groups I admire your courageousness when I look at the variety of groups here. Good luck.

UNKNOWN: Off the mic.

Harry Barber: I have my own and when I said the names there I like 50-year plans because they keep us busy.

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

Steve Flinders: Sure. Come to the mic over here. John Keeler, do you have anything to add back there as well? Sure Lee.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy. We also have the same problem up on Cedar Mountain, but we also have that

pine beetle problem as well. Is there any of that sort of thing going on Monroe, the pine beetles and all that? And how does that affect the recruitment of the aspen?

Steve Flinders: Yeah, there is some of that. Our forest pest people come down every three years and document which species of forest pests we have and where they're hitting the spruce on Monroe. But they don't really stimulate the aspen. They often die and then adds to the fuel condition, the fuel loading to help some of these burns. But it's nature's way of taking care of the problem eventually. But it's really until a forest fire comes through to kill everything before you get the aspen regeneration.

Steve Flinders: Sure Commissioner.

Tudor Ogden: One more comment. If you want to see a success story with the stewardship with the Turkey Federation up on the Monroe Mountain, go up there and look at that fence project and how that's turned out. We certainly can't fence the whole Monroe Mountain because it's so expensive but it's one great success story that's happened up there on the Monroe Mountain. You've got a stand of quakes coming in there of all different lengths and sizes. You can get your recruitment to about five feet or to seven feet and then it's in the safe zone.

Steve Flinders: Sure Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Now on fencing, so you're fencing out everything? I mean all the wildlife, there's nothing getting in there?

Tudor Ogden: On this project yes. They've fenced the wildlife out; they've fenced everything out. But that's, there again, we can't fence everything on the Monroe. They do have a project up there that they've got about another \$300,000.00 dollars to fence it but it's about \$4.00 a foot by the time you get that 8 to 10 foot post and two wraps of fencing around it. Yeah, that net wire.

Steve Flinders: Net wire. Yeah, but it shows you what the site's potential is. It's dramatic. You drove all this way John. We've got to hear from you.

John Keeler: Well thank you, I wouldn't want to miss the opportunity. You know there's been a lot of skeptics with this group and I've been skeptical of some of the things because it's such a diverse group and very polarized by some groups. But anytime you get a group like this together and you really have a desire to solve the problem you're going to come up with some good things even though there may be a few little skepticisms along the way. But you know we've taken a look at a lot of different things. We've incorporated an individual into the mix who was doing some monitoring statewide and he set up some plots so that that's taken care of because you need monitoring along with it. We've talked about a lot of things that exist out there in management; things like once aspen have regenerated after a fire or a mechanical treatment, there are certain chemicals that can be sprayed on the new shoots that make it so that they are not palatable to the ungulates. So there are a lot of interesting things out there and you can try some of these things because it is, like you say, a pilot program. And hopefully we can find the answers that we need. But all of us, I think, would wish that as we find those answers, just like Bill has mentioned, you know, let's not be afraid because of our own positions on certain things. Let's not be afraid to face up to the problem and let's really solve it. And I think that's the great thing about this group. I think people are willing to do that. I think it's the desire of most of the members on that group to find these answers because that is a problem, and there are other things that I think we all recognize

that we may not find the answer to. There are changes in precipitation and some people feel like that's as big a factor as anything. And maybe some of those answers are long time in coming. But we know that we can treat the landscape and we know that the aspen will sprout, regenerate, if we can just get them up to the point where they're above the browsing height, you know, then it will be successful. So it's a great group. And I hope that each of you would find a way of participating, if you will, and when we do find some answers I hope we're willing to solve the problems.

Steve Flinders: Thanks. We appreciate all of you for coming tonight. And we absolutely want to hear the solutions. Any other follow-up dialogue? We appreciate everybody coming out.

**Other Business**  
**-Steve Flinders**

Steve Flinders: I don't have any other business. Looking for a motion to adjourn. Motion made.

Harry Barber: Motion to adjourn.

Steve Flinders: Motion made.

Sam Carpenter: I'll second it.

Steve Flinders: You can go home.

**Harry Barber made the motion to adjourn. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
Emery County Building  
75 E. Main  
Castle Dale, Utah  
Sep. 19, 2012 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.**

## **Motion Summary**

**No motions were made, since there was no quorum.**

### **Members Present**

Seth Allred, At Large  
Bill Bates, Regional Supervisor  
  
Blair Eastman, Agriculture  
  
Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official  
Todd Huntington, At Large  
Derris Jones, Chairman  
  
Christine Micoz, At Large

### **Members Absent**

Kevin Albrecht, USFS  
  
Sue Bellagamba, Environmental  
  
Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental  
  
Kenneth Maryboy, Navajo Rep.  
Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen  
  
Travis Pehrson, Sportsmen  
Pam Riddle, BLM  
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

### **Others Present**

Mike King

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1) **Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure**

**-Derris Jones, Chairman**

Derris Jones: We are going to go ahead and get started. We have a problem with a quorum tonight. We didn't have a quorum last month in Moab either. What we are going to do is go ahead and go through the agenda and we will do everything to take public comment and RAC comment except we just won't vote on it. Hopefully, through the discussion, I will get some kind of idea to present to the board as far as what people's feelings are on it and any problems anybody sees in the presentation or the recommendations. We can at least carry it forward to the wildlife board. So with that said what the process will be tonight is, we will have a presentation from the division on the recommendation and then we will have questions from the RAC and then we'll have questions from the audience (the public). At this point, just keep it questions and that will be for clarifications on recommendations from the division. Then, after the questions are over, if anybody wants to make a comment from the public, I request that you fill out one of these cards. It helps Brent keep track of the minutes and gets spellings and names correct. You'll have an opportunity to present your comments to the RAC and the division after all the comments has been listened to. We will close it to the public and open it to the RAC for discussion and like I mentioned earlier, we will do everything but take a vote on it. We can't approve the agenda minutes because we don't have a quorum. We will go ahead and go to the wildlife board update and the regional update from Bill Bates. I wasn't at the last board meeting. Bill represented our region at the last board meeting, so Bill will give the wildlife board update.

2) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**

**-Derris Jones, Chairman**

**VOTING**

**No motion was made due to a lack of quorum.**

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

**-by Derris Jones, Bill Bates and Justin Shannon**

Bill Bates: I have a lot more respect for Derris' job of making this report and what Mike does. It's actually quite involved. I'm probably not going to do it justice, but I will tell you what I can. We actually had two wildlife board meetings during the interim and so I will give a quick update on both. The first was held August 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> in Salt Lake City. I will just go through the summary of motions and if you have any questions go ahead and ask them and I will try and clarify as best as I can. The first thing that we looked at was the action log. If you remember at the RAC in Moab we had a discussion about female cougar harvest. There was a little discussion that we were taking too many cougars. There were some misunderstandings about when we count if it's an adult female or not, but at the board meeting, the motion was made to do an expeditious review of the data to provide the board members with the analysis and conclusions and recommendations, concerning the possible over-harvest of cougars. Agenda and minutes



were approved. There was one variance. Brad Miller had bonus points and waiting period reinstated. Next thing was bobcat harvest and the bobcat recommendations were passed unanimously as presented by the division which was the status quo. There was some discussion at our RAC about the bobcat harvest. Wayne felt that we should actually drop the number of permits further, but due to changes in the plan, if you were moving toward a target; we would maintain the course rather than continue to take away permits. So that was passed. The next thing we talked about was the waterfowl guidebook and that passed unanimously. There was very little discussion on the waterfowl guidebook. The next thing we talked about was a motion made by Jake Albrecht and seconded by Calvin Crandall that we put the issues of swan and sandhill cranes on the action log to see if there could be additional birds taken in other parts of the state. So that was just put on the action log, but other than that, the waterfowl guidebook passed as presented. Moving on, there was a proposal made to close an area around Pineview Reservoir to hunting and that was denied unanimously, or died for lack of a motion actually. The motion was made to direct the division to work with landowners and the forest service in this area to address the hunting problems. The next thing we talked about was conservation permits and permit allocations and there was quite a discussion on this one, and I couldn't do it justice but the only motion that came out of it was a motion by Jake Albrecht. He moved that we approve the conservation permit allocations with the addition of 20 antlerless elk permits to be distributed at the discretion of the division. That was to cover drought conditions and I don't even remember which units they were thinking about. Mike, do you have recollection?

Mike King: I can't remember exactly but it was in the southern region.

Bill Bates: It was in the southern region, wasn't it? Yeah, because we were talking about additional antlerless elk permits and they kind of felt that permits should be on the CWMUs as well. The one that took the most discussion was on the convention permit audit. We talked for hours about this. Ernie Perkins made a motion which was seconded by Jake Albrecht that passed unanimously that we accept the division's recommendations, adding that contract stipulations for the annual report that it should include the total amount of funds raised by the application fee, cost of administering the drawing, and expenditure on wildlife conservation activities. What the division did was make a recommendation to make the audit a little more transparent by having a disclosure on how the permits fees were used. If you recall there is a \$5 permit fee but basically with the contract the division is actually giving the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife \$5 per application. It's just like the fee we are paying to have them run that drawing. But it was felt that in the next proposal by the Utah Wildlife Cooperative that there should be more disclosure on how those funds are spent. There was another motion on the convention audit and that was made by Ernie Perkins and seconded by Mike King that the convention permit audit be accepted as presented, and that passed unanimously. Jake Albrecht made the motion, which was seconded by Mike King. The motion was to approve the convention permit allocation as presented. Now, the United Wildlife Cooperative was concerned with several things and their proposal, I don't remember the meat and potatoes of their proposal really, but in essence they wanted better disclosure on how those funds are spent and also that 90% of the money raised from the convention permit funds should be returned to the division. Our attorney Marty Bushman who works for the Attorney General's office said that would be a breach of contract. We are in the second year of a five-year or maybe four-year contract. I am not sure on the actual numbers. But we are in the middle of a contract, and it would be a

breach of contract for us to change it right now, so after much discussion a motion was made by Ernie Perkins and seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed 4 to 1. It was moved that we add to the action log a request that the division meet with the Mule Deer Foundation, Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife, and United Wildlife Cooperative both individually and collectively to identify issues of concern, and discuss possible voluntary changes to the current contract and then have the division report back to the board within one year. What Jim offered to do was facilitating a meeting to see if we could come up with an agreement on how to resolve their issues. Mike, do you have any thing else you would like to add to that discussion?

Mike King: I think that pretty well summarizes what went on but the United Wildlife Cooperative, like you said, was very concerned about the way that the money was being spent. Also the amount of money was not coming back to the state similarly to what happens with the conservation permits and I think they wanted to bring the convention permit program more in line with what the conservation permits were. But it's my understanding that, and I don't know if they have had this meeting yet, that the United Wildlife Cooperative and Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife and the division would talk about the issues that they have and then hopefully they'd be able to work something out that would be agreeable to all the parties. But ultimately if there is to be a change made it will be something that the division and the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife can agree upon, but there is that effort to try and do some thing that can satisfy some of the concerns that the United Wildlife Cooperative has, and I don't know if they have had that kind of discussion.

Bill Bates: I don't think they have had the meeting yet; at least I haven't heard about it,

Unknown: Will that be an open meeting?

Mike King: I don't know that. I would be surprised if it is to begin with. The decision ultimately, if there are changes to be recommended, will come forward in an open meeting to renegotiate that contract.

Bill Bates: Any of those things will come back through the RAC process and through the wildlife board but I don't know. I know I wasn't invited to the meeting if it's been held.

Derris Jones: Mike, I don't mean to put you on the spot but were there any examples by the Wildlife Coalition of things they thought the money shouldn't have been spent on that Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife or the Mule Deer Foundation spent money on?

Mike King: The only one I remember was coming up was \$300,000 that was spent on anti-wolf campaigns. That's a considerable amount of money. Beyond that, I don't remember anybody talking about anything specifically. The listing of projects that they presented to us were all good creditable programs as far as I was concerned. The wolf issue was one you could question a little bit I think.

Derris Jones: You either love them or hate them.

Mike King: Yeah, yeah exactly. But I think some of the concern was that a lot of that money, particularly with the wolves, was that it might not have any ultimate benefit to the state. Some of that money, or most of that money, would be spent somewhere besides Utah specifically, and that was just one example of what they thought might not have been an appropriate use of the money.

Derris Jones: Did the wildlife board have any kind of discussion of the projects and say this was good and this was bad?

Mike King: No. No we didn't have that kind of discussion at all.

Derris Jones: Okay.

Bill: The Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife came forward on their own and offered up a list of what projects they spent their money on and let them know how much money they had raised.

Mike King: I know that the two groups were actually talking to each other at the meeting as well and it sounded like they were both in favor of having some good discussion. I think there was quite a bit of misunderstanding about what was actually happening to raise that \$5 dollars I think in many peoples' mind the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife were selling permits, which is not the case. They were accepting an application fee, a brokering fee really, for running the drawing similar to what the group in Nevada does for the general drawings.

Derris Jones: They charge \$10 dollars versus \$5 dollars.

Mike King: So they were being paid a fee to run the drawing not to sell permits and that was a big concern to a lot of people. They felt Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and the Mule Deer Foundation were selling public hunting permits which is not the case.

Mike King: I think the United Wildlife Cooperative got this thing going and brought it to the forefront and that's what got the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife to come forward. I don't think they were going to do that on their own.

Todd Huntington: I think it was a good example of how the public process ought to work. You had both sides of a controversy coming before the wildlife board, and you had both sides presenting with lots of discussion. Eventually some compromises were made. It was a good chance for something to be aired out that may not have happened otherwise.

Mike King: As far as I understood the issue, it was just a matter of accountability and transparency. The people in these groups felt like there wasn't any transparency and no accountability for that \$5 dollars and as far as I understand that's what they wanted.

Bill Bates: The next item they talked about was the CWMU advisory council, community membership and there was some changes made with members and I don't have written down who they were but the recommendations made were passed unanimously. The ? CWMU had a request for an additional bull permit and Ernie Perkins made a motion which was seconded by Jake that they grant the additional permit. The scales and tails--I don't even remember what that is about but it was approved.

Drew Cushing: They wanted to get an alligator.

Bill Bates: Oh Okay

Drew Cushing: They just had an addition to their COR and it was approved.

Bill Bates: The next motion was for additional antlerless permits. We had additional 1450 permits that the division recommended be added in different units across the state to deal with both drought and fire issues and that was passed unanimously. Those went on sale on September 6<sup>th</sup> and we sold out by 11 am, so it went very quickly. We had some on the La Sals and San Juan in our region. There was other business, but I will just skip that because I don't really understand what it was. I don't know what those were about. They probably matter but I don't know what they were.

Jeff Horrocks: You said something about two board meetings.

Bill Bates: We had another emergency board meeting in the middle of all of this.

On September 12, a meeting was called because of the survey done on bison down on the Henry Mountains. Once again we counted more than we thought were down there, and based on the model and with our sightability with the GPS collars that we had on the bison, we estimated about 40 some animals over the objective and so we asked for an emergency meeting and the wildlife board granted that. Jim could have actually gone ahead and approved these additional permits under his emergency authority but he felt it

was very important to have the wildlife boards' voice in the matter so we had three agenda items. The first item was more additional late season antlerless elk permits. These were mostly out of our region. The USFS got with the division here in Price and asked us to consider more antlerless elk permits in the area where the Seeley Fire burned. They have been working with livestock permittees up there trying to keep livestock off of some of that new growth and they felt that with the 48,000 acres that was burned it would be good to reduce the amount of grazing pressure so we made a proposal to have an additional 100 permits on the Mohrland Stump Flat unit and an additional 75 permits on the Gordon Creek/Price Canyon unit. That was approved unanimously and those go on sale September 20<sup>th</sup>. We are expecting a little bit of a crowd. You can also get those online or at any license agent. A person can have up to two elk permits. If you already have one and you would rather trade it for one of these you can take your chances and go get in line and try and change it. You'll forfeit the \$50 dollars you paid for the original permit but you can make that change if you want. We are expecting a crowd on the 20<sup>th</sup> because we've had lots of calls on the telephone about it. The next item we talked about was increased bison permits on the Henry Mountains as I explained we counted more animals than we thought we would.

Todd Huntington: How many more?

Bill: It was 42 or 48 more. I actually have the data here. I can give it to you or we can go through it. We estimated the preseason population would have 384 bison, and as I recall, it doesn't say, but I recall that was going to be 42 or 48 over-objective. So what we recommended was an additional 60 permits to take into account hunter success. With 60 permits we are anticipating we are going to be below the objective.

Unknown: (Inaudible. From the audience. No microphone.)

Bill Bates: That also passed unanimously. The third item that came up was not an action item. It was just an informational item but we talked about the harvest of female cougars and John Shivic did the analysis the wildlife board had asked for at the last board meeting, and it came back that the increase in harvest was not significant. For instance, in the quota, we have a total of about a 163 females and we harvested 111 so there were 52 permits remaining on the units they were concerned about. For instance, the Wasatch unit had a quota of 39. There were 36 harvested, so there were still 3 remaining, so we really never went over the quota in those units. There was some concern that opening the Manti up to a quota reduces hunting pressure on some of those Bighorn Sheep units where we want to have pressure. That was actually a really good point because it is a lot easier to hunt on the Manti than to go hunt on Timpanogos or over in the Bighorn Benches or Rattlesnake units which are tough places to hunt. So that is something we will go back and look at for next year, but there were no changes made. The wildlife board felt comfortable that we are not overharvesting females or the data wasn't significant enough to require an emergency change midseason. That pretty much sums it up, right Mike?

Mike King: That and the fact you are almost ready to change and make some adjustments in the plans this coming year, the board just felt like it didn't make sense changing it.

Bill Bates: Just wait another year.

Derris Jones: As far as the 60 bison permits, it seems like we only gave out about 40 originally or something like that. Who gets them and what's the season? How do they plug them in and the dates and all that?

Bill Bates: We originally gave out 60 permits. There were 56 that were allocated through the drawing process and there were four conservation permits. So it's essentially a

doubling of the permits. We added a fourth season, another late season cow hunt. They will be allocated to people who already applied in the draw based on their draw number.

Derris Jones: The hunter choice tag, is that after the third season?

Bill Bates: No, those were added to the two existing seasons. What we did was added 6 permits to the first hunt and 8 permits to the second hunt.

Derris Jones: Then added another late season cow hunt after the original cow hunt?

Bill Bates: And that one has 25 permits and so we added 20 permits to the existing cow hunt.

Derris Jones: So how many cow hunters on the first cow hunt?

Bill Bates: We will have 34.

Derris Jones: So there are more cow hunters on the first season than the second season?

Bill Bates: Right. But hunter's success is a lot better in that first one than in the second one. The only other thing that I thought I better bring back, and I was lectured and take responsibility for this), I said we could go ahead and vote on it but at our RAC in Moab we went ahead and voted on a cougar issue when it wasn't an action item. I said we can vote on whatever we want but apparently that's not true. We can only vote on the agenda. I stand reproved.

Derris Jones: So when people bring something that's not on the agenda, we can talk about but we can't vote about it.

Christine Micoz: On the additional bison tags. It seems like we talked about a year or two ago the concern about the pressure on the mountain and driving the bison off. Is that going to be a concern?

Bill Bates: Back in those years we were really concerned. We had about 160 permits and we are at about 120 this year.

Christine Micoz: We're down?

Bill Bates: It's still a lot of pressure but it's not as much as it was for those three years. So I think we will be alright.

Derris Jones: Any questions about the board update? Let's go ahead and do a regional update, Bill.

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

Bill Bates: Brent do you want to just advance the slides and I'll just sit here. Go ahead with the first one. Our aquatic section has been very busy. They have been investigating the situation up at Huntington Canyon with Huntington Creek and also on the Price River. They did some fish stocking just yesterday and they found quite a good population of fish above the fire and they are here if you want to ask them questions. I think the number and the species mix look good up there but in the middle section around the Stuart Guard section they didn't find any fish. It still looks degraded. There was some more significant flooding over Labor Day. Huntington Canyon was closed for over a week. I was actually at Rolfson Canyon when the storm hit when that hit, and I'll tell you that was a heck of a storm. We've got a lot of concern with the Huntington Creek drainage. The Forest Service and Emery County have been working hard, trying to shore up the river itself and the road and taking some measures to stop erosion in some of those major drainages like Engineer Canyon, Flood Canyon, and South Hughes. Justin Hart and

Calvin Black are here if you have questions for them. They could answer those questions because they have been actively involved in it. They've been doing some investigations on the tiger muskies or maybe it's just creel surveys but it's interesting now that those finger-sized tiger muskies we released in 2009 are now over 30" long up at Joes Valley. We also found the mud snails in the Loa fish hatchery that's being quarantined and Drew could answer any questions you have about that, but it's going to be cleaned and hopefully brought up to production here the not too distant future. Brent's section has been busy. We had just a new major intuitive rolled out by the director's office. It's the Wildlife Recreation Program. What we are going to do is change the Conservation Outreach focus a little bit. We are taking Hunter Education, Hunter Recruitment and Retention and putting all those under one umbrella. There's going to be a new coordinator hired to head up that effort and most important thing for our agency is to make sure that we have our funding base perpetuated into the future and also somebody take care of wildlife and if we don't have hunters or anglers our funding goes away. Also it's the heritage that we've had and we would like to see that maintained so we are having a major effort there. The State Fair just concluded and we had about a quarter of million people go through our building up there. There will be a raptor watch day up at Orem. Brent, did you check out another site on the Skyline Drive?

Brent Stettler: I just haven't had the time

Bill Bates: Ok

Brent Stettler: Yes, I am looking at South Skyline Drive.

Bill Bates: Ok. Brent will have more information. It's not on here but you have a shooting day? Is that still coming up?

Brent Stettler: Yes, on September 29<sup>th</sup>. It's going to be at the North Springs Shooting range.

Bill Bates: And that's for youth?

Brent Stettler: Yes, 18 years of age and younger. They have to preregister so I know how many kids to plan on and I am going to have 10 kids shoot at a time at hour blocks.

Bill Bates: So if you have any young men or young women between 12 and 18 that would like to go learn how to shoot or participate in that just have them give Brent Stettler a call and we will get them signed up for that. Law enforcements been busy with lots of cases. We had a Mr. Robinson that was convicted of repeat trespass. We had a bear shot by a convicted felon, a deer shot on the wrong unit, somebody shoot a bear with an arrow and then shot it with a rifle. We had one really big case that was just concluded or just went to adjudication. Mr. John Mogul had a CWMU permit down in San Juan County and he shot the deer off of the CWMU and it was video recorded. They picked it up and carried it across the fence and gutted it on the CWMU and he was found guilty or he actually pled to the charge and was given \$8,000 in restitution and \$1,800 in fines and lost his rifle. It was a good case. The habitat section has been really busy. They are preparing for a prescribed burn down in the Moab Matheson Wetland. They have been making wood duck boxes at Desert Lake. At Horse Canyon we have had a fuel reduction project to improve habitat for winter range. There will be plantings of cottonwoods right away on a couple of WMAs. They are also spraying and drilling seed in Bitter Creek in Dark Canyon. They are working on some water improvement projects. They are working on a pond at Nash Wash and they are disking and reseeding the lower fields at the Gordon Creek Wildlife Management area. They are working on the lighthouse fire in Range Creek and they are helping with the Forest Service on the Seeley Fire. What we have done is offered to provide seed and whatever help they would like us to do. The

Wildlife section is in the middle of building a new cabin down on the Henry Mountains. Derris is our example on this. He and Jim Karpowitz, Guy Wallace, and Ron Hudson build a cabin down on the Delores Triangle and they did it in four days. That's what I heard. I don't know if that's really true though.

Derris Jones: It was more like four months.

Bill Bates: Four months. I can believe four months. It's going slow but it's looking really good. It's got a good foundation and they have a bunch of the logs up today. The youth Chukar hunt will be the 22<sup>nd</sup> of September at Gordon Creek if you have youth. I think it's filled up already. I think we had over 100 applications for 20 openings. There will be a youth Pheasant hunt on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September and I don't have the details on that. Maybe Brent does.

Brent Stettler: Brad Crompton has yet to give me the details on that one.

Bill Bates: Get with us if you have questions and we will let you know. We've started our coyote check-in with the new bounty program. We have so far checked in 453. We have spent over \$22,000 dollars already. At \$50 dollars apiece we've had 82 people check them in. We had someone bring in as many as 45. Most of them have brought in about 2. In our region we had 57 that checked in at Monticello, we had 50 checked in at Price, and we had 1 in Green River. We expected more there and maybe they are saving up for later. Upland game hunts are getting underway. I think that's all we have unless you guys have any questions. We have epizootic hemorrhagic disease that has been discovered in deer and elk in San Juan County caused by the biting midge. I think it's actually the little nose-seeums. But there is really not much you can do about it. Once the animal becomes infected, it gets symptoms similar to meningitis and it infects the brain and they start spinning in circles, they go for water, it's also called sore mouth or blue tongue. It causes a lot of mortality. We have found some mortality this year. The duck and goose hunt will begin on October 6<sup>th</sup> and the water levels at Desert Lake are coming up and should be ample for a good duck hunt out there, and the muzzleloader deer hunt begins soon. Now I think we are done, unless anyone has any questions?

Derris Jones: I've got one for the fisheries guys. How long before the rehabilitation can begin there? Is that just anybody's guess?

Justin Hart: We're going to have to watch the runoff next spring. We are going to restock that and get it going again but until the massive debris flows and the flash flooding becomes minimized any fish we stock are not going to make it. So we will watch it really closely next spring and optimistically and possibly next summer more likely the year after is when we are looking to get fish back in there. There will be some natural recruitment out of the left fork and the upper to the right fork but we plan on bolstering that with some supplemental stocking. It's hard to say for sure but probably the year after next we would be my best guess. From that point the fish we'll stock will be a fingerling size fish you are probably looking at two years from the date we stock until you get a catchable size fish that's attractive to people.

Derris Jones: So no change in management strategy as far as species?

Justin Hart: Probably not. We haven't stocked that stream forever. I don't even honestly know the last time it was stocked. It's a natural reproducing population. It's always been a really good fishery and you know one good thing about with it being devoid at this once we get fish back in there they will grow quickly. It will be pretty high quality for a while. But it's probably a couple years out unfortunately.

Derris Jones: Thanks, Justin.

Unknown: Is there any fish in the left hand fork then?

Justin Hart: Yeah, we sampled 5 or 6 weeks ago and we found fish just 10 ft. from the main stem just up into the left fork. There was some fire up there but what we think now is that even with the flash flooding and some of the rain events that it wasn't major impacted by that. You know that might change there might be an event in there that really causes some problems. But a large portion of that wasn't really affected in the fire at all. But we think there is still fish in there I am not exactly sure how access is going to be handled with the Forest Service. There's been some talk of a day use or limiting access just for public safety reasons but in the right fork basically from the Hughes Canyon area up to the dam, there's fish. That area hasn't been affected, but the majority of the main stem of the right fork is a complete loss.

Derris Jones: I guess Drew you're going to do the presentation.

Drew Cushing: Yeah

5) **Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 ( Action)**

**-Drew Cushing, Aquatics Program Coordinator**

**-Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Derris Jones: Questions from the RAC of DWR and the presentation? Maybe the region wants to answer this but if you are comfortable, go ahead Drew. Just from what I am seeing from the comment cards there are some people here tonight to talk about Joes Valley. Could you just enlighten the RAC here and could you go over the current regulations on Joes Valley so that we are all up to speed on what's going on.

Drew Cushing: The Tiger Musky limit or just generally?

Derris Jones: I'd say in general. Let's get the whole picture of Joes Valley.

Justin Hart: Start with the Tiger Musky. That's a new addition to Joes Valley and Tiger Muskies statewide regulation is one fish over 40". Couple years ago we changed from a slot limit based regulation on splake it used to be a 15" to 22" slot limit. Those fish had to be released. We changed that to one over 18" so you can keep two fish over 18" and any fish below, which allowed people to keep some of those intermediate size fish up to 15" to 17" that are a little bit higher quality and better table fare than the fish before that were really skinny. We also have a seasonal closure from not for sure of the exact wording 1<sup>st</sup> weekend, November 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in November through the first of the year that closes fishing at Joes Valley. I think historically that regulation was put in place to protect really large old high quality trophy size splake they can't spawn they are sterile but they still simulate or do a pseudo spawn and those fish would tend to congregate in some area where there was a perceived snagging problem and those larger size fish at the time were felt to be easy to target and they felt like they were being over harvested so that regulation was put in place to help protect some of the larger trophy sized high quality fish that were in there. That's basically the current regulations we have there now.

Derris Jones: So the closure is just to protect the splake

Justin Hart: Primarily it was just the large trophy size fish for being over harvested



### Questions from the Audience

Derris Jones: Alright. Any questions on the Joes Valley things?

James Gilson: Are you planning on removing that limit or are they going to keep it there?

Derris Jones: We will get to public questions here in just about two seconds. Are there any questions from the RAC? Ok we are going to go to the public and I ask that you just make it questions at this point and we will get the comments right after the questions.

Anybody have a question on the fishing guidebook and rule?

James Gilson: I am just here to represent myself and some of the local fisherman. I talked to Justin yesterday about opening this back up and could you expand on your thoughts, what we discussed or your concerns about opening it up or not opening. It's just a question I'd like to know so everyone will know.

Derris Jones: Your question is what would happen if we did open it up?

James Gilson: Would the division consider opening it up or not and why or why not?

Derris Jones: Go ahead Justin

Justin Hart: I have been here 10 years and the regulations been in effect the whole time I have been here and honestly that whole period I really haven't heard anybody that had a preference one way or the other. With that being said I talked to James a little bit on the phone yesterday and have thought about it and did a little looking it to our data. Yeah it is definitely something we would consider changing. Based on our regulation we currently have that only allows the harvest of one fish over 18" there is some protection for the large trophy size fish. Based on what we think the current level of fishing effort is out there we think it could probably be justified and then there has been one major change that has happened since that regulation has been placed and that was the mercury advisory that's on Joes Valley reservoir. Currently I think it any fish over 12" has a consumption advisory and I think it's one 8 oz. meal for an adult and they recommend children and pregnant women don't even consume larger splake from Joes Valley. Mercury is something that is present in a lot of our fisheries and it bio-accumulates over time and the large long live fishes tend to have high concentrations of it. A splake at Joes Valley to me is a trophy something for your wall and probably not being consumed in large amounts. You combine those three factors and it's defiantly something we would consider.

Derris Jones: Thanks Justin Hart. Any other questions from the public? You might as well hang around Justin.

Steven Christensen: You can call me a passionate bass fisherman. But I have been catching those Tiger Muskies. They are probably about the most exciting fish in a hundred mile radius. That being said I would like to see that closure reopened and my question was perhaps we could open it and just close or just say maybe say no splake. Just ban the catching of splake during that period. Also make it catch and release and use of artificial lures possibly during that time if the splake was still a concern.

Derris Jones: Thanks Steve. Is there any other question and I promise you guys can talk all you want comment wise as soon as the question time is over but for now let's get the questions out of the way and if more questions come up when the comments start coming we can ask more questions but for right now let's keep it to questions.

Dennis Fuller: My comment is and question is when they are doing the surveys for the fish and game some of these census that were being taken and some of the reviews that are being done are just on these card. An a lot of the people in Provo and Salt Lake are affecting the out skirting areas and some of the decisions that are being made and so I think that if we could comment online and that it could be taken as a comment card is

here that we would have an online place that people in the rural areas could that's my comment. The question; is that in place? Do we have a place online that we can place are comments with the fish and game and make it count as a vote toward the things that happen throughout the year?

Drew Cushing: A lot of these recommendations are result of that online survey that we did do and we also accept email suggestions and hard mail or anything else so that's how a lot of these recommendations are formulated. Or we come up with a recommendation and then bounce it off the public and then receive that feedback so yes and we do a 5 year angler surveys statewide too that we did this year. Does that help?

Dennis Fuller: Yes also to comment or question on the boat thing that is taking place where everybody has to fill out these forms. We filled out a form for the whole year and it's just very difficult on a lot of the boaters that are taking care of this problem. I understand that the problem is great with these zebra mussels and they are trying to address the problem with it but it is also causing a lot of frustration and anger in this boating world and so it making it some of them are not doing what is appropriate and it's not taking place the way you would like it. We are having a hard time with the fish and game is what I see is taking care of chub and perch and these other large things and we got something that is so small that you can't see it on boats and I am thinking we are having a problem with the fisherman and the comprehension between fisherman and boaters of getting this taken care of in a more proper way. I think we could adjust that better so that's just a comment I have. Thank you

Derris Jones: Any other questions from the public. I want to hear a question mark at the of it James

James Gilson: I have a question for Justin. What would be the opposition of doing this, this year? We talked about that I like to just let have you tell the RAC and that what your concerns were. Could you tell us what those were?

James Gilson: Justin and I talked about this yesterday and it just hasn't been through the public process and it wasn't part of the online survey or any of the open houses. My suggestion would be to carry it through next year or a later RAC without going through the public and having the public have time to weigh in it would be something we would oppose right now.

### **Comments from the Audience**

Derris Jones: Any other questions from the public? Okay we are going to go to comments now if anybody has a comment I'd ask that you fill out one of these yellow card and give them to me. Steve Christensen did you have anything else to add Steve?

Steve Christensen: I can understand going through the process and everything. We just want to get the ball rolling if we could possibly get the fishing open so people could go up and enjoy the lake at Joes Valley and catch the other trout species and release the splake to protect them if that still a major concern at the same time catch the Tiger Musky which is pretty exciting now days. That's my comment is just wanting to get the ball rolling.

Derris Jones: Thanks, Steve. James Gilson?

James Gilson: Can I ask another question?

Derris Jones: Sure

James Gilson: So if we come to the RAC meeting and it's for public input and recommendation from the public, are they telling us that these public recommendations

are not going to be considered until it goes through the next process for a full year? Is that what we are hearing? We can't make a recommendation tonight if it hasn't been through and gone through a full year and all this process?

Drew Cushing: Two years ago we had the spring informational RAC where we encouraged people to come provide us with their recommendations and they didn't. So we went with the online survey and some other mechanisms. The open house is to solicit and collect that input in a better way where we can interact with more of the public, which they have. That's how we came up with this fall RAC. It isn't that I am not supportive because I am. I just want to make sure that we give the public time to weigh in.

James Gilson: Ok, well my comments are about the bass clubs up at Provo and how they use local input and so that is what we are here tonight to do. We would like to see the lake open. We would like to see the RAC open it this year. One of the things Justin and I talked about yesterday was the public lands council. I was on the lands council when this was first presented and we wrote letters and supported this and then also I was involved in raising some extra money to get it to happen. We got great success from that. It's kind of something I have been involved in for quite a while. One of the things Justin was concerned about was the public lands council so I did some checking today. Did we talk today or yesterday?

Justin: Yesterday

James Gilson: It's on the lands council agenda for the first Tuesday in October. The Wildlife Board doesn't meet on this till November 1<sup>st</sup> so we can get it through the local area it is a local issue. I know there are people that come down here from up North but there no reason to wait a year. I see and I have been in this process and in your seats for 8 years and I see items like this come in and go through and I don't think we need to wait a year. I'd hope that you'd consider the local public request and then let us take it to the lands council. The three people I talked to today had no opposition and then if it that's approved you could do a caveat if it's ok and goes through the lands council and then the board could go ahead and approve this to open for this year. Thank you.

Derris Jones: Thanks James. Danny Curtis?

Danny Curtis: I'm here to represent myself and probably 20 local fishermen that I know around this area that I've contacted recently and they all agree that they would like to see Joes Valley left open and not have a closure. I also contacted some of the businessmen because I was curious. I asked Leroy that runs Food Ranch if he notices a difference in the fall when the Joes Valley was closed down in his revenues and he said yes I can tell and it hurts my business when the lakes closed down. Pat Jones from Ace Hardware said the same thing and they both told me they would be here tonight if they possibly could but apparently they possibly couldn't. That's a couple of my ideas or comments. I fish Joes Valley a lot and I can fish that place 100 times in a year and I never ever catch a splake that's over a pound or two. In the fall time, sometimes you can catch a fish that's worth keeping and you bring your friend and get something for them to have a trophy and make it be something. Since that's been closed down I mean it broke my heart and this snagging thing I took some off of the fish and game people up there Dennis and I did some of the DWR officers and showed them what we was doing and showed them how we caught those fish and we did occasionally snag a fish. It was quite a big scandal in that meeting and I was very heart broken and dismayed about what people were saying and doing. It was like there was some people that were jealous that some of us were catching some of those fish and they couldn't do it. That's what it seemed to me like. We

have a problem up there with the irrigation and the water people up there they think they don't want anyone anywhere around that lake they are up there building giant fence back around in there spending I don't know how much money tax payers money rebuilding the fence around that thing. For what reason can we put a snowmobile or a four wheeler on there, it's just like that lakes up there and we are getting denied use here there and there and you can't do this and you can't do that. I know that when that lake was built my grandfather and my uncle owned that property up there and each one of them donated 1,000 shares of water to that thing to get it to go. I mean there's been lots of sacrifice given for that lake and I think we should get to use it more. I also think that it needs to be open this year because of all the loss of all the opportunities in Huntington Canyon and sometime you can't even get up to it Electric Lake or anywhere up there and that's where else is there around here. Another comment I'd like to have is considering the cost and the all the effort to get those Muskies in there that I'd like to see consider to increase the length of keeping a legal fish in there so they can have more chance to do what they want them to do and not cost so much by trying to replace all the time. If we had fish that were 50" in there it'd be a great boon to the county. It really would I know there is people that's already coming from all over the state to be here and even further to fish it already. Derris Jones: Your recommendation would be 50" instead 40?"

Danny Curtis: Just increase it to something yeah 50" would be cool but maybe not quite. I know that there are people that are keeping those fish up there regardless. I have people call me and say oh I caught one of those Tiger Trout up to Joes Valley and when I got it in the boat and took my pictures and stuff and messed around it for 10 minutes it wouldn't swim back in the water so I put it in the cooler. What should I do? And I said well I'd probably tell you to quit telling people that you've kept them you know. Then I've seen pictures of people that are keeping them. Those fish when you catch them, they fight really hard, until they tire out and then they will kind of play dead for a while. They're are not dead and people think they are or they are dying. If you put them back in the water expediently and play with them a little bit and hold them upright. All the ones I've ever caught have revived and swam away. I use heavy line and stuff and try to get them in the boat but I think increase the regulation and make something special up there like we had with the splake would be neat.

Derris Jones: So you'd like Joes Valley to be special with the Tiger Musky compared to the rest of the state? Like a trophy Tiger Musky type. Ok

James Gilson: Yes

Derris Jones: Any other comments from the public. Mr. Lessar, could I get you to fill out a yellow card after you get done doing your comment?

Gene Lessar: Are you taking comments for other areas besides southern area

Derris Jones: Yes

Gene Lessar: On August the 2<sup>nd</sup> I sent a letter or emailed the Utah Department of Natural Resources in Salt Lake. I asked the about the rumors about poisoning Forsythe and if there is any other fisheries scheduled to be poisoned. On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August I did receive a comment back that says the DWR would like to sincerely thank you for your comments and input we really appreciate your thoughts and suggestions I have passed your e-mail on to the appropriate folks again thank you for your e-mail. Well as of now I still haven't heard from them and its obviously they have poisoned and drained Forsyth but my question is I wish they would made some comments to go utilize them fish if they could like they do at Mill Meadows and that was my comment. Oh one more I talked to Justin

he gave a telephone number of some people to find about a stocking and I lost it maybe they can help me.

Justin Hart: I think you thought they stocked Forsyth right before the treatment with some trout.

Gene Lessar: Yeah according to fish stocking report they put in 8,800 5" Tiger Trout on August 9<sup>th</sup> and I think they chemically treated it and drained it on the 20<sup>th</sup>. I don't know how much truth there is or fact there is to that. Thank You

Derris Jones: I hope none. Any other public comment on the fishing guidebook and rule? With no other public comment we are going to close it to public comment and open it up to RAC discussion and James I know you came in just a little bit after we got started but I want you to know we don't have a corium here tonight so we are not going to be able to vote but we are going to take all the public comment and we are going to listen to the RAC comment and I am going to at least take that sentiment forward to the board. With everything I can. But we can't have a motion and a vote.

### **RAC Discussion**

Derris Jones: Okay do we have any discussion items?

Todd Huntington: If we could vote I would recommend that we vote or we could pass the information along that we open that up this year. We had an emergency wildlife board meeting a week ago where we got 60 more bison permits and who knows how many antlerless elk permits that are for this year.

Bill Bates: 205

Todd Huntington: 205 that didn't go through the full public process we didn't have a RAC on that there's no reason why something like this can't be done this year.

Derris Jones: Anybody have any differing opinions

Unknown: No but I'd like to support what Todd had to say. I think that local people in the area like the surveys that were done in Salt Lake and Utah counties should be done here and think if that what the locals want on that reservoir then it's not going to harm the quality of fishing that we have up there. We should consider that and go ahead and open that this year.

Todd Huntington: Anyone else?

Public not at microphone: I'd like to ask a question of the aquatics guys. If this was going to be done by the board would you prefer to see a catch and release on the splake or you think that the slot limit thing is sufficient to protect it.

Justin Hart: I think that sounds good but I think from a law enforcement stand point that would be really tough to enforce. People are out there fishing and it would be really hard to say who's fishing for Tiger Muskies, who's fishing for splake and expecting our guys to get out there and try and help us enforce it. I think it would be better just to lift it.

Todd Huntington: I'm not saying close it to splake but if you did catch a splake you'd have to release all splake you wouldn't be able to keep anything in the trophy category during that what you now have as a closure period.

Justin Hart: So you are saying to fish over 18" just during the period that's now closed.

Derris Jones: Yeah

Justin Hart: I think it's too complicated

Jeff Horrocks: If you leave it in there where it's one splake over 18" one Tiger over 40"

Justin Hart: It just is the general regulations year round. Probably what we prefer to go for.

Derris Jones: The other question I have is right now we haven't had any Tigers over 40" yet. We are getting really close. Is that what I am hearing?

Justin Hart: I've heard some rumors but I've haven't personal seen one. But I don't think it's impossible but I think the majority of the fish aren't quite there yet. But there very likely could be a few.

Derris Jones: Once we get them to 40" I don't know anything about Tigers. Is 50" realistic?

Justin Hart: 50" is really big and I think what we are going to see is once those fish start getting over 40" you are not going to be catching 7 of them consistently in an afternoon. They become a little harder to catch. So that's not to say we wouldn't support some sort of different regulation from the statewide but I think we would prefer to maybe watch it for a while and try to see. I don't think some bodies going to go up there any catch 17 40+" Tiger Muskies in an afternoon. I might be wrong but that's my gut feeling.

Public: I beg to differ there's not too many people that would go up there and catch 17 in an afternoon.

Justin Hart: It's going to get harder to get them. When they are bigger it's going to be harder to get those fish.

Public: One of the things I failed to mention and I am sorry for the inconvenience. Fall fishing for Muskies is one of the peak best times to chase Muskies colder temperatures is real good trolling and real good fishing. That's the other thing is it gives us an opportunity to use the resource when it's even better fishing.

Justin Hart: Yeah I don't think this request is unreasonable in any way. We have greatly appreciated the opportunity of throwing ideas past the public lands council and working with the county and you know we want to make sure we aren't doing something that's going to be perceived as sliding something through we want to make sure that what we change is in order and that's where we are coming from here.

Public: Will you make that happen in the short term?

Justin Hart We'll try and do what we can.

Derris Jones: So your feelings are right now if they lift that you go to your same regulations one tiger over 40" stay with splake over 18". You are not going to be detrimental hitting that trophy splake classification? Taking to many fish out.

Justin Hart: No that was kind of a locally generated regulation to start with the way the way I understood I wasn't here but from what I have read and heard that. A lot of our regulations have a social component to them and a biological one and this is a perfect example. It's kind of a mix it's got a social purpose and a biological one. You know based on what we know now we will have to look into it a little deeper. Probably something that we can make happen at some point.

Public: On that mercury poisoning or mercury content we said on the splake. Is it affecting the tiger trout and cutthroats and all the fish?

Justin Hart: The last time we sampled it, it was just the splake. When the regulations first came out on splake in general and I worked for a couple of years to try and get a handle on it. You know if you looked at the sample we took from the fish, it was just extremely large 5, 6, ant 7+ lbs. The smaller fish that were not as old were fine. What we ended up getting was anything over 12 didn't exactly do what I was told. It very well could be. The longer they stay in the tiger Musky could be the same way. What we think is it atmospheric deposition of the mercury, it builds up in the sediments and gets cycled through the food chain and spreads it to the fish. They are at the top of that they are the ones most affected.

Brent Stettler: Unless you're on the microphone we can't pick it. So all we get is half part of conversation

Derris Jones: Any other comments from the RAC. It sounds to me like the majority of the sentiment of the RAC here tonight is in support of the public recommendation of doing away the closure the current closure that's on Joes Valley. If I am speaking out of turn and someone has a different opinion I'd really like to have it on the record.

Blair Eastman: So why don't you guys put together a proposal. I think we would be more than happy to look at it as a RAC at our next meeting.

Derris Jones: Well by then the boards already met on it.

Todd Huntington: Isn't there another Wildlife Board meeting in November that they could look at this.

Derris Jones: But the proclamation is all said already. It will be out by the next

Unknown: It's something that needs to execute

Derris Jones: If it's going to happen this year the board has to do something on the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

Seth Allred: I think we would be more than willing to help you. Time is the essence. The closure is in November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Todd Huntington: The only way we could have helped them is if we would have had a quorum here that we could have made a vote to send up.

Derris Jones: There is probably nothing that could be done about this year's closure we are talking about 2013. Time is of the essence for the next guidebook but it is because it will be 2014 if we wait another year before the closure is taken off.

Derris Jones: If I have the opportunity what the feeling of the RAC was without a corium I will certainly pass on the passion of the public here tonight to remove the closure for the 2013 season. As far as 2012 the coming up closure it's already been said it would take an emergency amendment to the guidebook to change that and that's not in our purview. Ok we will move on the next item then which is illegal species movement in Utah.

6) **Illegal Species Movement in Utah (Informational)**

**-Drew Cushing, Aquatics Program Coordinator**

**-Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Chief**

**Questions and Comments from the RAC and Audience**

Derris Jones: Does the public have any questions on the invasive species.

Dennis Fuller: On the illegal fish that are introduced in the waters there's a penalty for introducing illegal fish in the waters and are kids that take their gold fish to the ponds are they subject to these penalties.

Drew Cushing: Yes and yes

Dennis Fuller: How much is it?

Drew Cushing: I'll tell you what it is and I'll tell what happens when it goes through the court system. Which this education that we are talking about it right now the total penalty is about \$2500 for transporting a fish from point a to point b so if it's in transit its \$2500 dollars if you are caught illegally putting in a fish in a water I believe that is an additional \$3000 dollars for a total of \$5500 dollars that's what you could be penalized. We have actually caught people with fish in transit and we write them a ticket. It goes through the court system as that amount and then they access what the guy will be charged and it

comes out the other end often as \$50 dollars which is the minimum. That's the first part and kids would be subject to this because it is against the law. I don't believe that any of our law enforcement officers would write a kid a ticket because there is discretion in law enforcement but they have to know too and that's part of the education component which is probably the largest thing we need to do. We need to educate the kids, aquarium owners, anglers, court systems and our folks on how serious this is.

Dennis Fuller: Also on the other fish that were illegal fish. Flaming Gorge they have burbot and they are being encouraged to be taken and yet you want to penalize them for taking them as I understand. Is this just live fish or is this dead one as well?

Drew Cushing: What you saw up there is just a theory I mean it's a possibility. Right now we have a catch and kill on Burbot which is probably not the right regulations for Burbot. Likewise we have catch and kill regulations on yellow perch that's probably not the right regulations for yellow perch because I'm a perch angler and when I go perch fishing I want to take something home to eat it. Matter of fact I want to take a bunch home. If you have water where you have catch and kill regulation it's probably isn't a disincentive to anyone who is going to move fish. Because moving them to a new water and go fishing them at that water probably is a benefit to you.

Danny Curtis: Some of these illegal fish like the Utah Chub in Joes Valley and the Perch and the Walleye in Starvation they have led to some fantastic trophy fishing and there's a lot people that fish for trophy fish and that's their love and they spend a lot of money on boats and gas and stuff and I think we ought to consider them in the management as well as the family and the recreational fishermen. They don't put out nearly as much money or time or effort in it. I agree that they maybe some of the ones that have profligate these things seem to me like a Chub and Perch are big fish feed and I don't understand maybe why we go to all the lengths to get rid of something that makes such a great fishery. Over at Starvation great fishing now and even putting with all the fish there is in there even putting the new rainbows in the past few years there growing fantastically its seems to me like it a good thing.

Derris Jones: Looks like educational program needs to continue. I'd like to before we adjourn make sure everyone knows Tom Ogden. You are still the blue ribbons fishery guy? Couldn't sucker anybody else into doing it?

Tom Ogden: I think they are trying to appoint some body but they haven't done it yet officially.

Derris Jones: But Tom is this regions representative on the blue ribbon fisheries council and Justin I don't know how many of these fishermen and our RAC members have met your new fisheries biologist. You want to introduce Calvin so everyone knows who he is?

Justin Hart: Paul Birdsey used to be the fisheries manager here. He moved up to Salt Lake he's working with Drew now. I took Paul's job and Calvin just came down and replaces my vacant position. He's our cutthroat, sport fish biologist for the region. Calvin worked in Vernal for a lot of years on native cutthroat and sport fish and we are thrilled to talk him into coming down to this region so I'm sure a lot of you will get to know him as time wears on.



Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.  
Public in attendance

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on November 1, 2012 at the DNR Salt Lake office Boardroom at 1594 West North Temple at 9 a.m.

The next southeast regional RAC meeting will take place on November 14 at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY – MOTIONS PASSED**  
**Vernal Northeastern Region Office, Vernal / September 20, 2012**

**5.FISHING GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-13**

**MOTION: To go with the fishing regulations as presented, only add a two-day possession limit.**

Failed 2-4

Beth Hamann: I don't think it would make a difference and would be a lot of work

**MOTION: to accept as presented**

Passed unanimously

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Wildlife Resources NE Region Office, Vernal**  
**September 20, 2012, 6:30 pm**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Floyd Briggs, RAC Chair  
Ron Winterton, Elected Official  
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen  
Carrie Mair, At Large  
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture  
Beth Hamann, Non-Consumptive  
Brandon McDonald, BLM

**UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

John Owen, NER Conservation Officer  
Trina Hedrick, NER Aquatics Manager  
Drew Cushing, SLO Aquatic Program Cor  
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager  
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor

**RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Wayne McAllister, At Large  
Andrea Merrell, Non-Consumptive  
Kirk Woodward, Sportsmen  
Bob Christensen, Forest Service

**WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS:**

Del Brady

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES: Floyd Briggs**

Beth Hamann: Motion to approve  
Carrie Mair: second  
Passed unanimously

**3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE: Floyd Briggs**

There was quite a bit of discussion regarding conservation permits. There was an addition of 20 antlerless elk permits. And there were the additional cow elk permits of over 1400 because of the drought issue and the elk having nothing to eat. The ranchers are coming off early as well. All areas are over-population on elk but it was more so driven because of the drought.

**4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Boyde Blackwell**

*Wildlife:* We're well underway on our hunts. We don't have much information yet. The deer opener is in less than four weeks. We'll have the usual check stations.

*Habitat:* We're finishing several lop and scatter projects

*Aquatics:* We're pleased with the aquatics section. They've been working a whole year, two people down, and just finished a Sheep Creek project that took 60 people.

Ryan Mosley collected kokanee salmon eggs during the Sheep Creek spawn  
We have as good fishing here as anywhere in the state.

## **5. FISHING GUIDEBOOK AND RULE R657-13: Drew Cushing**

Northeastern Region changes:

### *Green River*

-No limit on northern pike. Anglers must not release any northern pike they catch. All northern pike must be immediately killed.

-No limit on walleye. Anglers must not release any walleye they catch. All walleye must be immediately killed.

-No limit on channel catfish

### *Vernal Game Farm Pond*

-Limit 2 fish regardless of species (community fishery)

## **Questions from RAC:**

Mitch Hacking: I have a question on two hooks; it was always illegal to have three. Why?

Drew Cushing: At one time, if you allowed 10 hooks while ice fishing, they might put on too many and remove fish wholesale. The decision we came to is we have limits for a reason. Whether you have two hooks or three, the limits are what they are. The method of getting your limit is not what's important; it's the limit itself, so we moved it up a notch.

Mitch Hacking: Does the light bring the fish to the surface?

Drew Cushing: No. At night fish are really visible. When you put a light on them down into the water you can see every fish in them if the water's clear. I didn't realize it was such a big deal and that there is an organized group that champions this.

Mitch Hacking: On the Green River and tributaries, do you have any trouble with otters?

Trina Hedrick: We only notice it when we're actively sampling, trying to remove northern pike. You'll also get razorback fish that don't have spines, so we do have otter problems then, so we switch to electro fishing, or call the sensitive species biologist to help us out.

Mitch Hacking: At Red Fleet we've had otters show up and the fish are dwindling.

Drew Cushing: It could be the walleye too. We've never seen a real problem. We did the math just looking at otter densities, and what they could possibly do in a stretch. They're generally not a thick enough population to do any damage.

Boyde Blackwell: The otter population has been growing and we're doing some trapping. Some were sent to the Southern region, some went to the Provo and they're looking for some on the Blacksmith. Populations are healthy enough that they're looking at potentially offer a trapping permit.

Rod Morison: What are the fish possession limit regulations in Utah if you're camped on the mountain for several days to a week?

Drew Cushing: One limit.

Carrie Mair: Is that in possession?

Drew Cushing: If you cook it then that no longer counts.

Carrie Mair: On the Fish Lake limits, you said it's biologically warranted to get more relaxed.

Drew Cushing: No, this doesn't relax the limit, it makes it simpler. Right now it says splake or lake trout; it protects it under the same statement.

Carrrie Mair: The last reservoir we talked about was Utah Lake. Is it going to be detrimental to that body of water?

Drew Cushing: No. On a 50,000 acre lake, you're not going to remove enough to make a difference. We figured there was one angler hour per acre last year. It neither benefits nor harms Utah Lake. The survey told us that everybody was reasonably happy with the limit the way it was. If we changed it we would immediately have problems with a vocal half. We need to educate them.

Brandon McDonald: Regarding target fish for Green River is this to better manage for federal fish?

Drew Cushing: No. We have a recovery team that removes more fish than anglers ever will. We just want the public to know we're not going to manage them.

Brandon McDonald: Smallmouth bass is not a sport fish. Do we have regulations for sport fish?

Trina Hedrick: A few years back we did this with smallmouth in the Green. We probably should have done northern pike and smallmouth at the same time. It's just making that consistent for non-native predators. We're sending that message that they're all in that same boat. We're not going to manage for them in the river.

Brandon McDonald: I know the bass are increasing big time.

Trina Hedrick: Every time there's a low water year they get off a really good spawn. This is the highest spawning rate since I've been in the region the last six years.

Floyd Briggs: On catfish on the Green, how far north?

Drew Cushing: Just outside of town.

Trina Hedrick: Above the confluence at the Yampa we start seeing the trout taper off and catfish coming on in the Gates of Ladore Canyon.

Floyd Briggs: Looks like you need to read your regulations every time before you leave the house. The High Uintas fish are getting very small. Have the regulations been relaxed?

Drew Cushing: In some we have a bonus limit which is supposed to reduce the density, but brook trout reproduce faster than anglers can ever pull them out.

### **Questions from Public:**

Mike Weyland (Atlantis Divers): I spearhead the spear fishing program out here. Every so often I heard stories that we'd like to reduce carp but we are limited on the bodies of water that we can spear fish. If you want the carp removed we have to have more flexibility on areas we can spearfish and help the cause. We promote filleting them, smoking them, etc. They are not indigenous to this continent. I spoke with a father and son from Germany. Carp is a traditional Christmas dinner there. So let's harvest a few more. If they're detrimental to other species, let's harvest more. We're willing to help but this body has got to make some changes so we can help.

Mitch Hacking: Why is it illegal for spearfishing in these lakes?

Mike Weyland: I was told we can only fish in 12 bodies of water, statewide.

Drew Cushing: You can spearfish underwater in any water that's open to fishing during the season it's open to fishing. The list is where sport fish are allowed and we've expanded that list. We identified waters where more harvest of sport fish would benefit those fisheries, like

Starvation, Flaming Gorge, Yuba, and some others where we felt they could go up there and take some sport fish at the same limits anglers could take them wouldn't be a detriment to the waters.

Beth Hamann: So they can take carp anywhere?

Drew Cushing: Carp can be taken anywhere. It's the sports fish they can't.

Mitch Hacking: My son did some spear fishing and there can be contention between anglers and spear fishing.

Drew Cushing: There's contention both ways. The divers have a diver down flag, and often times because of the contentious issue, people don't adhere to the diver down flag. I've had complaints that way. Likewise, I've had complaints from anglers about spear fishermen themselves. An angler if they catch a fish feels like they have a reasonable opportunity to release a fish alive. Spear fishermen, according to the anglers can't. We have issues at one lake where we have a fish in there that doesn't matter to us, Tiger muskie that have escaped from Johnson Reservoir to Fish Lake. We still have the same limit of one over 40" and the anglers and biologists find 38" tiger muskies that have been speared and left. Biologically it's not an issue but the phone calls are an issue.

Mike Weyland: I would hand carry a person down to you folks if I knew they were poaching.

Mitch Hacking: What's your recommendation?

### **Comments from Public:**

Mike Weyland: We want to have competitions with a point for fish and a point per pounds. Little carp aren't going to give us a lot of points. Big carp are going to give us a lot of points.

Carrie Mair: Is the spear fishing community interested in pursuing invasive species if they're not being managed?

Boyde Blackwell: They'd have to talk about it.

Beth Hamann: Didn't they open that up for spear fishermen on Flaming Gorge to take burbot?

Boyde Blackwell: Yes. They can do that. Perch in an area, that's something they're going to have to say, "Let's add this."

Floyd Briggs: Looks like it could be tough to identify. Like duck hunting.

Mike Weyland: To a certain extent that's true. One thing we do is with youth, we put them with a treble hook and pole spear and they point it at the fish and release and the three prongs will nail the perch. That can help and help the kids have a hoot.

**Comments from RAC:**

Rod Morrison: I would like to see going to a two-day possession limit. Fish is a healthy food. When you're camping you should be allowed to take more fish.

Beth Hamann: When families go fishing, the whole family can fish. It's not like the whole family only gets one fish.

Floyd Briggs: The limit is less on fisheries because they're working to keep the numbers up.

Rod Morrison: We're paying for that.

Carrie Mair: If you get your bag limit and go home then you want to go back.

Rod Morrison: I don't think a two-day limit is that much of an impact on the trout lakes on the Uintas here.

Floyd Briggs: If you make it specific to the high country.

Beth Hamann: I don't think I would want to eat a fish that came off the horse after two days. If they're in a cooler, but otherwise, you're going to eat them that day and have enough for everybody.

**Rod Morrison MOTION to go with the fishing regulations as presented only add a two-day possession limit.**

**Second: Mitch Hacking**

**Favor: Mitch Hacking, Rod Morrison**

**Opposed: Carrie Mair, Beth Hamann, Brandon McDonald, Ron Winterton**

**Motion failed.**

**Beth Hamann: I don't think it would make a difference and would be a lot of work**



**Beth Hamann MOTION to accept as presented**  
**Carrie Mair: Second**  
**Passed unanimously**

**6. ILLEGAL SPECIES MOVEMENT IN UTAH: Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program  
Coordinator (INFORMATIONAL)**  
(See handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Carrie Mair: What is the personal liability for transferring fish to a body of water illegally?

Drew Cushing: We have a guy in the court system now. The maximum fine is \$3000 for that. To catch him stocking fish is an additional \$2000. The problem is when we have caught people moving fishing the past. It came out a \$50.00 fine. The education isn't just you guys and the public. It's the judicial system, our folks, it's everybody. About 50 years ago, poaching big game was where you looked the other way for food for the family. It wasn't legal but it wasn't considered a serious offence. Over the last few years it's gotten serious. Now I believe it's a \$10,000 fine and you lose your gear potentially. If you poaching a big game animal, it's a serious offense and drive over highway 6 there are probably a lot that got hit on the highway. Is that as much an impact as illegally stocking that will cost millions of dollars to treat and restock?

Carrie Mair: What needs to be done?

Beth Hamann: Did he get to keep his fishing license

Drew Cushing: I'm sure he did. There's a serious lack of education about this problem. In the past people didn't really recognize it as a serious problem until the last five years. On that list of fish, probably half of those fish aren't sport fish, they're aquarium fish. It's the same penalty as illegally stocking; probably done by kids and aquarium owners who don't fish. They're prohibited in Utah but they're sold anyway. It is done beneath the radar. There's bartering, swaps, internet sales, not regulated by the dept. of Agriculture. A guy in Idaho can give them or sell fish to someone without an oversight. The District Attorney and judge need to understand the severity of the situation. Using angler groups to help understand.

Carrie Mair: Is there a 1800 NUMBER?

Drew Cushing: The help stop poaching number.

Carrie Mair: can you make a specific number for fish?

Drew Cushing: We've thought about that.

Carrie Mair: If you turn in someone for poaching you get a reward. Is there something in place for fish?

Drew Cushing: We have about a \$\$10,000 reward for successfully prosecuted person with fish. We haven't had anything yet.

Brandon McDonald: Could you partner with the Invasive species, the mussels?

Drew Cushing: Money is tight with the dVision. One concept is to bring on a person to just deal with this problem because it's an issue that you can't even begin to comprehend. The coordinator would supervise the AIS position. The State of Nevada declared this act to be part of the invasive system. We've instructed people on the ground to look in live wells and find out if people are moving fish. Our AIS guys, if someone said no, you can't look in my live well, you can't.

John Owen: If they give consent, great. If not, we have to get a warrant.

Carrie Mair: Is there any communication with pet stores?

Drew Cushing: I have an employee who works for me I wanted to know how many pet stores, how many species they stock and what threat they are. 500 pet stores in Utah like Pet Smart. Some fish like goldfish are harmful but not global threats. There were about 12 mom and pop type of stores where it's minimal store in the state of Utah and those are where a lot of the issues exist. We did find fish that are prohibited fish in Utah. They had a yellow bullhead and were selling it as an aquarium fish butterball catfish. We contacted law enforcement officer who contacted them, and they really didn't know. We are initiating a group to work with those buys. Bonneville Aquarium Society and aquarium aficionados where they swap fish among themselves. That also is a real loophole in fish movement and fish getting into Utah. We're going to work with them and have them understand what the issue is there. One of the culprits over the past 10 years has been the internet. You could get any fish you want regardless of where it is and where it's prohibited with no oversight. You just have to pay the money. That's huge. And it's a rough problem but I think if we provide the people in Utah with education as to what the problem is and how severe it is we can make some problem.

Carrie Mair: You need to have a place for people to bring illegal fish.

Drew Cushing: We have a place called Sea Base like a humane society for fish where people can get rid of them.

**Next RAC meeting Nov 15, Bucks, Bulls, OIAL, hunt strategies, units.** Won't be permit numbers until May. It will be really important. If you have any questions, give us a call and let us answer your questions. I can have a biologist come talk to you but let's be ready to go November 15.

Beth Hamann: Are you going to start that one a little bit earlier?

Boyde Blackwell: We'll probably also move it to another venue at UBATC and we could start it earlier if you need to.

Beth Hamann: 6:00 would be better.

We'll let you know, probably back at the college.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.**

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Public Library  
45 S Main Street, Springville  
September 11, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

## **Motion Summary**

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

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

### **Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13**

MOTION: That the appropriate Division personnel meet with the wheelchair bound groups and formulate a crossbow permit to allow wheelchair bound people to bow fish with a crossbow  
Passed unanimously

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Public Library  
45 S Main Street, Springville  
September 11, 2012 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Matt Clark, Sportsmen  
Timothy Fehr, At large  
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service  
Richard Hansen, At large  
Kristofer Marble, At large  
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Vice Chair  
Fred Oswald, Non-consumptive, Chair  
Duane Smith, Non-consumptive

**Members Absent**

Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture  
Michael Gates, BLM  
George Holmes, Agriculture  
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen  
Jay Price, Elected

**Others Present**

Calvin Crandall, Wildlife Board Member

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

- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Gary Nielsen to accept the agenda and minutes as written**

**Seconded by Duane Smith**

**Motion passed unanimously**

2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**

- Fred Oswald, RAC Chair

3) **Regional Update (Information)**

- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

**Wildlife**

- Coyote check-in program began September 1
  - Number of people submitting coyotes: 82
  - Number of coyotes submitted: 453
  - Median coyotes per person: 2.5
  - Max for one person: 45
- Highland City deer control planning process
- Upland game hunts beginning
  - Forest grouse, doves and rabbits on now
  - Chukar Sept. 29
  - Quail and pheasants Nov. 3
- Additional antlerless elk and bison permits to be considered by the Wildlife Board in emergency meeting tomorrow (drought related)

**Habitat**

- Working with private landowners and state and federal agencies on the following fire rehabilitation projects in the region:
  - Wood Hollow (north and east of Fountain Green)
  - Ophir Canyon

- Dump Fire (Saratoga Springs)
- Dallas Canyon (Cedar Mtns.)
- Strawberry Highlands Development
  - Evaluating impact of 7000-acre project on fish, wildlife and sportsmen
  - Recommending ways to lessen/mitigate impacts

#### Aquatics

- Fishing improves as water temps drop at reservoirs, good time to get out
- Yuba Fishery Working Group continues to meet
  - Purpose statement for Yuba Reservoir Fishery Management Plan
    - To determine if we can develop a quality fishery that will attract anglers to Yuba while maintaining existing water rights and other uses, and if so, develop and implement a plan.
  - Next meeting of the working group is September 17
- Silver Lake stabilization project completed
  - Cooperative project with the Forest Service
  - Will maintain a natural lake that will support brook trout, grayling and possibly native cutthroat trout
- Sanpitch River restoration project – maintenance required to fix damage following high flows of 2011
- June sucker recruitment documented at Red Butte Reservoir (first time since the filling in 2006)
- Fall stocking of rainbows at community fishing ponds underway through Sept.
- Fire and drought impacts on fisheries
  - Wood Hollow Fire devastated brown trout fishery in Sanpitch River and greatly reduced native fish populations
  - Reservoirs ok in Central Region due to good carryover from 2011, but lake levels could be problem in 2013 if we have another dry winter
- FLW National Guard College Fishing Series Western Regional Championship on Utah Lake September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - CSU Long Beach team took first
  - Bagging daily weights of 8-5, 5-14 and 7-5 the champs ended with a total weight of 21-8 and a winning margin of 5-2

#### Conservation Outreach

- Kokanee Salmon Viewing Day at Strawberry Sept. 22
- Hunter Ed Plus mentored hunts Sept. 22-23 and Oct. 12-13

#### Law Enforcement

- Multiple shootings and poisoning of bald and golden eagles results in \$2500 reward and coverage by the Associated Press
- So far, deer and elk archery hunts going ok, low number of violations

#### **4) Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 (Action)**

- **Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**
- **Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator**

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

Kristofer Marble – Is there a bag limit for crocodiles? Why was it ever illegal to bow fish for carp at night?

Drew Cushing – This is a hunting oriented state and I think it is a fairly new interest at least here. In our statute it doesn't specifically say anything about fishing with a light at night. It does say it

is illegal to spotlight at night for certain species of animals. What we are going to do in gear it so it includes this in that statute.

Kristofer Marble – Do you know from other states at what rate there could be a misidentification of species?

Drew Cushing – Certainly there is. We have had instances here in Utah. We had a report of a June sucker in a tributary being shot by an archer, or at least they suspect it was by an archer and that is why we closed the tributaries. If you look at it the same as spear fishing, if they did kill a game fish it would count toward their bag limit.

Kristofer Marble - Is there anything that says at night that could be at a higher rate?

Drew Cushing – I did read up on this and I can tell you that it is very popular back east. I didn't read any negative feedback from other state agencies about this act and I would imagine it's much the same as we see here. Back there they have lakes where carp are an issue and it just so happens that these guys probably frequent those waters that carp are an issue. If you are after a bag of fish that weighs the most or you want to pursue a fish that you can have a good time on you aren't going to take one that is scarce, you are going to take the one that is most abundant.

Matt Clark – Can you explain disposal? If you go out and shoot a bunch of carp can you leave them there, can you put them in the dumpster?

Drew Cushing – Right now they basically work with the state parks for tournaments they have during the day. They put them in a dumpster and they haul them to a landfill. We will have to spell that out in statute. At Lake Powell there has always been an unwritten rule that if you kill a striped bass that is really skinny and the meat isn't any good it's been one of those under the table things that you puncture the air bladder and release it so it sinks to the bottom. That would be the preferred way to dispose of it.

Matt Clark – So throwing them on the bank or leaving them in the water is not the way to do it.

Drew Cushing – Leaving them in the water if you puncture the air bladder would be an appropriate way to dispose of them.

Mike Slater – This group of people are not the problem. It's the weekend warrior that goes out and kills a bunch of carp and just leaves them on the bank and then we get calls about all the dead fish and people think there is a problem. We are trying to address that and tell people how to get rid of those fish legally. If you can't take them home and dispose of them then puncture the air bladder and leave them in the water.

### **Questions from the Public**

Josh Noble – With the legalization of bow fishing for carp at night what are the legalities and how are you planning on working with the state parks as far as trolling under power at night with the high wattage lights that we have that blind the navigation lights?

Drew Cushing – That's not our authority. That will have to be worked out with state parks. They have their own regulations for boating.

Josh Noble – So we are going to legalize it but then we are going to have to go through another step with the state parks, understanding that we don't sit idle. We are going to be under power of some sort whether it is a trolling motor or an airboat.

Drew Cushing – I would be happy to talk to state parks with you. They are not unreasonable any more than we are and they look at this as a gate fee for them too. It's not impossible. I have heard you have already done this before so it's already taken place.

Josh Noble – Like Matt mentioned we need more clarification on disposal of common carp. We understand that you can't throw them on the bank but again we need a black and white paragraph in the guidebook that says exactly what we are supposed to be doing understanding that bow fishing is growing year after year. We want to educate the recreational bow fisher on the proper disposal of these carp so we don't leave them on the bank.

Drew Cushing – We'll do it.

### **Comments from the Public**

Pat Scouten – My comments have to do with bait regulations on Utah lake. First, to allow the use of corn for carp fishing. It's a non-trout lake and corn is very good for carp. A lot of times I try to get fathers and their kids into some fish down there and that's all they care about is being able to catch a big fish even if it's just for bait. It's hard to see the downside of using corn for carp. The second one is, if carp are the cockroaches of Utah Lake then white bass are the sand fleas. Since there is no limit on white bass and they are a detriment to the June suckers it's good to remove as many as possible. I go down with a cast net and fish baskets to catch baby carp to use as bait but at this time of year all I get are a bunch of three or four inch white bass. Those have to be released by law but I was hoping for a relaxing of that regulation during times of the year when there are swarms of baby white bass to be able to keep some that you catch to use for bait because they are very good for catfish and walleye. Lastly, there was a comment as to why bow fishing at night was outlawed. I have been fishing Utah Lake since back in the 1960's and I was also a bow fisherman at that time. The explanation I received from a DNR officer at that time was that they were trying to avoid having people shooting walleye at night. When you shine a light on a walleye at night their eyes shine back at you so it makes them an easy target for bow fishermen.

Kenneth Vaughn – Thank you. I represent an organization called Chair bound Hunters and I have several of my members here tonight. We have partnered with a nonprofit called Hand-in-Hand Outdoors and we now have an eleven foot by 35 foot pontoon boat that we in the process of making wheelchair accessible. One of the things we are excited about is maybe being able to do some bow fishing. As it turns out there is a restriction on using a crossbow for bow fishing. Some of our members are quadriplegic and some are paraplegic and they can't handle a regular bow but they can handle a crossbow. We would like to propose that there be an allowance for them to use a crossbow similar to what archers use for deer. Someone would have to go to the DWR and show that you fall within this category and this would help you bow fish. We have some equipment we would like to take some people out on and we certainly wouldn't want to do anything illegal. We would like you to consider this allowance for those who cannot use regular archery equipment. You could limit it to paraplegics or quadriplegias and those confined to a wheelchair. I would appreciate your consideration.

Barry Rimmash – representing the United Wildlife Cooperative. We did an independent survey of our members and had the following results and hence our organization supports these following items. Our members definitely support what is proposed for the Blacksmith Fork. There was also strong support for what is proposed for the Weber River but in addition our survey indicates that there is support for this approach being considered for enhancing cutthroat populations in other streams that have small populations that are perhaps suppressed by the browns or harvest or any number of possible causes. Hence hopefully increasing the number of reproductive Bonneville cut populations that we have available to us. Our survey did support allowing nighttime bow fishing for carp. We definitely support that. There was support also for the Fish Lake proposal as well. Finally, this is not an agenda item for this meeting however our survey indicates strong support among our members for not changing the regulations at Minersville Reservoir. We are aware of a movement going afoot down there for regulations to be changed and our organization at this time would not support that.

Greg Porter – I want to talk about spear fishing and a proposal to have the spear fishing season regulations mirror the hook and line regulations. The current opening of the spear fishing season is the first Saturday in June and this last year was a good example for us where the weather was so good early and we missed a lot of what traditionally would have been the spear fishing season this year. We also are very pleased with the allowance of spear fishing at Blue Lake. We would like to have the spear fishing year round as well.



Doug Burrell – I represent the local dive shop here in town, Scuba Teds. We also would like to mirror the comments made by this gentleman. Also a lot of our motivation for Blue Lake is that before tilapia was introduced the water was clear and now with the tilapia and their nesting patterns it is murky and not a great place to dive in. We are motivated to remove that fish from the lake and would like to promote that. Thank you.

Jay Ashworth – I appreciate Drew making the comments he has made. I didn't hear anything about the wipers. I read in the regulations this year and I couldn't help but laugh about what happened last year when you tried to produce wipers here in Utah. I would like to find out what we are doing there. My second question is about the community fisheries. You have Bill Loy taking out carp and white bass by six million pounds a year. You could introduce white bass into the community fisheries and then up the limit. The problem with the community fisheries is that people can only catch two fish there. You have millions of pounds of white bass in Utah Lake; could we introduce those to the community fisheries without having a catastrophe? Thank you.

Josh Noble – President of the Utah Bow Fishing Association – Speaking for our member group, we support Drew and the Division in their recommendation for legalizing bow fishing at night for common carp.

George Sommer – Utah Bass Federation - We support the Division's recommendations for the fishing regulations and guidebook.

Jared Golding – Drew, if you have too many fish in Blacksmith why don't you electroshock them and take them to Sanpitch where they all died off from the fire.

Drew Cushing – There are disease issues. The ash flows are probably a little high still in the Sanpitch. We will introduce fish but it's just a matter of when.

### **RAC Discussion**

Duane Smith – Drew, would it be any problem to include crossbow fishing for the wheelchair bound hunters?

Drew Cushing – We already have an allowance for the use of a crossbow. I just need to go see what the legalities are with this and fishing. I would assume you would just have to get that same permit. I did get his contact information and I will check and get with him.

Duane Smith – I would like to include that in our motion.

Drew Cushing – I think it would be appropriate for the RAC to recommend for us to work with this group to pursue an allowance for bow fishing with a crossbow.

Public – There are specific regulations that would have to be addressed such as there must be a line attached to the arrow and the minimum/maximum poundage would be different for bow fishing.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Duane Smith that the appropriate Division personnel meet with the wheelchair bound groups and formulate a crossbow permit to allow wheelchair bound people to bow fish with a crossbow**

**Seconded by Richard Hansen**

**In Favor: All**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Motion was made by Gary Nielsen to accept the Division's recommendations as presented  
Seconded by Matt Clark**

**In Favor: All**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**5) Illegal Species Movement in Utah (Informational)**

- **Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator**
- **Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

45 in attendance

Next board meeting November 1, 2012 9 a.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting November 8, 2012 **\*\*Thursday meeting\*\***

6:30 p.m. at the Springville Public Library

**Northern Regional Advisory Council**

**Sept 12, 2012**

**6:00 P.M.**

**Place:** Brigham City Community Center

**RAC Present**

John Blazzard- Agric  
Robert Byrnes- Chair  
John Cavitt-Noncon.  
Paul Cowley- Forest Service  
Joel Ferry- Agric  
James Gaskill- At Large  
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large  
Ann Neville- Noncon.  
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM  
Bryce Thurgood- At Large  
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman  
John Wall- At Large

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Justin Dolling  
Drew Cushing  
Paul Birdsey  
Craig Schaugaard

**Wildlife Board**

Ernie Perkins

**RAC Excused**

Russ Lawrence- At Large  
Jon Leonard- Sportsman

**RAC Absent**

G. Lynn Nelson- Elected

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

**Number of Pages: 13**

**Introduction:** Robert Byrnes-Chair

**Agenda:**

Review of Agenda and Aug 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes  
Wildlife Board Meeting Update  
Regional Update  
Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13  
Illegal Species Movement in Utah  
Centerville City Hunting Closure Proposal

**Item 1. Welcome and Introductions**

Introduction of RAC Members

**Item 2. Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Aug 8, 2012 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion**

**Motion-** Gaskill- Move to approve the agenda.

**Second-** Neville

**Motion Carries-** Unanimous

**Motion-** Thurgood- Approve the amended minutes from Aug 8, 2012.

**Second-** Cowley

**Motion Passes-** For: 9 Abstain: 2

**Item 3. Wildlife Board Update**

Email sent out.

Thurgood- When there are additional permits in our region, doesn't that come through us?

Byrnes- The director could have just, by his authority, changed those numbers because of the emergency conditions.

Thurgood- They added a moose permit.

Byrnes- That was a specific request by the CWMU operator.

Thurgood- That is one I am wondering why it did not come through us because that is not an emergency.

Byrnes- When you listen to the meeting minutes, there was perceived to be a misunderstanding between the division and the operator as far as what the numbers were going to be. The operator actually sold the tag already. But, when went and looked at his paperwork, he did not actually have that tag. So, he asked the Wildlife Board to make that change. It actually brought his numbers in line with the correct split. He was actually below what the split would be, I believe. Typically, it would come to us.

Thurgood- I think that would open a can of worms. It just seems like it did not go through the right process.

Byrnes- They did have discussion about changing the numbers. The operator had assumed the change had been made but when it was presented and approved, it actually had not changed. I cannot remember what the split was.

Ernie Perkins- 60/40

Byrnes- He was actually below what the permits he would have gotten at that split. Do you want to hit anything on that Justin?

Justin Dolling- I think what it boiled down to was a little bit of timing. By the time he recognized that the application he signed did not reflect what he really wanted. By the time he got an opportunity to talk with our biologist, the RAC meeting had already occurred. So, as a result, there was only an option to go before the board. I know the board was very reluctant to approve that permit but in the end they decided to based on his discussion and our biologist feeling like there was a communication breakdown. It was unfortunate timing and in the future, hopefully we can communicate better and bring that through this RAC process before it goes to the board. Our apologies.

Ernie Perkins- I think it covered it well but the only other thing I remember that is important and significant was that the division said there was no biological significance in the additional permit. That it was purely a social question.

Thurgood- Our moose numbers have gone down and all of the sudden we are issuing more permits. I did not like the way they did it.

Byrnes- If they could have scheduled it for our meeting and known about it in time, I am sure it would have come here.

Neville- Did legal have the chance review that as far as any type of procedures are concerned? At the moment was it not much of an issue.

Byrnes- I don't think it was a legal issue because Marty was at the meeting. The Wildlife Board has the authority to do those types of things.

#### **Item 4. Regional Update**

-Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Director of Wildlife announced a new program known as the Wildlife Recreation Program. This program will be a way to consolidate all the recruitment and retention activities that we have going on in the agency. As part of this new program, we are looking at Conservation Organizations to help us make this successful. We are hiring one new program coordinator in Salt Lake that will oversee this effort with Wildlife Recreation and the development of this program.

Aquatics- Treatment on the right hand fork of the Logan River September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Fishing at Willard is starting to pickup for wipers. Tiger Muskie at Pineview should start to pick up as well.

Wildlife- Emergency Board Meeting. Division recommended an additional 205 permits based on additional analysis. 30 permits would be on the Henefer/Echo Wildlife management area. Increase in the Bison permits on the Henry Mountains. The Bison permits were recommended to increase by 60 and that passed. The plan is to go off the alternate list because it is a OIAL hunt opportunity. Discussion about lion population and some concerns from the Houndsmen organizations, in particular what they feel is uneven pressure to get supplied to certain parts of the unit. They feel there are impacts that need to be mitigated immediately. We are in year 2 of a 3 year cycle. We felt comfortable with maintaining status quo and going with the permits

recommended. We did agree to give a good look at and work with the houndsmen as the cougar proclamation goes back through the process next year. No changes made there, just an informational item.

Waterfowl- Youth Fair at Farmington Bay will be September 15<sup>th</sup>. The youth hunt will occur on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and the youth chukar and Hungarian partridge will occur on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Habitat- Working with BLM on rehab projects on mule deer and sage grouse ranges.

## **RAC Questions**

Gaskill- How are the sales of those elk tags? Are they pretty well sold out?

Dolling- They went very fast. The majority of them are sold out. I understand there are a few still left.

Gaskill- Thanks.

Blizzard- Were those elk tags cow tags or bull tags?

Dolling- They were cow tags.

Byrnes- On those cow tags, we did have some in the northern region. Are those all sold out on the private lands on Chalk Creek?

Dolling- Yes, I am not sure which units currently have tags. I know that the day they went on sale, there was a huge rush and the line share was sold off within a couple of hours. I cannot speak whether those private land tags went. My guess is that those are what are remaining because of access issues.

Sillitoe- Want to reiterate that small statement you said about working with BLM and the state. I don't think it can be overstated that without that partnership, those federal dollars we receive would have never got spent this fall. It is imperative we had those spent. Much appreciation on that.

Dolling- You are welcome. You are an important partner out there.

Gaskill- Were all of those tags sold to individuals that already have a cow tag?

Dolling- I can't tell you that. You can purchase 2 tags.

Gaskill- Was it just restricted to those that already had a tag or was it open to everybody?

Dolling- It was open to everybody who qualified.

## **Item 5. Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13**

- Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator

- Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator

See Handout

## **Public Questions**

Josh Noble - Utah Bowfishing Association- In the proposed regulation change, allowed the disposal of common carp. What we are requesting is a little bit more clarification on what that means. If it is legal to just throw them on the bank or put them back in the water. We would like a better description in the guidebook so that when we get new bowfisherman that they are disposing of those fish in a proper manner.

Birdsey- That is a good question and something that we have wrestled with. I can tell you that throwing them on the bank is not the right answer.

Josh Noble- Right.

Birdsey- What we are looking for is something like puncture their bladder and put them back into the water. For the larger tournaments, that is probably not going to be what we would like to see happen.

Josh Noble- During those tournaments, we have other channels of disposal. What we are talking about is just recreational weekend warrior style bowfisherman. We need a black and white description.

Birdsey- We will go back and meet with our legal council to answer some of these questions and draft the language for the rule change which would include what goes into the guidebook and then that is what gets presented to the board meeting November 1<sup>st</sup>. At which time, we should have that answer. Right now, we are asking if people want to be able to dispose of carp as opposed to "how do I dispose of carp".

Josh Noble- That makes perfect sense. On the legalization of bowfishing, again we discussed this last night. Meeting with the state parks understanding that the artificial light we are using blinds the navigation lights. We need to have some clarification on that understanding that we are not stationary when we are night bowfishing. We are moving and need some clarification on how fast we can run.

Birdsey- That is something that we are going to have to have the parks boating coordinator take up. We will finish up these RAC meetings next week and then we will have about a 5 week window until the Wildlife Board. It might be advisable for you to talk to Drew, myself and then we will try and get the boating coordinator of the parks department and we can sit down and talk about this. The Wildlife Board cannot act on that but can make recommendations that this is what we are thinking about.

Josh Noble- That is all we are asking.

## **RAC Questions**

Gaskill- In the really significant Blue Lake Tilapia, can they shoot as many as they want?

Birdsey- Yes, there is a catch and kill on those. That species in that lake right now, we don't want to manage them. We encourage anglers to take as many as they want. Spear fisherman would fall into that group.

Gaskill- Okay.

Hicks- Follow up on Josh's question of disposal of carp. We are going to vote on amending the code which allows disposal and that's all this is. I am wondering if we get a chance to talk about how the disposal occurs later, before it is amended. Or, is that something we have to accept.

Birdsey- With the code change, ultimately all the Wildlife Board is going to be able to do is make a recommendation to the legislature. Assuming legislature approval, we will have to have draft language done for the legislature to review and a sponsor found for the bill by the middle of December and have them introduce the bill. We do have a lot of work to do in terms of identifying what that wording needs to be. We hope to have that wording finalized before the board meeting on the first. I don't see any reason why we could not have that posted on our website before then so that people could review it. Anytime you open up a code, it is pretty tricky.

Hicks- When we reach that point that you say this is exactly how you dispose, is that going to go out to public comment or will that be brought up by DWR and then the Wildlife Board will vote on it. Is it going to have public comment?

Birdsey- I think, at that point, the comment will be primarily through the Wildlife Board. If we post it on the website, we will certainly ask for people to make comments to us. It is going to be outside of a meeting situation. The actual formal public comment process will be at the Wildlife Board.

Byrnes- For clarification so people understand, is this the wasting of wildlife in the Utah state code. Is that correct?

Birdsey- That is correct.

Byrnes- So, you are going to have to ask the legislature to change that state code to allow the Wildlife Board to set a rule or they will specifically state the conditions under that Wildlife can be wasted?

Birdsey- That is correct. What we would like is as much of that authority that is currently contained in the code passed back to the Wildlife Board. The legislature said many times throughout our code that this can be done by the Wildlife Board without legislative action. They will grant authority to the Wildlife Board to say that in this set of circumstances, using these methods, it is ok to waste wildlife.

Byrnes- But it will be totally dependent on the legislature to make that change and how they want to make that change.

Birdsey- That is correct and ultimately it is going to rely on the wise men on the hill.

Hicks- I am interested in the Weber River cutthroat change. I have actually caught a couple of cutthroat in that area recently. Does that mean there is a thriving reproductive base there?

Birdsey- There is a reproducing population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout in the Weber River. Craig can let me know when I say something wrong. It is very small. Right now, under the current regulation, people can catch and harvest 4 of those fish. Those fish that live in the main stem ascend to tributaries and are reproduced in those tributaries. What we want to do is protect that main stem population so they can ascend the tributaries and reproduce there. What was your population estimate in the main stem Craig?

Craig Schaugaard- Last year, the population estimate we had from a capture estimate was just over 500 fish. This year, we have been able to do a lot more extensive work and it is a little bit higher but is still under 1,000. It is not a very big population. This is a population that moves from the main stem of the river upstream, spawns and then comes back to the river. It is a life history that is kind of falling out of our systems because we have so much blockage of our tributaries that they are not able to do this. We have found this and think it is worth trying to save and that is why we have made these recommendations.

Hicks- Why only take it to Echo dam?

Craig Schaugaard- That is where we are really only seeing it.

Hicks- We have lost it from Echo dam up?

Craig Schaugaard- Yes, most of the them are just resident fish. They are not moving up the tributaries necessarily. These are big fish. Those that are up higher in the drainage, they are not nearly as big so they are not going to be targeted as heavily.

Cowley- My question deals with the Blacksfork River in Cache Valley and the East Fork border where we have these additional bonus limits. If we are really trying to remove more brown trout and brook trout, why wouldn't we say at least 6 fish have to be those species vs. just holding that to a minimum of 4?



Birdsey- It is more for standardization than anything else. In other waters where we have bonus limits of fish. For example, a number of waters on the Manti have a 4 fish bonus limit of brook trout. Just in keeping with some kind of standardization statewide which we tried very hard to do over the last few years. If we are going to have a bonus limit, 4 is the magic number.

Hicks- What good will the treatment do to get rid of browns in that when they can swim out of the Logan back up? It is not a very big creek. How are you going to keep them out?

Craig Schaugaard- We put a fish barrier that is about ¾ mile up from the confluence of the Logan River that fish will not be able to cross over.

Hicks- Like a waterfall type of thing?

Craig Schaugaard- Yes, it is probably as tall as I am.

### **Public Comment**

Chadd Vanzanten-Trout Unlimited/Cache Archers- Cache anglers support the regulation change concerning Blacksmith Fork River (bonus limit on trout).

Guy Perkins- Encourage the adoption of the rule change. One suggestion I have in regards to disposing of fish is what I call “cut and sink”. Someone in the division said that it was ok and that I could do that. These fish are going to the bottom and not coming to the top. Something is eating them.

Josh Noble- Utah Bowfishing Association- Support the Division in the code change and legalization of night bowfishing.

Stephen Shemanski- Utah Bowfishing Association- Support night bowfishing and legal use of lights for taking common carp at night.

Chuck Harsin- Utah Bowfishing Association- Strongly support the legal use of artificial light to bowfish for non-game fish.

### **RAC Comment**

Gaskill- I think there is enough concern about this disposal thing that we should deal with it separately. Do I need a motion?

Byrnes- No, we can just handle it as we go. I think we all understand the situation where it has to go to the legislature. It think it is mostly a support issue that the RAC recommends the Wildlife Board support it and it will proceed.

Gaskill- I would like to dispose of carp and do it in a good way. I am not comfortable with anything more than saying we recommend a way to make something legal. We would certainly like to have more specifics before we recommend something.

Byrnes- Okay.

Thurgood- This summer, we camped up north of Soda Springs. I think a lot of them were in a fishing tournament on the Black Fork Reservoir. I was amazed at how many carp these guys brought out and I think it is a huge service to all fisherman in general getting rid of that many carp. I don't know how else you would do that. Hopefully, they will hold these tournaments more often and get rid of them. I fully support it and think they should be able to shoot them at night too.

Neville- Commend the bowfisherman that you are here and are supporting and that the division has worked with you to get something passed. This is exactly why we are here so that your

input is accounted for and we can do something about it. I really appreciate you being here and supporting these changes and making them happen.

Hicks- I also want to say that these guys have worked hard to get the silliness removed from these regulations and make it so regular people can go out and have fun and shoot carp. I am hoping that as the process goes through, we can keep it as simple and easy to do this without cluttering it with a whole bunch of ifs, ands and wherefores. This is a fun way to go and does a service to our waters. I am hoping we can do this as simple as possible.

Gaskill- I don't want anyone to think I am opposed to shooting carp day or night with anything short of nuclear weapons. My concern is with the disposal issue. If we say ok, we approve or we recommend approval of this disposal code and it does have all of this ifs and ands, then maybe I don't like it but I am on record as recommending it. That is my issue with this. Come to this board with a recommendation and we will approve it or not recommend it. But don't come and say we are going to write this up in a couple of weeks. Not criticizing, that is just the way I feel. My recommendation is to say we would like to come up with a disposal recommendation but we are not going to approve it without seeing it. So, we can make a motion to that effect. That is why I wanted to chunk it out because I did not want it to get to the point where Gaskill does not want you to kill carp at night with a bow because I do.

Byrnes- Let me throw one thing out and then have Drew make a response. I would think that maybe the recommendation from the council could be that we would like to see the Wildlife Board have the authority to create regulations for the disposal of carp and that it would come back through the RAC process before it was enacted.

Gaskill- Exactly.

Byrnes- That might cover what you want.

Gaskill- That is exactly what I want.

Byrnes- Drew, you have some input for us.

Drew Cushing- We have a catch and kill regulation in place right now. Legally, you cannot dispose of those fish. It really creates a legal dilemma for the people out there fishing. We want those fish to be not released alive in the water. Right now, it is illegal to release them dead into the water. This would close that loophole we have right now and really legalize something that should be legal already. We have these bowfisherman that are out there right now and most of them dispose of them by poking them and leaving them. That is illegal presently. This is basically legalizing something that is already taking place and that we agree needs to happen. As far as the disposal of these fish, I personally assured Josh that this is an outreach effort we can undertake with them. We know the groups that are out there doing this and we can do that within our fishing proclamation by working with those groups and put an informational article on how to dispose of these fish when they come across them.

Gaskill- I don't mean to cause trouble because I agree with everything you said but then you are going to write a code recommendation and we are going to approve it before it is written. That is the only thing I have a problem with.

Ferry- I think that the concept is that we are approving the legal disposal of these fish. Whatever legal means, it will always change whether we approve it now or later. The Wildlife Board and legislature can change it later on. So, as long as it is legal, the fisherman can do that. That is the point here is that we would be approving the legal method of disposal.

Gaskill- If that is what it is limited to, I am for it.

Ferry- Right. That can change now or later.

Gaskill- And it will.

Blizzard- From an agricultural standpoint, my grandmother said that whenever she planted a tree, she had to put a fish in the hole before she planted the tree. So, maybe we could use them for fertilizer.

Ferry- When I go out, I always have a bow with me in my truck. I take the carp and just chuck them in the field. It seems to work. I have a lot more acres I need to cover. Bring them on out.

Neville- I don't want to be your neighbor.

Cowley- We could also turn around and recommend or state what disposal means. I really want to talk to you as far as the Weber River and maintaining the population of fluvial cutthroat. Those are unique in the system. I think we really want to preserve.

Byrnes- In the material you received in your packet, it says amend Utah code 23-20-8 allow the disposal of common carp. Allow the disposal of other species of fish that have been designated catch and kill in specific waters as approved by the Wildlife Board. That is basically the presentation. Given that, we can make our recommendation how we want but that is basically what the presentation is. That specific wording.

Thurgood- Can we add just to the language, allow the disposal of common carp or other species with the cut and sink. I don't know how we word that. That is obviously a better option than throwing them on the bank. Can we just make it simple and add that language.

Cavitt- Perhaps we could just make a recommendation that we get an opportunity to comment on the disposal methods so we could make the motion to approve the presentation as presented and that we would recommend or encourage the division to provide another presentation or information about their proposed rule change for disposal.

Hicks- Was that a motion?

Cavitt- I was making that as a suggestion. A way to move forward. I will put that forward as a motion.

Hicks- I think, from what I can see, we are basically voting on making it legal to do it. I like the idea of getting to have a look at what they suggest.

Cowley- In this case, all we are doing is letting the Wildlife Board recommend to the legislature to make this legal in the code. The legislature may define what that means and then we would be set with it anyway. As it is right now, it is not going to be making it in this year. When do the guidebooks get printed?

Drew Cushing- November.

Cowley- There is no way it will make it in this year anyway. The law would be passed after the guidebook was printed.

## **Motion**

**Motion-** Cavitt- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Fishing Guidebook and Rule R657-13 as presented with an opportunity to comment on the disposal method.

**Second-** Gaskill

## **Discussion on the motion**

Cowley- As you restated the motion, we are recommending that they proceed with a change in the Utah code.

Byrnes- That is part of the presentation so that would be in there.

Neville- Hopefully, the division can help us out with how this goes. Code goes before the legislature and then potentially any definition could be a rule which would come before the RAC anyway.

Birdsey- That is correct. Probably should have clarified the process a little bit better. Paul's comment is absolutely correct that the legislature will not actually meet until after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Any law that they pass won't take effect before April 15<sup>th</sup> of 2013. Most take effect on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The rule change relative to this code change would in fact happen for the 2014 guidebook. What we are actually asking for tonight is a recommendation to go before the legislature, ask for a code change which basically removes carp from the list of species that would be considered wasted. Then, transferring the authority in terms of defining what the legal disposal is and the disposal of these other species that are catch and kill to the Wildlife Board. The Wildlife Board will then hopefully accept that as wanting to move forward to the legislature. The legislature adopts that rather generic language which we could then finalize into a rule change for 2014. That is a long way of saying that one way or the other; you are going to have the opportunity of seeing this again.

Byrnes- I think we are clear.

**Motion Carries-** Unanimous.

#### **Item 6. Illegal Species Movement in Utah**

- Drew Cushing, Aquatic Program Coordinator

- Paul Birdsey, Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator

See Handout

#### **RAC Questions**

Hicks- Have fines proved ineffective?

Birdsey- Correct. This is a problem that is being struggled with across the country, not just limited to Utah. Drew did a really good summary of what a lot of people are trying on this. Fines are certainly an important part of it but what it really comes down to is addressing why people do this in the first place. We not only have problems with anglers moving fish but we have people that are releasing fish from their aquarium and other sources. Our first tactic in approaching this problem is that we will be developing a contract with some social scientists that ask the question as to why people are doing this. More importantly what action are going to deter them from doing these things. Fines are going to factor in there but they are not the driving force. Those of us that have been around for a long time can remember when it was socially acceptable for John Doe to go out and kill a deer in the spring or off the winter range. It was not considered a big deal. Now, it is socially unacceptable to poach a deer. What we need to do is have it socially unacceptable to move fish illegally.

#### **RAC Comment**

Gaskill- Good luck, I hope something works.

Hicks- I love the idea of trying to find other ways to make it socially unacceptable.

## **Item 7. Centerville City Hunting Closure Proposal**

-Neal Worsley, Centerville Police Chief

Byrnes- The methodology being used by Centerville City is following a template that was used by South Jordan in their hunting closure proposal that passed through the Wildlife Board. It is kind of the approved method, I believe, to the approach. Bringing the hunting closure proposal to our council is part of the division's analysis for their recommendation to the Wildlife Board. Chief Worsley will make the presentation. The division is not going to comment or provide input. They are collecting their information as part of our recommendation.

See Handout

### **RAC Questions and Comments**

Byrnes- Basically, between the boundary exclusion and the agreements with the private landowners, they excluded all properties within the proposed hunting closure boundary. Between the 600-foot buffer which is code and the agreements with the private landowners in that northwest area

Ferry- That covers the entire territory that we are talking about.

Byrnes- It essentially covers all of the area in the hunting closure proposal. West of Sheep Road is the Legacy Preserve and some division lands. Those are excluded from the hunting closure proposal. There are some city lands within the city boundary that are east of the Firebreak Road but they are not part of the hunting closure proposal because Firebreak Road provides a definable boundary on the east side. It is city lands west of Firebreak Road.

Worsley- Yes.

Blizzard- I always thought cities had ordinances that had no discharge of firearms in city limits.

Worsley- We do. However, wildlife trumps that ordinance by allowing lawful hunting in an area 600 feet or further from dwellings.

Blizzard- Really?

Worsley- During a lawful hunting season, they can hunt.

Blizzard- Is that a state law?

Worsley- It is a state law.

Blizzard- The reason you are wanting to close this is because of firearms?

Worsley- Yes.

Blizzard- Is archery still an option? The only place you are trying to close is private ground which they should be able to say no hunting or trespassing on my property.

Worsley- There are trespassers down there. They put up signs and the signs go away and get shot at. The reason for this is to just get some very definitive boundaries people know. We do have people sneak out into the areas within the city and shoot a pheasant or two here and there. They are breaking state law. Now people know if they discharge that firearm within the city even though a lawful hunt is going, they are going to be breaking the law within city limits.

Blizzard- That also includes a bow and arrow or anything else right?

Worsley- We have talked about bow and arrow and in a depredation type of thing or when wildlife deemed it, it would be discussed if these are safe areas to shoot with a bow. Could you

shoot a bow in this area safely? In our ordinance, we have allowed wildlife do what they need to do to control these animals.

Blizzard- When it says all forms of hunting.

Worsley- Through the ordinance, we have kind of tweaked it a little bit. We have given it to both people. The problem we did not say with strictly hunting is because in our city, we have a huge problem with raccoons and skunks and animal control is trapping them all the time. If you put that out, you are tying their hands too. So, we have kind of had to tweak the ordinance a little bit to take care some of these nuisance animals within the city. It is going to be controlled.

Hicks- This is a no hunting ordinance, it is not just firearms. Is that correct?

Worsley- Right.

Hicks- Does the ordinance allow a depredation hunt by bow at some point?

Worsley- I think that would be up to wildlife. Could they do it in that area safely? What kind of public repercussions would come from that?

Hicks- I am wondering if this is an ordinance that restricts hunting at all and if they were to come back later as ask for a special bow hunt because deer are eating people's flowers. Would that prevent that from ever happening in the future?

Worsley- No. That is why we put that sentence in there. Nothing in here will prevent them from doing their job.

Byrnes- Potentially, the wording might have to be reviewed by Marty to determine if a depredation hunt with the consent of the city could occur. We do have an increasing number of urban deer. We have some very sought after trophies wandering through the city.

Worsley- Not in my back yard.

Byrnes- But not far. We wouldn't want people slinging arrows in those neighborhoods without the proper supervision.

Worsley- I do think that is the intent of the ordinance. It has to be under some kind of direction or guideline.

Byrnes- Email from Russ. "On the proposed hunting closure in Centerville City I do not agree with the total package. I think those private land owner should just post their property like most landowners do. I also believe that the Legacy Preserve should remain open and allow the building distances and road rules continue to be the guide". I sent Russ back an email that the Legacy Preserve was outside of it but did not get anything back from him. I think he misunderstood the boundaries.

Neville- How is this different than the person in Weber who did not want any hunting in their area?

Byrnes- In South Weber.

Ferry- That was last month?

Neville- Or, two months ago.

Byrnes- Several months ago.

Ferry- Last month we had someone from Huntsville that came in. You are talking Uintah?

Neville- Yes. We basically told them to post it.

Byrnes- In code, cities are allowed to close their boundaries to hunting with the approval of the Wildlife Board. There is a mechanism established for this process. They are trying to follow that.

Neville- Okay.-

Ferry- This is a city doing it and not an individual coming and wanting to close their property.

Byrnes- They have agreement with all the affected landowners that still could be hunting.

Cowley- What happens if one of those landowners sells to a hunting group that wants to open that piece of property for hunting and legally owns the land. How do you deal with that?

Ferry- You need a due diligence.

Worsley- I am suspecting without going into a lot of detail that this would be developed before that happens. Some of this ground that we are asking has already been annexed from the county into Centerville. They are looking that way right now. There is only a small portion of this property that really would be any good to hunting. There are two small streams that run through but one property does have a pond on it. There are some waterfowl that fly into that but he is one of the ones that is very adamant of keeping people away from his cattle.

Byrnes- Is the city discussed zoning to exclude hunting of clubs or anything in those areas?

Worsley- I don't know that they have. It could be a possibility but no one has ever showed any interest to have a club down there. The majority of the people that have been down there hunting have just trespassed through and went on. As I say it, it is really the one section of ground next to 1275 N.

Hicks- I went to several of these first meetings when they were first proposing this. I think it is a pretty good compromise there. It is a good, nice clean boundary. I really don't think there is going to be any issues in the future because when they made the Legacy agreements, the city got to keep their lands for development. I'm sure it will be developed soon enough and it is a good mix.

Blizzard- Saying no hunting is pretty final but I guess I will take the approach that this is not in my back yard. You folks who live there can live with it I guess.

### **Motion**

**Motion-** Wall- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Centerville City Hunting Closure Proposal as presented.

**Second-** Hicks

**Motion Carries-** Unanimous

**Meeting Ends: 8:05 p.m.**