

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 5, 2015

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

Summary of Motions

Meeting Begins: 6:04 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda and April 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Move to approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Motion: Approve the Minutes of April 7, 2015 as amended.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Waterfowl Recommendations

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Migratory Game Bird Recommendations as presented.

Motion to Amend: Eliminate the Northern Dark Goose Zone and the season would follow the rest of the state zone.

Motion to Amend Passes: For: 7 Against: 6

Amended Original Motion Passes: For: 11 Against: 1

Urban Deer Control - R657 - 65 Rule Amendments

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Urban Deer Control R657-65 Rule Amendments as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Election of RAC Chairman and Vice Chairman

Motion: Nominate John Cavitt for RAC Chair

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Motion: Nominate Bryce Thurgood as RAC Vice-Chair

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Motion to adjourn.

Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair

Meeting Ends: 8:58 pm.

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 5, 2015

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:04 p.m.

RAC Present

John Blazzard- Agriculture
Robert Byrnes- Chair, At Large
John Cavitt- Vice Chair, Nonconsumptive
Paul Cowley- Forest Service
Joel Ferry- Agriculture
Jim Gaskill- At Large
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large
Jon Leonard- Sportsman
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected
Kristin Purdy- Nonconsumptive
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
Craig VanTassell- Sportsman
John Wall- At Large

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Justin Dolling
Randy Wood
Scott Walker
Scott McFarlane
Blair Stringham
Pam Kramer
Krystal Tucker
Chad Cranney
Paul Thompson
Channing Howard

Wildlife Board

Bill Fenimore

RAC Excused

Russ Lawrence- At Large

RAC Unexcused

Bruce Sillitoe- BLM

Agenda:

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Approval of Agenda
Approval of April 7, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Waterfowl Recommendations
Urban Deer Control – R657- 65 Rule Amendments
Election of RAC Chairman and Vice Chairman
WMA Habitat Management Plans

Item 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure

Welcome: Robert Byrnes, Chair

Introduction of RAC Members

Item 2. Approval of Agenda and April 7, 2015 Minutes

Motion: Paul Cowley- Move to approve the Agenda for tonight's meeting.

Second: Jim Gaskill

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Motion: John Wall- Approve the Minutes of April 7, 2015 as amended.

Second: Jon Leonard

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Robert Byrnes, Chair

Email sent out regarding actions. Quite a few extra motions and changes in permit numbers. Mostly in reaction from Southern Region.

Jim Gaskill- Did they give us any written reason for the changes in opposition to what we recommended?

Robert Byrnes- It is a fine line. If their decisions were in opposition to our motions, they did change some permit numbers. They did not directly contradict any of our actions.

Jim Gaskill- Clearly they did if we recommended they accept the divisions recommendation and they did something else, that is clearly in opposition to our motion. It has been brought up a million times by me. I have never felt like the Wildlife Board has lived up to their legal obligation to give us, in writing, a reason for not accepting or changing recommendations. It seems to me they are not doing what is in the best interest of wildlife but in the best interest of some livestock owners. That is not what the Wildlife Board is supposed to be doing. I want to hear how they justify that. I know nothing is going to happen but I feel obligated to put in my two cents. Legislature has delegated to us the responsibility that they originally have for making laws. The reason for the advisory councils is so that those who did not vote us in can come in and tell us what they want. I do not think it is working very well. There are special interests that go to those who will accept their ideas and the Wildlife Board follows that. They ought to tell us why they are doing what they are doing.

Robert Byrnes- Their response would be as it has been for several years. The written minutes would be the written response to any change or any vote against what any individual regional advisory council had voted for. Every item they did address, was brought up by one of the 5 regional advisory councils. I don't think there was any unique item the Wildlife Board brought up that was not a part of the regional advisory motion.

Item 4. Regional Update

Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Wildlife Section- Spring range assessments. Spring deer classifications. Sage Grouse and Sharptail Lek counts have concluded. Ogden Bay Waterfowl Management interviews taking place.

Habitat Section- Final touches on projects and projects approved through WRI process. Data base update.

Interviews for regional terrestrial restoration biologist.

Administrative Services- Over the counter turkey permits available. May 29th bucks, bulls and OIAL drawing.

Antlerless application May 28th-June 19th.

Aquatics- Stocking 20,000 tiger muskies in Pineview Reservoir. Fishing at Willard Bay is really good.

Outreach- YouTube Channel exceeding 1 million views. Regional Northern Region Facebook Page. *Wildfind* media effort getting information to media regarding activities.

Law Enforcement- Saturation Patrol at Willard at the end of April.

6 members will be leaving us on the RAC: Robert Byrnes, Paul Cowley, Jim Gaskill, R. Jefre Hicks, Jon Leonard, and G. Lynn Nelson.

R. Jefre Hicks- On the media outreach, I think that has been great and very successful.
Jim Gaskill- What is the Facebook page?
Justin Dolling- Northern Utah Wildlife.

RAC Procedure: Robert Byrnes

Item 5. Waterfowl Recommendations

Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Kenny Givens- What brought forth the northern goose zone split out?

Blair Stringham- It is something we did quite a few years ago. There was some opposition to us having the split in the eastern part of Box Elder County. Through the RAC and board process, we established the northern zone that encompasses the clubs out to the west that were in opposition to having the split during the season.

Kenny Givens- I represent one of those clubs and we would like to see that. What will it take to be able to put that back in as a statewide managed hunting zone with the rest of the state?

Blair Stringham- It is currently not one of our recommendations for this year. The reason they were created is to provide more hunting opportunity. From a biological aspect, it does not affect goose populations. The hunter harvest occurs mostly in the first two weeks of October and to the end of January.

Kenny Givens- If you see the greater harvest towards the end of January, wouldn't it make sense to extend that and have it statewide to make easier management?

Blair Stringham- It probably would simplify recommendations a little bit. From a biological perspective, it probably will not affect goose populations one way or the other.

Ken Dillree- Have you been approached about this northern goose zone other than my group here tonight? In years past, has it been an issue?

Blair Stringham- I have been doing this for about 3 years and this is the first time it has come up.

RAC Questions

Jim Gaskill- The first graph does not necessarily represent the trend in Utah waterfowl? That is national waterfowl population correct?

Blair Stringham- The black line is the duck population across North America. The blue line represents waterfowl hunters in Utah.

Jim Gaskill- Do you have any kind of numbers for Utah Waterfowl?

Blair Stringham- We have some numbers but largely our populations are probably going to be upwards of 100,000 ducks. Overall, when they are producing 50 million ducks, the majority are coming from Canada, Northern Prairies, and Alaska. Overall, we are not a huge waterfowl producer here in the state but we do provide an important staging area as they move south in the fall and back north in the spring.

Jim Gaskill- Why are we experiencing a fairly significant decrease in the Utah waterfowl hunting population? Is it not true that the bulk of our Canadian Geese and probably our ducks are local ducks and geese. We are not in the middle of a flyaway right?

Blair Stringham- The Great Salt Lake is one of the major staging areas cross specific flyaway. We get birds from the central part of the continent across over to Alaska and British Columbia. We are really a significant player in the flyaway.

Jim Gaskill- Have we done any goose banding studies lately?

Blair Stringham- Yes, annually we band geese and have been doing it for probably 30 plus years.

Jim Gaskill- Is it not correct that the vast majority of bands we get are Utah geese?

Blair Stringham- Yes, part of that is because we are probably the biggest player in banding geese. We band 3,000-5,000 geese. Across the flyaway, there is another 1,000 that are banded. It has not been a priority for the bigger Canada geese.

Jim Gaskill- What do you think is the reason for the great decrease in hunting popularity in Utah?

Blair Stringham- Nationally there has been a decline in the number of hunters. For Utah waterfowl, we don't know for sure. It coincides with that 2,000 timeframe.

Jim Gaskill- You don't think it has to do with the lack of hunting opportunities and lack of birds?

Blair Stringham- It is hard to say exactly what has happened. We still have a lot of birds. Overall, there is probably periods of time in Utah we have over a million ducks on the Great Salt Lake. I don't know if it is a perception issue or if they are just not as accessible to hunters.

John Cavitt- Have you conducted any kind of hunter satisfaction surveys recently and what are they telling us?

Blair Stringham- We did a hunter satisfaction survey about 2 years ago and largely, people were satisfied with waterfowl hunting in Utah. Typically, our average was 3 1/2-4 on a scale of 5 for hunter satisfaction. We did create a Great Salt Lake management plan several years ago and if it fell below a certain point, we would start looking at ways to increase hunter satisfaction. It has remained high but the number of hunters have dropped off.

R. Jefre Hicks- If they were to get rid of that north zone as they are asking for, would that mean the late goose season would be ok in that area also?

Blair Stringham- Yes, what would probably make the most sense is have it fall under the rest of the state. You would have two zones.

R. Jefre Hicks- If these gentleman would like to make a recommendation to have the regulations changed, there is a certain time to do that. What meeting do they need to be at to do that? Is this the one?

Blair Stringham- Yes, if any of these changes happen, they would happen at the RAC and board meetings.

R. Jefre Hicks- You said you are on a 3 year rotation on regulations, that is just a publication right?

Blair Stringham- Yes, that is specifically for the upland game guidebook. The waterfowl we do annually.

Whatever is approved at the board meeting is what we will go forward with to the Fish and Wildlife Service in July. If that is something you would like to make tonight, this would be the time to do it.

R. Jefre Hicks- You said there is not any real reason you can see except that there has been some of the clubs wanting to be in a different zone so they can close earlier.

Blair Stringham- In the past, it has been a social situation. So we have always addressed the biological implications for stuff like that. The pressure on geese has been significant the last couple years and have seen no negative impacts.

Joel Ferry- I didn't see anything on Sandhill Crane. Do you anticipate the same number of tags for the state this year?

Blair Stringham- Our allocation did go up this last year to about 100. We have not done the permit process yet.

Joel Ferry- Keep Box Elder County in mind when you do that.

Blair Stringham- We have been going off an allocation giving percentages to each of the 4 areas. Box Elder will definitely be going up along with everyone else.

John Wall- On the federal duck stamp, do you know if there is any federal groups or organizations that tracks or surveys who buys those duck stamps?

Blair Stringham- I couldn't tell you that off the top of my head. It is largely bought by hunters because it is required to hunt. There are quite a few different user groups.

R. Jefre Hicks- If they were to extend that season to join the rest of the northern zone or urban zone, would the Bear River Bird Refuge be obligated to follow along the same dates?

Blair Stringham- Typically, they have supported our recommendations. It would be up to them if they were to open their gates for that. I have not spoke with them.

R. Jefre Hicks- They could opt out?

Blair Stringham- Yes, they potentially could.

Jon Leonard- What was the original reason for having that separated from the urban zone?

Blair Stringham- It was mostly just based off of social pressure. Several of the clubs out west were opposed to having the split. Out of that came the northern zone.

Jon Leonard- Freeze up during that period.

Blair Stringham- Not necessarily, they wanted a continuous season from the opening of the waterfowl hunt through the last possible day. Because of that, they can run 106 days. It went from October 3rd to January 16th. They did not want a break in their season.

Public Comment

Becky Wood- Requesting restriction on hunting and trapping. Brought picture of Ogden area standing in back yard. Activities are easily seen and heard by residents. Paper with list of names generated from an article in local newspaper. Many others would like to see this restricted within private residences. Consider the reason of sensitivity to restrict hunting in certain areas.

John Cavitt- Could you mention what the landownership is surrounding your house or residence.

Becky Wood- Huntsville is an organized community. I have neighbors on either side of me. It sits up on a bluff and the reservoir surrounds Huntsville. There are 500 residents and within the city limits, discharging a gun is illegal. Right next door to us, it is not.

Robert Byrnes- That property outside of Huntsville is Forest Service property correct?

Becky Wood- Yes, I am standing on my back lawn but facing Forest Service property.

Robert Byrnes- Your neighbors are private property except for Pineview which is Forest Service.

Becky Wood- That is correct.

R. Jefre Hicks- Is all of the land on and surrounding the high water mark, is that all administered by the Forest Service?

Paul Cowley- It is all administered by the Forest Service. There is a margin from low to high water and then a little above that given to the Forest Service. If you look at Pineview and the way it surrounds Huntsville, it probably surrounds the western half of Huntsville. Along with a number of recreation facilities.

Stephen Clark- Support that recommendation of Becky's. There are a lot of people in the area that are affected. Consider the possibility of the area around edges of Pineview as a no hunt zone for waterfowl. Even extend it because of recreational use and other interest in the area that does not involve hunting. Consider making it a Wildlife Preserve around the edges of the reservoir.

Carol Campbell- Live in Huntsville and judging by comment, we are facing a similar issue. Area around Pineview use to be rural. That is no longer the case. There are a lot of homes and recreational users. Ask for your consideration in restricting that area.

Ken Dillree- Letter sent to RAC board members. Talk to hunters for a living. Would like to see Northern Utah or Box Elder County be classified under the general goose area. All hunters should have the same opportunity. Split season and general goose zone close for the last two weeks in October. If we do split season, possibly close the first two weeks in November when that time period is thrown out the window and make better use of our time.

Jim Gaskill- You are suggesting that you would like to do away with the urban zone and the northern zone so you just have the whole state the same?

Ken Dillree- No, I am just speaking on the northern zone only. We would like to combine that with the general goose zone for the whole state so that there is no line or classification for the northern zone.

Jim Gaskill- There still would be the urban zone?

Ken Dillree-Yes.

Carl Stettler- Bear River Club- Changing the northern goose zone would not be wise. Goose hunting has been fabulous the last two years. The reason is PacifiCorp draining Cutler Reservoir and giving the birds a roosting spot. Also, the club property in Elwood, we did a two year drain and repair the dam also which left open water all year long for the birds to roost and use the cornfields. Repairs to spillway that dumps our lake into unit 1 of the refuge which left a huge spot for the birds. All those projects are completed. The birds will be gone by January 16th. I recommend you leave it just the way it is.

RAC Comment

R. Jefre Hicks- As a waterfowl hunter, there does not seem to be a huge reason to split it out. It appears the urban zone was put together to maximize the benefits of urban geese late. If the urban zone is a special zone designed for a late season goose zone, I do not see a reason why the northern zone was created biologically or

for any reason. It does not appear to be necessary to split it. I would like to know why that urban zone would be different?

Blair Stringham- We created the urban zone about 2 years ago largely because of urban geese we had along the Wasatch Front. From band return data, approximately 25% of our birds are harvested the first 2 weeks of October. From mid-October to mid-January, very few birds are being shot. Towards the end of January, a lot of those birds will start to go out in marsh land again to establish nesting territories and to breed. We have tried to push dates later because the later we can go, the better opportunity for birds coming out. Also, more likely to be harvested. That is the reason for creating the urban zone outside the rest of the state zones, just specifically to put more pressure on those 4 urban counties.

Robert Byrnes- The northern zone is pretty much purely a social issue correct?

Blair Stringham- Yes. Looking at harvest data, specifically for eastern Box Elder County, harvest is around 40% for the first two weeks of October then drops off to 8-10% for the rest of the season through the middle of January when the season is ended.

Paul Cowley- Does the state have any criteria about what point an area becomes so urbanized that it becomes to the benefit to close it down for hunting?

Blair Stringham- There is not a whole lot of real specific examples I could give you where we have done that. We try to leave hunting opportunity open to every extent possible. There are situations where you have to be within more than 600 feet from a structure. As well as obey city and county ordinances. We try not to regulate hunting outside of what city and county ordinances are.

Paul Cowley- Is it primarily the city and county ordinances that pushes hunting out more to the margins?

Blair Stringham- Yes, for the most part.

Jon Leonard- Is hunting taking place within that 600 feet?

Blair Stringham- I am not familiar with the situation.

Justin Dolling- There is state law that says you are not allowed to hunt within 600 feet of a structure. We always fall back to that as the safety zone. Dealing with Antelope Island, it is a road and that is a little different. You are not allowed to shoot from or across the road. As long as you are off the road two feet, you can hunt. So that is a different situation. To my knowledge, there has been some waterfowl hunting that has occurred closer than 600 feet to some of these homes in Huntsville. We have encouraged the residents to make sure they are contacting our law enforcement officers when that happens. If we observe it, we will issue citations.

Paul Cowley- I know we have had this discussion last year. I am just sensitive to Becky's comments. Our law enforcement officers have been up there looking at these situations.

John Cavitt- What are we talking about in terms of the numbers of hunters using that area of Ogden Valley?

Justin Dolling- I am probably not the best to answer that question. Is anyone here from law enforcement? What kind of hunter activity occurs around the reservoir?

Krystal Tucker- Unfortunately, I have not seen anything in that particular area that I have patrolled. Devin or Dave would be the best officer to provide that information to you.

Justin Dolling- I don't believe there is a lot of waterfowl hunting that occurs up there. This is just observations when I drive by the reservoir. Can you check with Devin to get his feeling on that?

R. Jefre Hicks- We have to keep in mind this is still public property and federal property. People spoil everything. It is not too far different than having a cabin on the edge of Forest Service land. You might be better off to pursue a refuge status. At this point, it is a lot to ask for people to not pursue illegal activity on land that is owned by all of us.

Joel Ferry- Northern goose hunt. Spoke with some club members and they all want the northern goose zone to stay the way it is. Overall success should not change by having it one way or the other correct?

Blair Stringham- Basing off what we see and the rest of the state.

Joel Ferry- Is it an urban zone or a rest of the state zone?

Blair Stringham- The rest of the state zone, it is about 25% for the first 2 weeks and then ranges anywhere from 3-12% between the last 2 weeks of October and the first 2 weeks of January. The last week of January bumps up to 22%.

Joel Ferry- From a public perspective, right now a person can go onto the Bear River Refuge when the rest of the state is closed and hunt geese. Then, he can go to Farmington Bay late January into early February hunt. If this change is made, we will cut 9 days out of the goose hunting season. We would be reducing the opportunity.

By doing the split zones, we are extending the season by two weeks. I am in favor of leaving it the way it is. I assume the Bear River Refuge would close down when the duck season ends.

Bryce Thurgood- It is fun hunting end of January into the first part of February. I don't think it is going to affect the percentages. There is good opportunity for those in Box Elder County that have fields and get to hunt them. I agree with Jefre on his comments regarding Pineview.

Krystal Tucker- Spoke with the Weber officer, Devin and Dave. Devin stated that in the last 2014 season, he contacted about 4 hunters in that area, mostly goose hunters. He would say it is a fairly uncommon area to hunt currently. Probably not more than a dozen people or so during the season. It is not a very heavily used area at this time.

R. Jefre Hicks- Graph showing reduction in hunter numbers and waterfowl in direct opposite increased birds. When you say that you don't know why the loss of hunters is happening, I think I know what it is. You use to be able to go and hunt a lot of places. A lot of those places are gone forever. State lands have been almost lost completely to phragmites. It crowds everyone on a few waterfowl management areas. There are way less places to go and I think that is the reason for the loss of hunters and duck stamp purchases. State land acres have been lost to the opportunity to hunt.

Jim Gaskill- I agree with Jefre on that. I also believe that, in this case, hunter satisfaction surveys may be misleading. The times have changed and attitudes change. Reduction in opportunity is contributing in the decrease in waterfowl hunters.

John Blazzard- Strong advocate of multiple use for public lands. When we talk about regulating or keeping people from doing things on property. Once we remove them from doing that, it is impossible to gain that back. Whenever we talk about pulling a right away from a parcel property, we need to be careful because very seldom does that ever come back. Opportunity is lost forever. We need to look at why our hunter numbers are down and the fact that a lot of people just don't want to live with the complicated rhetoric and regulations that apply no matter what they want to hunt. The more we can do to simplify the regulations and hunt times, the better off we would be.

Robert Byrnes- If you make a recommendation about hunting around Pineview, the Wildlife Board is going to look at opportunity and if we are restricting opportunity. We have no law enforcement saying there is a health and safety issue. People might be violating the law but that is the Utah code they should be following anyway. The proponents are asking about hunting and trapping in the Ogden Valley so it is a little bit bigger than focusing around Pineview. On the northern zone, it seems some years there is opportunity and some years there is probably no opportunity at all. You could standardize those regulations and maybe have some opportunity some years but obviously other years it is not going to exist.

Motion

Motion: Joel Ferry- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Migratory Game Bird Recommendations as presented.

Second: G. Lynn Nelson

Jim Gaskill- Did that include the bandtail pigeon?

Joel Ferry- I said migratory game bird didn't I? It is the entire presentation of migratory game birds.

Robert Byrnes- Does that cover your presentation if they say migratory game bird presentation?

Blair Stringham- Yes, that would be fine.

Paul Cowley- This would be as amended by Fish and Wildlife Service to match their requirements.

Robert Byrnes- That was part of the presentation.

R. Jefre Hicks- I would like to make an amendment to this motion to entertain the proposal by these gentlemen to eliminate the northern zone and incorporate it into the rest.

Paul Cowley- That goes contrary to the motion.

Motion to Amend

Motion: R. Jefre Hicks- Eliminate the Northern Dark Goose Zone and the season would follow the rest of the state zone.

Second: Bryce Thurgood.

Discussion on the Motion

Joel Ferry- Before we make such a big recommendation, there needs to be a study period. If it is something that will truly benefit goose hunters, I would be in favor of it. We have no idea what the result is going to be. We have not received any public input. This is going to impact a lot of goose hunters. It is a big move in a hurry. It might be more appropriate to address this in our December meeting.

John Cavitt- I sympathize with the group that wants to change these dates. However, it was not proposed in any of the agenda items. Those that may be in favor of keeping the dates as they are, have not had a chance to make their opinions known.

Jim Gaskill- I think that is what this meeting is for. The reason I would go along with the amendment is primarily by what John Blazzard said about simplifying it. To me, the whole argument is one group of hunters who want it one way and the other group who wants it another way. I am voting for the amendment to simplify the process.

R. Jefre Hicks- I agree that is the main reason to consider, although simplifications are baby steps. I understand Joel's idea that this is quick and a big change for a lot of people. However, it has to start somewhere. If we want to simplify, now is as good of a time as any.

Joel Ferry- With the increased schedule, we are going to be readdressing this in 6-7 months in December.

Motion to Amend Passes: For: 7 Against:6

Robert Byrnes- I think this will provide some opportunity. I expect Blair to be looking at if there is some significant impact that they will address this in the future.

Amended Original Motion Passes: For: 11 Against: 1 Joel Ferry- Simplification is not a valid argument. Public was not informed.

Jim Gaskill- This RAC did not all vote for the changes in the deer hunt. The decision made here is simply a recommendation to the board. This is not the final word.

Item 6. Urban Deer Control – R657- 65 Rule Amendments

Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Jim Gaskill- Why is non-lethal removal is not always an option?

Scott McFarlane- Because non-lethal means we are going to translocate deer. Sometimes we have disease concerns.

Jim Gaskill- Lethal is always an option?

Scott McFarlane- Well, yes.

John Blazzard- Do you have a lot of other cities that are asking about being able to do this?

Scott McFarlane- Yes, there has been quite an interest. In the northern region there are 6-7 cities.

Justin Dolling- 6-8 cities that have expressed interest.

Scott McFarlane- This would be optional, this is something they would opt into.

John Blazzard- Do they have to be an incorporated city?

Scott McFarlane- When we did this, we looked at the class of the cities and I think the reason for having the greater than 1,000 was because of the liability insurance requirements. Cities that have less than that probably would not be able to meet that requirement.

John Blazzard- So, how far away do you usually move these deer?

Scott McFarlane- Far enough that they don't come back. We know that if we move them just up a canyon, sometimes they may even beat us back. The project we did with Bountiful, the deer we took, some went to Uintah Basin and some into Box Elder County. Far enough away that they cannot find their way back. We don't know the optimum range but we have to take them quite far away.

John Blazzard- Do you analyze where you are going to dump them off so they don't become a depredation problem for farm land?

Scott McFarlane- Yes, we do. We went through all of the regions and asked them to identify places we could translocate deer to. That was one of the criteria is not to impact agriculture.

Craig Van Tassell- How do you determine they are resident deer if they are just coming in the winter time. Do they have to be there all of the time?

Scott McFarlane- Sometimes you have a migration where bucks come down during breeding season. That is something we want to avoid. The earlier in the year, when it is acceptable to take those is usually when your resident deer are there. Later in the season as the weather drives the deer closer down out of the mountains is when we want to try and avoid taking any migratory deer. It is not going to be 100% but we are going to do everything we can by setting season times. It might be different for Logan as it is for Bountiful. It will have to be designed for each city.

Kristin Purdy- You gave us some numbers for the first 2 years in Highland and Bountiful of the number of deer taken. I am wondering, based on the take and the estimates of the population size, if we can say how much each of the efforts, reduced by a percentage, the population by each of the methods? Is there follow up data gathering to determine the drop in the significance of the damage or the collisions with vehicles? What data is being gathered to say this is a successful program either way?

Scott McFarlane- Yes, we are gathering data on this. Highland is really hard to estimate a population of deer within city limits. They are really hard to count. We looked at social tolerance. Part of the project in Bountiful is we sent out a questionnaire to a random sample of residents. We are probably looking at more of a social tolerance. We know what they have said beginning the project and then at the end of the project we will send out another questionnaire. We don't have a way to measure the percentage taken out. Highland City has said they have noticed a decrease in the number of deer vehicle collisions. The residents have said they have noticed a decrease in the number of deer.

Kristin Purdy- You proposed the program be expanded to other communities. There is a statement that communities can apply when deer are collectively causing significant damage to private property or threatening public safety? Who decides? Does the city decide or does the division assess that?

Scott McFarlane- This would come from the cities. The city gets a complaint and then comes to us.

Kristin Purdy- The city gets to make their own assessment if the damage is significant or not?

Scott McFarlane- Yes, that is correct.

Jim Gaskill- There was a public comment requirement but I am assuming the public comment is the cities type meeting. If the RAC and Board approve this process, we are done right?

Scott McFarlane- That is correct.

Motion

Motion: Jim Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Urban Deer Control R657-65 Rule Amendments as presented.

Second: John Cavitt

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 7. Election of RAC Chairman and Vice Chairman

Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Robert Byrnes- The RAC chair's main responsibility is to efficiently run the council meeting. After the minutes are transcribed, the next big thing for the RAC chair is to go through the minutes for accuracy and formatting. There is a specific format how they are supposed to be delivered. Also represent the council at the Wildlife Board meetings. The vice chair can fill those roles but they should be prepared to represent the council's actions

in those motions. If you chair a meeting, you should be able to go to the Wildlife Board meeting for those agenda items.

Justin Dolling- We would like to get a feeling for if any RAC members have an interest in becoming the new chair?

John Cavitt- I am willing if there is no one else that is also willing.

Joel Ferry- I think you would do a great job.

Motion

Motion: Jim Gaskill- Nominate John Cavitt for RAC Chair.

Second: John Blazzard

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Robert Byrnes- There will be 5 more people cycling through in 2 years. It would be good for some of you that will still remain on the council, if you are willing to step up and if you are interested, to be the vice chair and then potentially in 2 years, you could be the chair. At least you would have some experience.

Jim Gaskill- Can we ask who would be here after 2 years?

Robert Byrnes- Yes. Bruce, Kristin, Bryce and John Blazzard. It all depends on your personal time available. If you see yourself filling that role in the future.

Craig Van Tassell- Would anyone like to be the vice chair?

R. Jefre Hicks- I think we should nominate Bryce Thurgood.

Motion

Motion: R. Jefre Hicks- Nominates Bryce Thurgood for RAC Vice Chair.

Second: Jim Gaskill.

Paul Cowley- All we are doing is voting for the vice chair. There is no requirement in rule that says vice chair becomes the chair in 2 or 4 years.

Justin Dolling- Nominations are closed. Vote on motion.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Robert Byrnes- Thank you for being willing to serve the council. Your responsibilities will begin at the next meeting which will be?

Jodie Anderson- July 28.

Robert Byrnes- John will be sending out emails and I will provide some guidance.

Item 8. WMA Habitat Management Plans

Pam Kramer, NR Habitat Manager

Ogden Bay WMA

RAC Questions

R. Jefre Hicks- Where are you going to get the money to do all the infrastructure and repairs?

Pam Kramer- Chad can address that better than I can.

Chad Cranney- Assistant Manager- Currently, we do need to use our current budget that is given every year. We also have opportunities through the habitat council as well as other grants. There is definitely a need to build the budget at Ogden Bay right now. Does that answer your question?

R. Jefre Hicks- Do you think you are going to get any of that? There is a lot of infrastructure on there. Do you anticipate being able to do any of that in the next 5 years?

Chad Cranney- That is a good question. There is opportunity to increase our budget and looking for funding to get that done.

Pam Kramer- What is your budget now for that?

Chad Cranney- Currently, the standard operating budget is around \$51,000 dollars a year.

Jim Gaskill- Unit 1 use to be a rest area. Are there any thoughts of bringing that back?

Chad Cranney- There has been talk about putting a new rest area at Ogden Bay. I believe that was part of the Great Salt Lake waterfowl advisory committee?

Justin Dolling- That is correct. Historically, unit 3 was the rest area at Ogden Bay.

Jim Gaskill- That was a really important part of Ogden Bay in the old days. We had a population of birds there through the season. It really changed when we did away with that rest area.

Justin Dolling- There was a waterfowl committee established 4 years ago that made a recommendation to reestablish a rest area at Ogden Bay but left that up to the management personnel as to where that would be best located.

R. Jefre Hicks- That was a recommendation made by the council but has never been acted on.

Joel Ferry- Spoke with ranchers that graze at Ogden Bay. Seeing a lot of success with that program to help control the spread of phragmites. Do you anticipate, as it progresses, to increase or keep that the same? What do you see happening out there?

Chad Cranney- We have liked the success of what we have been seeing with the grazing program at Ogden Bay. At this point, with the management possibly changing soon, I don't want to speculate what may happen.

Joel Ferry- It is something that has had a positive impact on the area.

Chad Cranney- Yes, I believe so. We like what we have been seeing. There is an upcoming USU grazing study being implemented this year. We would like to get some scientific data and see what the benefits are and what possible negative effects might be.

Joel Ferry- It has been a very positive thing to do in these areas.

R. Jefre Hicks- We appreciate your efforts. Opening access and opportunity to hunting and wildlife habitat.

Middle Fork WMA

RAC Questions

Robert Byrnes- Other than the Forest Service parcels, on the perimeter, you could still limit access to the 4 interior parcels based on you cannot trespass across an infinite corner?

Pam Kramer- Right. This Forest Service agrees the property is being maintained for wintering wildlife so they understand why we are closing that down.

Paul Cowley- The Forest Service lands are open to non-motorized access there. They are accessible year round but not motorized. Whoever land locks them, in this case the division, when they close their access down that also closes those interior parcels down.

Robert Byrnes- That could allow for less disturbance in the interior?

Paul Cowley- Absolutely. We recognize that. This area in the forest plan is identified as a 3.2U which is wildlife emphasis or undeveloped lands.

John Blazzard- I was noticing the transect study of grasses. There is no grazing on this property. Are the trend studies based strictly upon changes in the climate from dry, drought, wet or is something else causing the downward trends? Looks like there is more downs than ups.

Pam Kramer- Grazing is used as a management tool so grazing can be good at times.

John Blazzard- I am wondering who you are going to blame for this one.

Pam Kramer- I am not sure that we really know. There has been invasive species that have come in. They take over. The middle fork has burned several times. When it burns and you get the invasion of the other grasses and get those hot, dry south facing slopes, it is difficult to get something established. We have tried to get some thing reestablished but it is difficult to do. The plan says we want to do a couple thousand acres but how we are exactly going to do that, we are not sure at this point.

Robert Byrnes- Maybe you could also comment on utilization.

Scott Walker- Habitat Manager Northern Region- We don't graze it because of the infrastructure not being there. The results of the range trend is an artifact of sight location for that one trend. It is a south facing slope and is

right as you come in. For the whole Wildlife Management area, as you go up in elevation, the range is actually doing much better. Lower elevation sites is mostly an artifact of the introduced grasses both annual and perennial that have come in and occupied the site. Grazing would probably be a good thing. We need to get some fences built and water distributed. The utilization we are seeing on the lower sites looks ok. It changes from year to year. Heavier impact from winter range.

Robert Byrnes- The trends are not because it is being over utilized. It is basically because of the conditions?

Scott Walker- As the sage brush ages, it does not allow for those younger plants to come up and replace the old ones.

Robert Byrnes-Regeneration.

Scott Walker- Over 20-30 years, the trend tends to go down.

Jim Gaskill- What kind of deer and elk numbers are we talking about and are they on the increase or decrease? The idea is to allow for deer and elk to keep them out of the valley and give them winter range. Are we meeting that goal?

Pam Kramer- It is hard to say because with all the development that goes on around us, animals move down to the winter range. Whether we are doing enough good, I am not sure. On the Browning Ranch and Jensen Ranch, they do not have as many issues that they use to have. I can find out from Darren and get back to you on that.

Jim Gaskill- The purpose was not to have a good grazing place but have animals come onto it. I am wondering if they are actually using it?

Scott Walker- They are. I cannot tell you exact numbers but it varies from year to year. I have seen the flight data for elk and most of the sightings were on the foothills and Wildlife Management area.

R. Jefre Hicks- This is an awesome acquisition. So happy that we do things like this.

Swan Creek WMA

RAC Question

Jim Gaskill- What is the status of that irrigation ditch screen?

Pam Kramer- We are going to evaluate if we are actually having fish loss that will occur.

Jim Gaskill- You haven't started building it yet?

Pam Kramer- No, we know there are some fish lost that the fish are being taken into the canal and onto irrigation fields downstream. We do not know the magnitude at this time. Before we move forward, first we want to see if this is really a problem. We want to make sure it is an issue before moving forward.

Jim Gaskill- We were talking about that when I was on the Habitat Council and was wondering if anything had happened.

Pam Kramer- Paul Thompson from the aquatics section is here if you have any particular questions. I was not aware that it came before the Habitat Council before.

Jim Gaskill- It didn't come as a proposal for money. Just when we talked about Swan Creek and some improvements there.

Robert Byrnes- On the water rights on the table, it looks like the division holds almost 30 cubic feet per second of older priority. Their water would come first. It goes all the way to the lake or is some of that being diverted lower in this area where you are talking about the fish screen into a canal and then used by other people?

Pam Kramer- I would have to look back on the plan to know for sure. Does it say those are division water rights?

Robert Byrnes- Yes.

Pam Kramer- If they are then they are in stream flow rights.

Robert Byrnes- They guarantee water in Swan Creek clear to the lake?

Pam Kramer- Right, unless I misunderstand something. I am pretty sure that is correct on that. Do we need to approve these?

Robert Byrnes- It is actually informational. It is policy and we are supposed to review them but it is a policy issue for the division.

Robert Byrnes- Thank you for being an agreeable bunch while I have been on the chair.

John Blazzard- Thank everyone who has been on the council who are leaving. It is a sacrifice to do this.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Jim Gaskill- Motion to adjourn.

Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair

Meeting Ends: 8:58 p.m.

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S Main Street, Springville
May 6, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Waterfowl Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

Urban Deer Control – R657-65 Rule Amendments

MOTION: To accept the rule amendments as presented
Passed unanimously

Election of RAC Chairman and Vice Chairman

Chair – Richard Hansen
Vice Chair – Karl Hirst

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S Main Street, Springville
May 6, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Timothy Fehr, At large
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen
Michael Gates, BLM
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair
Kristofer Marble, At large
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive
Jacob Steele, Native American

Members Absent

Matt Clark, Sportsmen, excused
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture, excused
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service
George Holmes, Agriculture
Greg McPhie, Elected, excused

Others Present

Calvin Crandall, Wildlife Board Member

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

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

VOTING

Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the agenda and minutes as written

Seconded by Richard Hansen

Motion passed unanimously

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

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

3) **Regional Update (Information)**

- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

Aquatics

- Native Aquatic program – Salt Lake County Jail Pond Opening (least chub and inmate restoration project)
- Sportfish program
 - Gillnetting this week at Deer Creek and Jordanelle reservoirs
 - Priority planning efforts for 2015
 - Utah Lake monitoring plan
 - Jordanelle fishery management plan
 - Jordanelle online angler survey completed
 - Working group to convened this summer

Wildlife

- Spring bear hunt season began April 4 and runs until June 5 (Any legal weapon, no bait)
 - Central Mountains Manti and Nebo Units - limited entry
 - Wasatch West – harvest objective
 - Several large
- Sage-grouse lek counts – preliminary data show population increase in the Strawberry SGMA and decrease in Ibapah and Sheeprack SGMAs

- Spring range rides and range assessments are schedule, contact our office or biologists for dates
- Harvest on general season turkey hunt appears to be better than the limited entry, permits available over the counter

Habitat

- 2300-acre lop and scatter project starting in Vernon this week
- 32 habitat project proposals submitted, will probably get funding for about 20
 - Mostly pinyon-juniper removal to benefit big game and sage-grouse
 - Upper Strawberry River (Bull Springs to Hwy 40) and Main Creek (Wallsburg) restoration projects
- UDOT-funded highway mitigation for big game
 - Hwy 89 in Sanpete County
 - Hwy 189 between Deer Ck State Park Headquarters and Island Marina
- Grazing on wildlife management areas begins this month
 - 13 WMAs
 - 1544 AUMs

Conservation Outreach

- Second session of Utah Lake Commission-sponsored school field trips at Utah Lake State Park May 6-7
- Cutthroat Trout Viewing Day at Strawberry May 30
- Central Utah DWR Facebook page now available and seeking friends

Law Enforcement

- Announcing for Salt Lake/Tooele sergeant position
- Targeting Deer Creek with additional enforcement of AIS regulations

4) Waterfowl Recommendations (Action) - **Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Danny Potts – On the causeway restriction is the Division or anyone going to help hunters know what 600 feet is? It is really tough to know what 600 feet is.

Blair Stringham – We have had officers out there the last couple of years enforcing that. I believe it was the 2012 season when that went into effect. We haven't had any violations out there from hunters that are actually hunting within that buffer. Really the way our rule was worded didn't allow for any activity out there along the causeway be that birding or people driving boats. Most of that clarification came just to define what activities are allowed. Hunters are required to be more than 600 feet from any structure currently so we assume hunters will take that same diligence to make sure they are at least 600 feet away from the causeway before they begin hunting.

Danny Potts – So the answer is no. There is no attempt to help hunters to know what 600 feet is. There are no signs or anything. That is tough. Last year was the first year that I didn't hunt waterfowl in like 35 years partly because there wasn't much water. The problem that I am having and might contribute to this serious decline in waterfowl hunters is that so much development has displaced access so greatly especially for mallards because they are so urban in nature.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Timothy Fehr

In Favor: All – Jacob Steele, Timothy Fehr, Karl Hirst, Kristofer Marble, Richard Hansen, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

5) Urban Deer Control R657-65 Rule Amendments (Action)

- **Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Gary Nielson – How far did they move the deer?

Scott McFarlane – They went to two different sites. One was northern Box Elder County and the other was Big Wash in Duchesne County. We went through the state with all the biologists and had them look for sites and submit sites for translocation sites given certain criteria. One of the criteria was that it couldn't affect agriculture damage wise. They had to have low or no deer population that historically had good deer populations. There were quite a few criteria. The locations went through the RAC and Board process I believe it was last fall or a year ago last spring.

Danny Potts – It was implied but I assume once you captured these deer you marked them some way.

Scott McFarlane – There is a project to monitor the survivability and also we have to mark these deer because of disease testing. We want to test everything for chronic wasting disease so everything was marked with either a radio collar or an ear tag transmitter.

Timothy Fehr – Was there any thought given to requiring the cities who apply for this process to actually somehow pay part of the DWR costs for administrating the program?

Scott McFarlane – There is thought and the way this would work is if they choose a lethal program we probably won't have any part of the cost anyway. If they choose a nonlethal removal program there are going to be costs associated with that and what we want to do is enter into an agreement with them so we know what each party is going to do and obviously we would have input into that but also the city would have input financially also. It is going to have to be an agreement. If so many cities do that and it overwhelms our abilities it will have to be on a priority basis.

Kristofer Marble – Does the rule specify somewhere that the deer must be taken within city limits?

Scott McFarlane – It does. They all have to be taken within city limits. If they are going to try to take care of anything outside city limits it would require written permission from the Division but the intent is to have them taken all within the city limits.

Kristofer Marble – Walk me through this so I understand it. So a city submits a plan that says we have 1,000 deer and we want to take 500 of those deer out. So I assume you are going to approve all that before they start removing deer.

Scott McFarlane – As I said before the Division's part in this will be in setting the timeframes when they can do that and the numbers that will be taken.

Kristofer Marble – So they submit a report annually and that is all they are required to do. What happens if they overshoot and kill too many deer?

Scott McFarlane – We would pull their certificate of registration.

Kristofer Marble – Is there any requirement around what they do with those deer? I saw something about antlers but I didn't see anything about meat.

Scott McFarlane – There is a part in there. I would have to read the exact wording on that but it essentially says that the meat has to be disposed of according to law which means it can't be wasted. It can be donated. There are a lot of ways it can be disposed of but it has to be done according to the law. The antlers like you said all have to be given to the Division.

Richard Hansen – In a lethal take program do those archers have to have a valid permit and can they take more than one deer?

Scott McFarlane – That is provided for in the rule. How it would work is the city can designate or contract or do whatever they want. We are going to stay out of that part but they do have to tag them. There will be an approved tag for that and yes a single individual under this program would be able to take multiple deer.

Richard Hansen – So basically the cities want those deer removed and it doesn't matter if it's one guy or five.

Scott McFarlane – Right so basically what the Division is doing is conveying the right to take those deer over to the city and allowing an individual to go outside the boundaries that normally says a person can only take more deer.

Richard Hansen – In some years we may get some early storms that force the deer down into those city boundaries. Do you have the right to cut it off if you see that?

Scott McFarlane – Yes we would have that ability. Like I said we can terminate or alter the plan if needs be with seven days written notice.

Richard Hansen – Your main focus is resident deer though?

Scott McFarlane – Yes that is one of the things we did change in the rule was we wanted to make the focus on resident deer. Those are the ones that are causing the problem.

Gary Nielson – How did they feel like it went in Highland? Are they seeing progress, are they seeing a few less deer causing problems?

Covy Jones – The first year they took 74 deer and they worked pretty hard to get those deer. The next year they were down in the 30s and they feel like they are heading toward maintenance. I don't think it's statistically valid but they did show a difference in city accidents and things like that. Our road kill numbers are down there.

John Fairchild – They said 40 percent. We don't know what to attribute that to actually.

Covy Jones – They were crashing three or four of their own police cars a year due to deer. They are doing better. They still have some areas with residents who really like the deer and we try to help out with those hot spots but the residents don't want them removed so they are harboring these animals that go and cause problems everywhere else. It will take some time to work through but it is a lot better than it was.

Karl Hirst – How much interest is there going to be with other cities?

Scott McFarlane – In the northern region we addressed this last night and I think they said there was six to eight cities that were already expressing interest in this.

John Fairchild – That would be similar here.

Scott McFarlane – They are actually pretty excited to have some relief to the problems they are having and being able to do it themselves.

Karl Hirst – A mix of lethal and nonlethal?

John Fairchild – I think Mapleton is probably just looking at lethal removal to be honest. Where you have more agricultural land you have more options to go lethal.

Scott McFarlane – As kind of a contrast there North Logan city is expressing interest in doing lethal and maybe even trapping. Some of them have expressed interest in using archery similar to Highland. Some of the cities have said there isn't a lot of political support so they might be

contracting or making a plan with the Division for a nonlethal removal plan. It's all over the board.

John Fairchild – There are some provisions that cities are going to have to meet in order to qualify and that was in the rule that you got to read but might not have been in the presentation. One is that they pass an ordinance that there is no feeding deer. If necessary they change their discharge ordinance to allow for archery or crossbows to take within city limits. They have to have an insurance policy. Most large cities have a million dollar insurance policy but for some of these smaller towns that could be an issue. There are some standards that they are going to have to meet. Those public meetings they have to hold and get public support for will be highly emotionally charged. I've been in them. You get 50 people on this side of the room with a different opinion than the 50 on the other side of the room. It's going to be a tough call for some of these cities to get signed up. Politically they may not have the support and they may not want to pay for it.

Danny Potts – As a consumptive non-consumptive user I am curious where a lot of that venison ended up?

Covy Jones – At first they would donate it to Myers which is a meat processor and they would give it out to homeless shelters or other places. After a while the city started to compile a list of needy families that would call in and they would donate the meat right to the family that was in need. I'll tell you that is one of the great success stories of this is that there were several people that were really very thankful and benefited from this. It's really a win win. You don't have the deer dying on the roads or the damage to the cars and you have someone who really needs the meat using it.

Scott McFarlane – I think they figured there were over 20,000 meals that were donated.

Kristofer Marble – I see the definition of a resident deer as a deer that lives there all year round. How are we safeguarding to make sure that when a city reports these are resident deer they are in fact resident deer?

Covy Jones – We have a pretty good handle on that right now. We know which cities have resident populations. This problem isn't new. We get the phone calls from people in these cities saying come get your deer.

Kristofer Marble – But some cities have problems with migratory deer.

Covy Jones – And some it's a combination. We know that in a place like Mapleton you'd be more careful about season dates.

Scott McFarlane – That is the way we would have to regulate that. We would set the season dates when we know the majority of the resident deer are there. If we started getting migratory deer in there we would have to shut that off and design plans for that.

I used Channing Howard as an example last night. Somebody asked how you tell the resident deer from the nonresident deer. They bait them with apples and what she does is rolls the apples out there and if the deer run it's a migratory deer and if they come toward her it's a resident deer.

Karl Hirst – Are they shooting bucks or does?

Scott McFarlane – Depending on what the atmosphere of the city is we can regulate the number of bucks that can be taken and the time of year they can be taken. Sometimes there are resident bucks that are doing just as much damage or more than the does are that we would allow them to be taken early but obviously during the rutting season when there are a lot of mountain deer that might come down we would probably regulate it so those bucks cannot be taken.

Karl Hirst – I know the meat is being donated. Do the antlers come to the Division?

Scott McFarlane – Yes.

Questions from the Public

Ben Lowder – Just wanted to make sure I understand. Highland went the lethal route and selected a handful of archers to take care of the harvest and did it with archery tackle. If I understand right the plan doesn't specify what weapon or the method of take. Is that up to the city?

Scott McFarlane – It has to be a legal weapon to take deer with but it would be up to the city. If it was appropriate they could use archery equipment, firearms or crossbows.

Ben Lowder – And the selection process for who they are going to have take care of the harvest is up to the city?

Scott McFarlane – It is totally up to the city.

Gary Nielson – I know they had an archery guy who owned an archery shop that actually certified archers.

Scott McFarlane – That was Brian Cook.

Covy Jones – With Humphries archery, the city contracted with Brian.

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the rule amendments as presented

Seconded by Timothy Fehr

In Favor: All – Michael Gates, Jacob Steele, Timothy Fehr, Karl Hirst, Kristofer Marble, Richard Hansen, Christine Schmitz, Danny Potts

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

- 7) **North Sanpete Habitat Management Plan (Informational)**
- **Mark Farmer, CR Aquatics Manager**

Questions from the RAC

Danny Potts – You mentioned that there are not sage grouse there. Are there any thoughts of reintroducing them or is the habitat just so poor that you can't?

Mark Farmer – That area is not in a sage grouse management area. We only have Vernon, Strawberry and Ibapah. You can't really introduce them unless you have a population that is still there and you have leks that are still active.

Danny Potts – So every lek that we lose that's it.

Mark Farmer – Yes.

Gary Nielson – I have been familiar with that area for 40 years or more and it's been longer than that since there have been sage grouse there.

Mark Farmer – It's been a long time. I still hear occasional reports around Fountain Green here and there but we don't have any leks in the area. It could be a misidentification sometimes too.

Questions from the Public

Calvin Crandall – On these WMAs these are all Division lands that they have purchased with Pitman-Robinson funds. Those were taken out of private ownership. Does the state do any payment in lieu of taxes back to the state for property taxes on those?

Mark Farmer – Back to the county, yes.

Calvin Crandall – So there are payments similar to what the federal government pays.

Comments from the Public
RAC Discussion

8) Election of RAC Chairman and Vice Chairman (Action)
- John Fairchild, Regional Supervisor

RAC Discussion

John Fairchild – At this time we need to recognize that Gary’s term is up. Tim also has decided not to go for a second term and George Holmes’ second term is up. We are in the process, this next Monday we will be interviewing for replacements. In the meantime Gary is still involved with Richard in helping me interview and select replacements but tonight is a night when you need to elect a Chair and a Vice Chair. We would take nominations for the chair first. If someone has a nomination to offer up, go for it.

Gary Nielson – I would like to nominate Richard Hansen as Chair of the central RAC.

John Fairchild – Do we have any other nominations? Do we have a second?

Kristofer Marble – Second.

John Fairchild – All those in favor of Richard Hansen for your Chair. Any opposed. Looks like you have the support of the group.

John Fairchild – Let’s have a nomination for Vice Chair.

Kristofer Marble – I nominate Karl.

John Fairchild – Any other nominations? Is there a second for that?

Richard Hansen – I’ll second that.

John Fairchild – All those in favor. Any opposed.

Prints presented by John Fairchild to Gary Nielson and Timothy Fehr

John Fairchild – It’s pretty incredible that over the years we have been able to use Clark Bronson’s artwork to recognize people that have been contributed a lot of time and we appreciate the time you’ve contributed. In recognition of eight years bighorn sheep print to Gary Nielson and the colored elk print to Timothy Fehr. Tim Fehr has been on for four years and we would love to have him for another four but it’s not in the cards. You have other priorities that you need to deal with and we certainly understand and we appreciate all the time you have given us and the service you have provided. I’ll make sure George gets the big buck.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50

25 in attendance

Next board meeting June 4th at 9 a.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting July 29th at 6:30 p.m. at the Springville Civic Center

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
May 14, 2015

5. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION to accept these proposals as presented

Passed unanimously

6. R657-65 URBAN DEER CONTROL – AMENDMENT

MOTION to accept these proposals as presented

Passed unanimously

7. ELECTION OF NER RAC CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

MOTION for Randy Dearth to be the new NER RAC Chair

Passed unanimously

MOTION for Dan Abeyta to be the new NER Vice Chair

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
May 14, 2015

NER RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen
David Gordon, BLM
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Jerry Jorgensen, Elected Official
Wayne McAllister, Chair
Andrea Merrell, Non Consumptive
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen
Brett Prevedel, At Large
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Ron Stewart, NER Information & Education Mgr
Rori Lubbers, NER Office Specialist
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Mgr
Amy Vande Voort, NER Biologist
Randy Scheetz, NER Sergeant
Scott McFarlane, SLC Pvt Lnds/Pub. Wildlf Coord.
Blair Stringham, SLC Waterfowl Wildlife Coord.

NER RAC MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED

Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe

NER RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Joe Batty, Agriculture
Beth Hamann, Non Consumptive

1. WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURES – Wayne McAllister

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Agenda:

Randy Dearth/David Gordon motion and second

Minutes:

Dan Abeyta/David Gordon motion and second

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE: Wayne McAllister

At the last Board meeting we were updated that \$20,000 from sportsmen funds was put back into conservation groups. When NS does a deer inventory they fly over Utah and Wyoming at the same time. Also, the Board approved adding 150 buck deer tags to the Manti unit but left Vernon and Beaver the same as last year.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Boyde Blackwell

NER along with Sportsman's Warehouse are having a tagged carp contest. There will lots of prizes and a chili cook off on August 1, 2015.

Free Fishing Day will be held June 6th this year. We will be hosting Kids Fishing Days at the Moose Pond and Stillwater.

5. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS: Blair Stringham (ACTION)

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: Does Utah have the same trends as other states for numbers on waterfowl populations and hunters?

Blair Stringham: Yes, the same trends. Also we are working with Outreach to try and get more hunters.

Jerry Jorgensen: Regarding the Eurasian Collared Dove, are they protected?

Blair Stringham: They are not protected, they can be hunted any time of year.

Dan Abeyta: Are other states seeing the same number of doves?

Blair Stringham: Other states are seeing the same numbers we are.

Wayne McAllister: What about the Avian flu?

Blair Stringham: We've seen different strains and plan to keep monitoring this fall. The Midwest is impacted more than we are here.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

MOTION

Brett Prevedel motion to approve as presented.

Mitch Hacking: second

Passed unanimously

6. URBAN DEER CONTROL – R657-65 RULE AMENDMENT (ACTION) - Scott

McFarlane

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Jerry Jorgensen: Can a city with less than 100 residents petition to qualify?

Scott McFarlane: Yes but the city would have to have a one million dollar liability insurance policy because the city assumes all liability.

Jerry Jorgensen: We have a problem with the deer coming out of the foothills.

Scott McFarlane: Those can be dealt with through the depredation program.

Jerry Jorgensen: Was there an issue with the deer running off and getting lost in resident areas during the lethal hunt after they were shot?

Scott McFarlane: The hunters were certified and had to have certain restrictions to qualify to hunt. We had no complaints and most residents didn't even know what was taking place.

Brett Prevedel: What about the relocated deer and how did you know where to put them?

Scott McFarlane: We picked area with low population numbers that would not be a burden on agricultural fields. We took over 100 adult deer with collars, most of the deer stuck around, one group moved 15 miles, so they stayed in the general area.

Wayne McAllister: Where were the deer located?

Scott McFarlane: Big Wash and Box Elder.

Questions from Public:

J.C. Brewer: I live in Jensen and we have one of the highest rates of deer/vehicle collision in the state. Could we move some of those resident deer with good genetics to the Book Cliffs? Also have conservation hunts to change antler growth?

Boyde Blackwell: This would need to go through Dax.

Scott McFarlane: The deer transplant is for urban deer and not population management. This has to be well thought out because there are concerns for disease and migration. We had some fawns return to their original location after being moved.

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

MOTION

**Motion by Andrea Merrell to approve as presented
Jerry Jorgensen: second**

Passed unanimously

7. ELECTION OF RAC CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN (ACTION)

Boyde Blackwell: Wayne McAllister and Rod Morrison are leaving and we really appreciate them very much. This puts us without a Chair and Vice Chair. Do you have a preference on how you want to handle this, Motion or Votes?

Mitch Hacking: Votes

MOTION:

**Wayne McAllister motion to nominate Randy Dearth as RAC Chair
Jerry Jorgensen second**

Passed unanimously

MOTION:

**Mitch Hacking motion to nominate Dan Abeyta as Vice Chair
David Gordon second**

Passed unanimously

**Rod Morrison motion to adjourn
David Gordon: second**

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
Green River City Hall
460 E. Main
Green River, Utah
May 13, 2015**

Motion Summary

Approval of today's Agenda

**MOTION: To accept the agenda as written
Passed unanimously**

Approval of 4/15/15 Minutes

**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the April 15 meeting as written
Passed unanimously**

Waterfowl Recommendations (Action)

**MOTION: To accept the Division's Waterfowl Recommendations as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Urban Deer Control-R657-65 Rule amendments (Action)

**MOTION: To accept Urban Deer Control Rule amendments as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (Action)

**MOTION: To approve Kevin Albrecht as Chairman and Todd Huntington as
Vice Chairman of the southeastern RAC for the next term.
Passed unanimously**

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
Green River City Hall
460 E. Main
Green River, Utah**

May 13, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Kevin Albrecht, Chairman, USFS

Sue Bellagamba, Environmental

Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson

Keith Brady, Elected Official

Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental

Todd Huntington, At Large & Vice Chair

Karl Ivory, BLM representative

Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen

Christine Micoz, At Large

Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Members Absent

Seth Allred, At Large

Blair Eastman, Agriculture

Derris Jones, Sportsmen

Charlie Tracy, Agriculture

Others Present

Dr. Mike King

1) **Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure**
-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

Kevin Albrecht – I would like to welcome everybody out tonight. I know everything gets busy at the start of summer. I appreciate everybody's busy schedule. We were in Moab today and saw how busy it was down there. From a law enforcement standpoint, I appreciate Darrel's efforts for being here.

2) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

Kevin Albrecht – So, let's start with the approval of the agenda and the minutes.

Kevin Albrecht – Has everybody had a chance to look them over?

Keith Brady – I know I wasn't here last time but can I approve the agenda for tonight.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay, so we have a motion here to approve the agenda. So do I have a second?

Darrel Mecham-I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Darrel Mecham. All in favor?

Brent Stettler-How about the minutes?

Kevin Albrecht – How about the minutes?

Kevin Albrecht – I had a chance to take a look at the minutes and they did look good. I will entertain a motion.

Todd Huntington – I will move to accept the minutes.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Trisha Hedin.

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Any opposed? Okay looks like it is passed unanimously.

VOTING

Motion was made by Keith Brady to approve the agenda and Todd Huntington to approve the minutes of the last meeting as printed.

Seconded by Darrel Mecham and Trisha Hedin

Motion passed unanimously

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**
-by Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

Kevin Albrecht – I will give an update on the Wildlife Board. We had several discussions from our RAC and I will do my best to fill you in on how those discussions went, and if I don't do an adequate job in filling that in, please just ask questions. Chris and I will do our best, or we can go to Dr. King.

Kevin Albrecht – So to start off, there was some discussion on the Conservation and

Sportsman's Permit Rule. Dr. King asked about the wording in the amendment that we had a lot of discussion about here. Justin Shannon had explored the rule beforehand and he learned that the rule or the amendment that we were approving was The Western Conservation Permit. So the Division felt that there was not any need for change, because that language was already in place. The Board approved the amendments as proposed. Several of the RACs had made the motion to leave the Beaver and the Vernon deer harvest levels at the 2014 levels. One of the things that the Division has been doing is going to all of the RACs and taking those comments and making a motion beforehand--kind of an amended motion of what the public wanted. That was the Division's motion. From hearing from all of the RACs, the Beaver and the Vernon units will stay at the 2014 levels. There was a lot of discussion from the Board regarding the Manti and the La Sal. We had a lot of discussion here. The question was asked whether the DWR's recommendations will affect the growth of the deer on those units. The answer given by the Division is "No". Fawns and does drive the population. They did say however, it did affect the quality of the deer hunt. In regards to the La Sal's it was stated that the DWR cut permits two years ago and they want to wait another year before they consider any additional cuts. On the Manti the Board cut permits when they went to the 30 units. Three out of the five RACs had voted to decrease the buck permits on the Manti. So with that, there was a lot of discussion by the Wildlife Board and the Division recommendation was to increase those permits by 500, but after a lot of discussion by the Wildlife Board, and the motion was made to only increase those permits by 150 and that motion passed unanimously.

Todd Huntington – So three out of the five RACs voted to keep it the same?

Kevin Albrecht – Three out of the five RACs had various numbers. For the Vernon, it was a 100. Do you know what the other numbers were?

Chris Wood-None of the RACs voted to decrease it from the 2014 levels. It was either to keep at the same or not to increase as much.

Kevin Albrecht – The Northern Region would have only been an increase of 100 from the 2014 level, so with that there was much discussion so they voted only to have an increase of the 150. There was a lot of discussion regarding the Henry Mountains bison. The committee met in March and there was not any concerns brought up by the committee that were not resolved at that time. There were a lot of permit fees that came to the Board meeting and in the Southern Region they made a motion to increase, which was kind of weird, but they made the motion to increase the hunters' any choice permit by 10. There was a lot of discussion there and a lot of those permit fees were at the Wildlife Board meeting.

Chris Wood – And that was because of the drought. They expect the drought to continue.

Kevin Albrecht – There was a lot of discussion about the drought and they felt that we should give more permits. The Wildlife Board felt like theirs was not the meeting to address drought, because there is a Wildlife Board meeting scheduled for August and if there was a drought, and there was a need, they would have completed the survey flights in July and we would be able to know the exact number, and of the drought conditions that existed, and would be able to add additional permits at that time. That is what the Wildlife Board has decided to do and that is to wait on those. The remaining recommendations including the bison numbers passed unanimously. There was an action

log item that looked at splitting up the Manti into two units-- the North and South for deer. They want to know if the data would support a split, and how splitting them would affect permit numbers. They wanted to know how the buck to doe ratio differed between the South and the North? This will have to come through a process and the Division will have time to explore that and then it will have to come back through the RAC process and explain that. There was a lot of discussion in the Wildlife Board about the North doing better than the South. With that the Wildlife Board asked the DWR to explore that.

Chris Wood – We are on schedule to redo the unit management plan for the Manti this year. In that plan process we will have an open house and get public input before we explore splitting up that unit.

Kevin Albrecht – We had much discussion on the conservation permit and the allocation of dollars. The Division is going to be bringing in an item to one of the meetings and they did not say which one. But they will come as an item and bring that down as far as the conservation permit and those dollars.

Chris Wood – Hopefully at the next RAC, and I believe that is in August, we will have a presentation to give you about how that money breaks down and how we audit the sportsmen's groups. Let me just make one clarification, that with sportsmen's groups, we keep 30% and we give them 70%. So 10% is for administrative use and the 60% is for projects, so they get 60% for projects. They end up writing the Division a check for the entire 60%. So we get the entire 60% back and that's where we match it with nonprofit dollars and state dollars and BLM dollars and we create these Watershed Restoration Initiative projects. We are able to tell you where these dollars have been spent. That is 90% of the dollars. The other 10% was the biggest discussion we had and asked where that 10% goes. As an agency we don't necessarily need to see where that 10% goes. That is for administrative costs and there is no audit for that, I am told. Hopefully we can explain the process more in August.

Kevin Albrecht – OK with that are there any questions?

Trisha Hedin-I guess I keep going back to more research on this. I want to make sure the Division knows that those tags are going to a viable nonprofit 501C (3). In my knowledge of a 501C (3) which hopefully Sue can help me with, you have to be able to show your financials to the public. I am just saying that I cannot find them with a couple of those conservation organizations. So to me, it means that they are not a viable 501C (3). That is where my concern comes in. Does that make any sense?

Chris Wood – Since that meeting I have looked at RMEF's website and it's pretty impressive. It has a nice report that is very detailed about postage, rent and these things. Whether it's going to be at the level of detail that Blair wants, such as specific receipts and invoices to this person or to this company, I don't know.

Todd Huntington – But RMEF doesn't have anything to do with the Conservation Expo and the Hunting Expo in February. It is the Mule Deer Foundation and the SFW. And those financials are not available. But in the context of that discussion last time, it was the Hunting Expo, and those two organizations do not have current financial information.

Trisha Hedin-The Mule Deer Foundation's last financials are from 2008, and that's what I could find. On SFW, I couldn't find any financials anywhere in their website. The last time I went there, they had a tab that said Financials but it wouldn't pull anything up. Now when you get on the site, those tabs are just gone. They have been removed. I am concerned that they are not a viable 501C3.

Sue Bellagamba – I have sat on the board of many 501C (3)'s and I also work for one. I would think that the integrity should be there, and that would be available with the annual report, but it's not. Some 501C (3)'s that I said on the boards are very young and don't even do annual reports right now, but that would be an IRS question, and the IRS regulates 501C (3)'s.

Trisha Hedin-I have looked at the IRS rules, and it is not extremely detailed. It just says there should be transparency. It is not specific. And I use RM EF as a good example because they do produce these annual reports not only as a national organization but they also do a statewide report, so you can go look at the State of Utah. That's super smart for them because the donors know where all of their dollars have gone. Does that make sense? I am just concerned that we are giving those tags to viable 501C(3)s.

Chris Micoz – Within a week from our last meeting KSL news did a report that concerns Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and that they were paying huge amounts to lobbyists for the state legislature. Is this 10% going to pay lobbyists? Because if it is, I have a huge problem with that. It was over \$500,000 that they paid in salary to a gentleman as part of his job.

Chris Wood – I cannot speak to where that 10% is going. But that \$500,000 that went to the lobbyist went to Big-Game Forever and it was legislatively mandated and part of the budget, so the state paid that to this group for wolf delisting.

Chris Micoz – I am just concerned that the 10% is going to lobby for special interests for those conservation groups. Are they going to lobby for things that they want with the money that comes from these conservation tags?.

Sue Bellagamba – There is a difference between a 501C (3) and other types of nonprofit organizations, which is like 501 something? The difference is how much you can spend on lobbying. It can only be a certain percentage. So the Board needs to be careful that they are following the IRS regulations or they can be turned into the IRS.

Chris Wood – We do not want to become the IRS because that is not our job.

Sue Bellagamba – We don't. That is the Board. That is their responsibility.

Kevin Albrecht – So hopefully in this meeting in August we can get some much-needed clarification on all of that. I know that Chris talked to them and I was up there Thursday and expressed concern and hopefully we can get that information.

4) Regional Update

-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood- We have been very busy. We are getting to the busiest part of the year. We are in the process of selecting new RAC positions for this region. We have two openings; Wayne is leaving us after tonight. This is his last RAC meeting and we have another position opening which is Seth Allred's. His first term is over also. We have done some interviewing and hopefully in the next week or two, we will if those candidates have been chosen or not. We are looking for a non-consumptive representative and a public-at- large representative. In the next few weeks we are going to have a Facebook page just for the Southeastern Region, so you can like that Facebook page and you can see what we are

doing and you can be involved in some of the events that we have because this will be more specific to our region. This might be a little premature to announce, but we are negotiating with a TV company that wants to come to Utah and produce a reality TV show based on the Division of Wildlife. We have some exciting work involving law enforcement but also other wildlife work as well. If you see 30 state vehicles on May 28 here in Green River Utah, that is because we are going to have a Regional meeting. The Aquatics Section has been busy. We just got done gill netting today at Scofield. We gill netted last week at Huntington North. Today at Scofield, I was there this morning. We got a lot of chubs in the nets. There were also some big trout as well. The chubs were comparable to the numbers last year, but from what I understand, they are bigger chubs and there weren't very many small chubs. That hopefully indicates the management plan is working and the smaller chubs are been eaten by the larger fish that we want in the reservoir. At Huntington North, there were some big wipers that were caught in gill nets. They were big, big ones. I believe they were three to five pounders. So there's some big fish in there. There is an age class that they know exists in the lake that they know they have not been able to get in the gill nets. So there are some big wipers in Huntington to be caught. Free Fishing Day will be held on June 6. We have community fisheries. There are three in Carbon County. They include the Gigliotti Pond, the Carbon County Fairground pond, and the new one in Wellington called the Knight-Ideal Pond. Right now those ponds are all stocked and fishable. With the water shortages we are not sure how this is going to affect our community ponds. We do know that at Gigliotti we do have to turn off the water and only bring in fresh clean water as it gets really low. At the other ponds we may be turning off water midseason and putting in an emergency notice for people to come in and fish before all of the fish die. But we will see how the summer shakes out and how much water we have. But we are sensitive to the drought and the water issues and if we need to we can sacrifice some of our community fisheries midway through the season.

We have a Bighorn Sheep Watch on June 13 in Sunnyside. That is always a great event. We usually see a bunch of sheep. We also have been working with archery events like the SFW banquet back in April. We been working with Boy Scouts and hosting archery events. We have a program hopefully that you're aware of called the Walk-in Access Program where you can sign up to hunt and fish on private lands. The landowner gets compensated. We have had a few additional sign-ups this last month. One in particular, Sen. Hinkins' father who lives in Orangeville has signed up his property for fishing. That should be coming online any week.

The Habitat Section has been busy. There is a Ford Ridge project that has been happening north of Price. We have also teamed up with MDF and the local horseman group in Emery and Carbon County and we had some dedicated hunters and we planted over 5,000 shrubs in our Gordon Creek WMA. This took place last Saturday. Then at Beef Basin we teamed up with SFW and planted 1,700 shrubs in Beef Basin.

Law-enforcement has been busy. There is a big emphasis at Lake Powell that I forgot to mention in the aquatics slide that we are hiring a new biologist which is an aquatics invasive species or AIS biologist for Quagga muscles that will cover the Lake Powell area. He will be a full-time employee and will work year round to help protect to the rest of the state from the infestation that you see at Lake Powell. We are going to have a checkpoint this weekend in Hanksville to check boats that are coming off Lake Powell.

We will have full-time staff on the ramps at the Bullfrog Marina all day long checking boats coming off and making sure that they are clean and decontaminated and they understand the rules and regulations. Periodically throughout the summer starting with this weekend, we will be having law-enforcement checkpoints that will be stationed at various parts of the state checking boats. This will be a mandatory checking station, where they will have boats pull off to make sure that they are in compliance and that they are drained properly and have been decontaminated. We are still wrapping up some investigations from the trapping season. The ice is off the reservoirs, so people are fishing and our officers are busy.

The Wildlife Section has been busy working with the Habitat Section and they are going out to the winter ranges on rides and patrols and doing range management such as vegetation transects on these winter ranges. The idea behind that is to see what condition the ranges are in and how much use the range has received and document any kind of winter kills or a shrub utilization that they measure. The turkey hunt is still going on until the end of May. Our sensitive species biologist Tony Wright has been busy with squirrel surveys on the Abajos and the La Sals. He is continuing his burrowing owl research as well. We teamed up with a few different groups this last month which is the Moab bird group and we did bird surveys at Desert Lake and down at the Matheson preserve. We are still trying to figure out what we are going to do with our Gunnison sage grouse watch, specifically the Gunnison sage grouse watch because they are a federally protected species. We question whether we can have a public viewing or not. Those decisions will hopefully be made in the next few months. And with that I will entertain any questions?

Karl Ivory-On the Free Fishing Day, is that specific to Wellington or is that statewide?

Chris Wood – Good question. Is that statewide Brent?

Brent Stettler –That is statewide.

Trisha Hedin-Is there any new word on a conservation officer for us in the Moab area?

Chris Wood – We have officers that are going through the long process before they come to a region. They have to go through POST, they have to go through Division training, but from what I hear, it will be late fall or this winter. If all of the applicants pan out, there will be enough applicants or candidates or officers that will be through the training to be able to place one in Moab, hopefully by the end of the year.

Trisha Hedin- So, it is a free-for-all until the end of the year?

Chris Wood – We do have officers in Blanding and one in Monticello and they will continue to cover this area. TJ is in Price so he is not too far away.

Chris Wood – Before we go to the next agenda item, I just wanted to take this time to honor Wayne. I have only been a regular RAC attendee for about two years but I have been very impressed with you, Wayne. You have been amazing and have served eight years on the RAC, right? I have just been impressed by your attendance. You have been here every single time that I have been here. You might have missed one or two. You come well prepared. You come with questions. And when you do have an opinion, I believe it is always well thought and articulate and even if people don't agree with you, I think people listen and think about what you are saying. They definitely give it some thought, even those meetings when you know they won't be going your way, such as predator management type meetings, where there might be only one or two votes, you still come and represent the people that you represent. So I think that is very

commendable and I respect that a ton. We have a gift for you. We got you a water bottle because you always have water with you. We also have a print. We usually give out Bronson Prints to RAC members but I did not think a picture of an elk or even worse, a mountain goat, would be appropriate for Wayne, so there is an artist in Moab, named John Fuller. He had an exhibit last month at the Wesley Powell Museum. This is one of his prints of Dead Horse Point and I thought you would like this better than a Bronson print. We appreciate all that you have done for our RAC.

Chris Wood – Kevin Albrecht would like to say something too.

Kevin Albrecht – I served with Wayne most of his time, and one thing that I appreciate the most about Wayne is, even when we are doing permit numbers and stuff that's not your passion, you still thoroughly read that packet and you catch grammar errors and different things that nobody else sees, including very important things and I appreciate that. I was always glad that I knew you were reading the packet. It felt good knowing that somebody read it. Thanks Wayne I appreciate it.

Wayne Hoskisson – Well, Thank you. I was just reading Will Rogers and he said, “You should never pass up an opportunity to shut up”.

5) **Waterfowl Recommendations (Action)**
-Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Wayne Hoskisson – How many hunters actually reach that limit?

Blair Stringham – I have never talked to anybody that has ever shot that many Snow Geese here in Utah. It is a very liberal bag limit. This just provides some harvest opportunities because the light geese have been going gangbusters these last several years. There is some concerns that they are eating themselves out of house and home in the Northern Tundra. We have tried to liberalize our season just to provide additional harvest, but here in Utah, we are just a small player for light geese. So a couple of light geese in a day is pretty good.

Wayne Hoskisson – Where is their major fly zone or flyway?

Blair Stringham – Most of the birds that we have will winter in California and so most of them will come from the northern part of North America. They will come down through the Box Elder County along with Millard County. The rest of the state really doesn't see them. When they do come back north, quite a few will stage on the Gunnison reservoir in Delta and they will be there for a couple weeks. Then they will stop over in Box Elder County and then keep moving north. It really is just a limited hunt which provides limited opportunities, but for the guys who hunt them, they do enjoy it.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any questions from Walt? (Laughing)

Walt Maldonado- Just a longer season here please. We need to start in November.

Kevin Albrecht – Questions from the audience? Are there any comments from the audience?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht –Are there any comments from the RAC? With no comments, how about entertaining a motion?

Todd Huntington – I move to accept it as presented.

Keith Brady – I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht – Motion made to accept the Waterfowl Recommendations. Seconded by Keith Brady.

Kevin Albrecht – Any questions? All in favor? Any opposed? Wayne, are you an abstention or are you in favor?

Wayne Hoskisson – No, so does this include the changes?

Kevin Albrecht – This includes the whole presentation which is codes and rules, is that correct?

Blair Stringham –That is correct. That would be everything as it is presented.

Wayne Hoskisson – Yes that is fine with me.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay with that, the motion passes unanimously.

VOTING

Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented.

Seconded by Keith Brady.

Motion passed unanimously

**6) Urban Deer Control-R657-65 Rule Amendments (Action)
- Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife**

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Thank you Scott. Are there any questions from the RAC?

Karl Ivory – I have a couple of questions if I could, please. Are there very many cities

that have this problem with resident deer other than Highland and Bountiful? Are they mostly along the Wasatch front or are they scattered throughout the state?

Scott McFarlane – Yes, they are scattered throughout the state. This is actually a statewide problem but probably the squeakiest wheels are along the Wasatch front. But right now there is probably between six and eight cities in the Northern and Central regions along the Wasatch front. I think even Monticello would be looking into something like this. Torrey as well. There is quite a widespread urban deer problem.

Karl Ivory – With this, they have to be a resident deer, meaning that they are not there just for winter. It is that they are in there year-round?

Scott McFarlane – That is true. That is why the Division wants to specify the time such as the timing of the removal, whether it be lethal removal, will kind of dictate whether it is a resident deer or a migratory deer or transit deer. That is why we want to have those sideboards put on there.

Karl Ivory – Just one last question. Is there any particular size in the resident deer herd in a particular urban area. I mean 50 to 100. I don't know?

Scott McFarlane – It is not going to be on size in order to obtain a certificate of registration. They have to meet several criteria and they have to show that there is property damage that is being done or if it's a public safety health issue. So the size has nothing to do with that. It just has to be documented as a problem.

Karl Ivory – That is all the questions I have. Thank you.

Wayne Hoskisson – Even Moab has resident deer on the east and the west side. They are small so they may not be a problem yet, but they do draw cougar in so it's not safe for cats and dogs

Scott McFarlane – That's why we have the rule. If the residents do not want this type of program, then they would be able to vote that out.

Trisha Hedin – Were there any issues whatsoever with the lethal removal? I mean I am an archer and deer don't always just fall down. Do you know what I mean? Was there any issues like that with injured deer running off?

Scott McFarlane – On that front, no. The issues came from the way Highland city did this. They trained certified archers and they had such a rigorous training and they had to be really good marksman, and they did this without anybody knowing it. They would go in after dark or before daylight. They did have some complaints on it but they didn't even know it because it was after the process is done. They found that it was happening and they complained about it. But nobody really knew that it really happened. All of the arrows had to be marked with the archer's name. It was a very stringent process that they had to go through. But no there weren't.

Kevin Albrecht – Any questions from the audience? Are there any comments from the audience? With no questions from the audience and no comments from the audience was go to questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Keith Brady – I have a question. Is there going to be an evaluation period or do we just implement this? You mentioned this is just a trial period.

Scott McFarlane – Basically the rule is a two-year trial program and sunsets August 31 of this year, so we are changing the rule so it no longer has a sunset date and it will become a rule that has no ending date. It will be reviewed at least every five years, but that is one of the changes to the rule that we are going to make available to all cities and will be perpetual until we revisit the rule.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay with that let's entertain a motion.

Todd Huntington – I moved to accept as presented.

Kevin Albrecht – Motion made by Todd Huntington to accept the Urban Deer Control Rule as presented by the DWR. Seconded by?

Tricia Hedin - I will second that. Or you can, Chris Micoz.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Chris Micoz. All in favor? Any opposed? Motion passed unanimously.

VOTING

Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept the Urban Deer Control Rule amendments as presented.

Seconded by Chris Micoz

Motion passed unanimously.

7) Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman (Action)

-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood – So, I understand that we have the opportunity right now to elect a new RAC chair or we can have Kevin serve another two years. So you serve as a chairman for two years with the option of serving two more years. The RAC chairman, as Kevin does so well, runs the meeting but another huge responsibility is going to the Wildlife Board meetings and representing the RAC at the meeting. That's a very big commitment. I think Kevin has been at most of the Board meetings. I believe he has missed one or two that he was unable to attend but he has attended most of them. We can have some discussion if anybody wants to have the experience of being the representative at the Board and being the chairman of this RAC, we can certainly entertain a motion to nominate someone, or we can have a motion to re-elect Kevin and he can continue to doing this, if he agrees to do so.

Kevin Albrecht – Let's put it to you this way. I will do it again, but if somebody would like that opportunity, I would gladly give it.

Trisha Hedin-How much longer does Derris have? Does he still have awhile?

Chris Wood- He has two more years.

Chris Wood – Is there anybody interested in doing this?

Trisha Hedin- Well, I think Kevin is done a great job.

Chris Wood – Right now our Vice Chair is Todd Huntington and he has run the meeting a time or two, and we can have a motion to continue to have Todd as our Vice Chair, or if somebody else would like to do that? It is your RAC.

Kevin Albrecht – I would just like to make a comment that sometimes during fire season it becomes a little bit difficult for me to attend and I know Todd has had to fill in for me but I have a pretty good job and I can usually attend those meetings unless I am gone on fires.

Sue Bellagamba – Well, I believe you've done a great job, Kevin.

Darrel Mecham-I think Todd and Kevin work very well together.

Chris Wood – In two years, it can be one of you also.

Chris Micoz –There will be a lot of us leave in two years.

Chris Wood – So, do I hear a motion?

Darrel Mecham- I make a motion to let Todd hang out with Kevin.

Chris Wood- So a motion by Darrel Mecham to have Kevin be our chairman and Todd be our vice chairman. Is there a second?

Karl Ivory- I second that.

Chris Wood- Karl seconds the motion. All in favor? Any opposed? With no opposing, passes unanimously.

VOTING

Motion was made by Darrel Mecham to elect Kevin Albrecht as Chairman and Todd Huntington as Vice Chairman of the Southeast Regional Advisory Council.

Seconded by Karl Ivory

Motion passed unanimously

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Public in Attendance: 1

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on June 4, 2015 at 9 a.m. in the DNR Board Room at 1594 W. North Temple, SLC.

The next SER RAC meeting will take place on August 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell Museum at 1765 E. Main, Green River.

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Hurricane High School
345 W 100 S Hurricane, UT
May 12, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. URBAN DEER CONTROL – R657-65 RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION: To accept the Urban Deer Control Rule Amendments as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. DEER MANAGEMENT PLANS

MOTION: To approve the deer management plans as presented with the exception that the buck to doe objective on the Monroe be raised to 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does and to incorporate any changes to the predator management plans in the deer management plans.

VOTE: Unanimous

5. ELECTION OF RAC CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN

MOTION: To elect Dave Black as Southern RAC chair.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: To elect Mike Worthen as Southern RAC vice-chair.

VOTE: Unanimous

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Hurricane High School
345 W 100 S Hurricane, UT
May 12, 2015
7:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Clair Woodbury Cordell Pearson Mike Staheli Rusty Aiken Dave Black Brian Johnson Mack Morrell Dale Bagley Mike Worthen Sam Carpenter	Lynn Chamberlain Giani Julander Teresa Griffin Kevin Bunnell Josh Pollock Blair Stringham Riley Peck Lynn Zubeck Jason Nicholes Vance Mumford Jim Lamb Blaine Cox Bill Bates Scott McFarlane Mark Ekins	Steve Dalton	Layne Torgerson Sean Kelly Harry Barber

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were approximately 12 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

Dave Black: Welcome out to the RAC meeting tonight. I'll introduce myself; my name's David Black, I'm the chairman of the Southern RAC, from St. George. I'd also like to introduce the other RAC members here, starting on my far left and we'll have those go through and do those introductions.

Dale Bagley: Dale Bagley from Marysville. I represent an elected official.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City, agriculture.

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

Kevin Bunnell: Kevin Bunnell, I'm the regional supervisor for the Division of Wildlife out of Cedar City.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli from Delta.

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

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson from Enoch. I represent the non-consumptive

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen from Cedar City. I represent the public at-large.

Clair Woodbury: I'm Clair Woodbury from here in Hurricane, about a mile down the road, and I represent the public at-large. It took nine years but we finally got one here, my last one, thanks for the present going away.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Dave Black: I'd also like to recognize Steve Dalton is here with us tonight; he's on the Wildlife Board. Jake is normally here but he asked to be excused. So we appreciate Steve coming tonight. Most of you guys, I recognize your faces, and I'm sure you're familiar with the process so we don't need to really explain that as far as questions and comment cards, but we'll follow that same protocol. The first action item is to approve the minutes and the agenda; and so I'll entertain a motion to do that.

Sam Carpenter: I move we accept the minutes from last meeting, since I wasn't there, and the agenda for this meeting.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second.

(Multiple seconds)

Dave Black: All those in favor? Okay and it's unanimous.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting and the current agenda as written. Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Wildlife Board Update: -Dave Black, Chairman

Dave Black: As far as a Wildlife Board update, the Wildlife Board meeting was quite similar to the RAC meeting that we had at the Southern Region last time. We had a lot of the same players there, a lot of the same ranchers, cattlemen that showed up. The discussions were quite similar. It took a long time to go through that process. And so I'd like to go through the items. Let's see . . . the first one was conservation and sportsman permit rule amendments and those passed as presented. The big one was

the bucks, bulls and once in a lifetime recommendations for 2015. Most of the units, or the regions recommended that they pass those recommendations as presented by the DWR, but it was in the Southern Region that we had all the comments and our recommendation and our motion that went forward to the board. And so on number 6, it passed as presented with the following exceptions: On the Manti unit they voted to increase the permits by 150, these are deer permits, instead of 500 as recommended. On the Vernon unit there was no increase from 2014. On the Beaver unit there was no increase from 2014. With regard to buffalo there was some recommendations to increase the number of tags for buffalo, and they voted to wait until after they do the counts. So is that in August? July or August? In July they actually fly that unit and then they can adjust the permits based on the results of that count, and so they'll wait for that time for any modifications that will need to be made; and that's actually in accordance with the buffalo plan.

Bill Bates: They probably do that in September. The end of September we usually have done it because we don't always have a day to analyze in time to make it to the July RACs.

Dave Black: Okay, thanks you. One of the big things that was brought up was, you know, it looks like we're going into a drought this year and hopefully the rains that we've received and that if we get more storms will help us, but I know that there are measures in place to address those conditions as we move forward and that those will be looked at on a monthly basis to see if any modifications in permit numbers need to come before the RAC. The remainder of that presentation passed as presented. And in item number 7 was the antlerless permit recommendations, and again this was another big one that had a lot of comments; and from the Southern region we made some motions to modify that. And that passed as presented with the following exceptions: they added 200 doe pronghorn tags on the Parker Mountain, they added 200 cow elk permits on the multi unit, which was the Monroe, Dutton, Fishlake and Boulder, and they voted to add 150 more cow elk tags over and above what they did last year on the Southwest Desert. And then the rest of that passed as presented. And then there was a mountain goat unit management plan, which passed as presented. And, oh the CWMU antlerless permit recommendations also passed as presented. Is there anything else you want to add to that Kevin?

Kevin Bunnell: I think you covered it.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll let you do the regional update.

(Mack Morrell arrived during board update.)

Sam Carpenter: Can we ask questions?

Dave Black: Sure.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. I know I wasn't here to the meeting but I did read the minutes and I read that the RAC, the Southern RAC passed unanimously no increases in tags on the Southern units, and no more than 3 tags on the late muzzleloader hunts on the Zion, Southwest Desert and Pine Valley. And what I just understood from what you just said, they passed all of that stuff but the Beaver; the Beaver is the only one.

Kevin Bunnell: That's not quite right. The motion from the Southern region was, um, to accept the recs except on increases on the Vernon, the Manti, the Zion, and the Beaver. Okay, so it wasn't all the Southern region units it was just those units.

Sam Carpenter: No I just meant the Southern units that we recommended.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay. And then to limit the number of tags on the Zion hunt to 3, and the board did not address the Zion late hunt.

Dave Black: And they did not do any modifications to the Zion unit either, but they did the Vernon, Manti, and Beaver.

Sam Carpenter: Was it brought to their attention that the unit concern wanted only 3 of these late hunts?

Dave Black: Yes, they were aware of that.

Sam Carpenter: Steve....

Steve Dalton: I had a hard time getting through that meeting I'll tell you.

Regional Update:

-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, so for our regional update, pretty busy time for everybody. Our aquatics folks for the next 2 weeks are going to be capturing perch out of Fishlake and transferring those to Yuba. The more perch we can get out of Fishlake the more healthy that lake will be in the long run. They're hoping to move 40,000 perch over the course of the next 2 weeks and there's lots of opportunity there if anybody wants to go up and get involved. It's a morning activity. It will go from about 8 until noon to pull the nets and process the fish; and then they immediately put them on a one of our hatchery trucks and ship them to Yuba on a daily basis. And so if you have an interest in that let me know and I can certainly make arrangements to get you an opportunity there. We're also in full swing on our aquatic invasive species efforts primarily focused on Lake Powell, and then here at the port of entry. Any boats coming into Utah, coming through that port of entry, any watercraft have to stop and be inspected. We're working hard at Lake Powell. If you've been down there this spring the lake is changing drastically on an annual basis where we had 10 Quagga mussels that you could see on the rocks last year there's a thousand this year. Places where there were 1,000 this last year there's 100,000 this year. And we have live mussels that are attaching themselves to boats that are there for just 3 or 4 days. We found, in a couple of instances this last week we had two boats that were just, were on the lake for 4 or 5 days and came off the lake with live mussels attached which is a pretty scary. We've got people, we've got all the ramps staffed with folks to inspect boats. We are having some logistic issues with the park service to get the decontamination units down there up and running but we're working as frantically as we can to make that happen. And then in relation to that our law enforcement folks will be conducting some administrative checkpoints along Highway 89. I will be doing 4 of them between now and the end of June, inspecting boats that are leaving Lake Powell. There will be 4 other administrative check points coming out of the Bull Frog area checking boats; and those will be law enforcement efforts and citations issued if needed to get the message across that this, it's a serious issue, it can cause lots of damage and cost lots of money if those Quagga mussels spread to other places in the state. Our habitat section, they're in the process of wrapping up their restoration projects from last fall and in the process of getting some guzzlers put in in a couple of different places around the region. Law enforcement, I mentioned a lot of efforts with AIS right now and then working different places where people are fishing. In our wildlife section, um, just the next 6 weeks will be very busy for them as they wrap up settlements with

all the land owners, depredation payments and whatnot. You know and there's some things that we, that we're doing this time of year that aren't popular with sportsman but they're necessary; we are doing some removals of animals on private property. We try very carefully to focus those on just resident animals that are on private property year round and really don't provide a benefit. But I know that's not very popular but it's, it's what we're required to do by state law. Our prairie dog plan that came through a few months ago has been fully implemented now. It's gone through the 45-day comment period and um, you know everything seems to be going really smooth. Prairie dogs are a hot button issue and I have no doubt that at some point things will unravel and we'll have to, you know, regroup, but for right now things are going really well. We're also in the midst of our spring range assessments, between our wildlife section and habitat section. And then the turkey hunt has been really good this spring. If you haven't had a chance to get out you should. With the light winters we've had the last couple of years turkey populations have rebounded strongly in a lot of places and there's a lot of opportunity for turkey hunting right now. With that I'd be glad to answer any questions.

Dale Bagley: On Piute reservoir, it's down about 50% right now, you just planted that is that going to be drained do you think this year or what's the status on that?

Kevin Bunnell: I'm trying to remember if we have a conservation pool on Piute. Vance do you recall?

Vance Mumford: I don't think we do.

Kevin Bunnell: I don't think we do have a conservation pool on Piute so we're kind of at the mercy of the irrigation companies and what they want. Um, I'll tell you we didn't, we found out this spring with our gill nets we didn't get as good a kill on the chubs at Piute last year as we would have hoped for. There's an outside chance that if that gets really low we may repeat that effort and see if we can reduce the chub population even more. That's probably, it's not likely but it's a possibility if that lake gets drawn down really low again this year. Any other questions? Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay thank you Kevin. So our first action item will be waterfowl recommendations. And so we'll hear from Blair Stringham and then you'll have two opportunities to come to the mic; one would be for questions only and then if you do have comments we'd ask you to fill out a comment card and bring those forward so we can address those. Thank you.

Waterfowl Recommendations (action) 15:00 to 22:59 of 2:21:56
-Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Clair.

Clair Woodbury: What is the reasoning behind the band tailed pigeon, dropping the season, shortening the season?

Blair Stringham: We've had some conflicting information of our band tailed pigeons, just on what their populations are doing. We don't collect any real rigorous population data and so for that there's been some concern as to what that population is doing. And so basically for concerns with the population we decided to reduce the bag or the season dates by about 2 weeks just to be on the safe side.

Dave Black: Is that all of the questions from the RAC?

Kevin Bunnell: Blair, how many band taileds are harvested in Utah a year, any idea?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, we collect harvest data on band tailed pigeons but given there, the few number of people that are actually hunting them it's hard to get an exact estimate. It, usually it ranges between about 20 to 50 pigeons per year or so. Really very few people pursuing them

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any questions from the public? If you have a question please come to the mic and state your name. And use this mic right here on the black box.

Questions from the public:

Richard Willow: My name's Richard Willow and I just want to figure out why you guys changed the snow goose season during the fall.

Blair Stringham: This last year?

Richard Willow: Yeah.

Blair Stringham: We had a conflict with the Snow Goose Festival that occurs in Delta every year. And we had that season starting on the same day that the Snow Goose Festival was starting.

Richard Willow: During the fall hunt. For this season coming up during the fall.

Blair Stringham: Oh for, oh so not for last . . .okay. So we get very, very few snow geese moving through the state each year in the fall, we get just a hand full and that will be harvested. And so to maximize hunter opportunity we moved those dates up a bit so that we would capture when those geese move through which is usually around the November time frame. And for the most part all those geese are moving back through in the spring and so we've tried to put our season dates as far into the spring as possible, just to capture when we have the most snow geese here.

Richard Willow: And one more question: on the scaup season, I know in the federal registry they offer us the 86 days straight or you can split it. Is there any recommendation to split the season?

Blair Stringham: There isn't at this time. We see the majority of scaup show up usually around the first part of November or so. We do have quite a bit of harvest happening even into October. So because more harvest is happening at the first of the season than the end of the season we chose just to begin it on opening day and run it until . . .

Richard Willow: The only reason why I ask is because down here we don't get them until Thanksgiving time. When things start to freeze and, you know try and tell my son in January you can't shoot them, you know, it makes it kind of hard.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, and we've looked at our harvest data and we've got very few that are shot in January. And so for that reason we've ran it for as long as we possibly could which would be until December 27th.

Richard Willow: There's no way you guys could recommend a split for down here for us?

Blair Stringham: We probably wouldn't look at that just because there's more scaup in the state in October than there are in January. And so if we did that it would probably run into a lot more enforcement issues and things like that. So . . .

Richard Willow: All right, thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you, good questions. Any additional questions?

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: I don't have any comment cards for this item.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Do we have comments from the RAC? Okay, I'm ready to entertain a motion.

Mike Worthen: I move that we accept the motion, the recommendations as proposed for the migratory game bird seasons in the coming year.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion from Mike. Do we have a second on that motion?

Mike Staheli: I second.

Dave Black: Okay, from Mike also, two Mikes. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Okay, thank you.

Mike Worthen made the motion to accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented. Mike Staheli seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: We'll move to item number 6, which is the urban deer control, R657-65 rule amendments.

Urban Deer Control – R657-65 Rule Amendments (action) 28:18 to 37:14 of 2:21:56
-Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Do we have any questions from the RAC? Mike.

Mike Worthen: Yeah, I've got a couple. What, you said you did survey the public on hunting and this project; do you have the results of that or the feelings of the public on hunting within city limits?

Scott McFarlane: Well um, Highland city did a, they had a public meeting and Bountiful city did also. The results of the meetings were just slightly above 50 percent for wanting the deer lethally removed. But Bountiful, their public opinion kept switching back and forth from yes and no, nonlethal lethal

removal. And we needed to do a project and so we agreed to do a project with a nonlethal removal because like I said before, we needed to assess the costs of doing this within the city limits because we had no idea, we had to, we could make an estimate but it's hard without really doing it.

Mike Worthen: And then uh, when a city agrees to enter into this program for relocation do they pay the costs or is the DWR stuck with it?

Scott McFarlane: Um, it's probably going to be borne by both. It has to be by mutual agreement. And so it's going to be, that will be determined on whether the Division has the manpower to do it and the resources to do it. Some of the costs that are associated with translocation, we have to collar everything because of, um, you know this was an expense of putting some kind of a marking device so that if by some chance that they did come up positive for chronic wasting disease then we'd be able to go retrieve that animal, so there's that cost. There's the cost of transportation. There's the cost of traps, personnel time and so that's something that would have to be worked out between the Division and the city and make sure that both are willing participants on that. But the cost of the program basically is going to be borne of developing and implementing the program is going to be borne by the city and whether it's lethal or nonlethal it's just how much the Division can put into that.

Mike Worthen: Did you have any negative comments from the hunting sector, the hunting project from the public?

Scott McFarlane: With Highland city?

Mike Worthen: Yeah, regarding after everything was said and done were there negative comments?

Scott McFarlane: There were a couple; and it came from people that found out after the fact. They did it so discretely that people didn't even know there was a hunt going on or they were killing these deer. So yeah, there were a few negative comments but they chose not to participate in the public process and that really would have been the time to state their objections to it. But they didn't know it was going on they just found out after the fact.

Dave Black: Okay, any further questions? Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Are you collaring any of the deer or are we doing anything so we can track to see if they come back? And what do you consider an appropriate site to release them?

Scott McFarlane: The answer to the first questions, yeah, all of the adult animals are collared. We don't collar any fawns. And all of the adult animals are tested for chronic wasting disease using a rectal biopsy. So they're all collared to be able to track, we actually have a graduate student that's working on a project to look at survival on these. The two places they were put, one . . . we went through the process last fall with the deer, the statewide deer management plan and identified translocation sites throughout the state and we chose two of those sites that were approved through that process to take these deer. One was in Box Elder County and the other was in Duchesne County, south of Myton. And so they were taken to those two places. Some of the criteria they use to do that was that it had to be places that historically had good deer populations, it can't impact agriculture, they currently had low or no deer populations. And so it was kind of a rigorous selection process.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me just add to that Sam, we do have several places in the southern region that are

approved to translocated deer and we did bring some of the deer that were moved off of Antelope Island to the Dutton this last fall. I'd have to, I think the Southwest Desert, there's several, I can't remember them off the top of my head but they were presented when the deer plan came through last year and there are several in the, or at least a handful in the southern region.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, also, do we anticipate by moving these deer and killing them that this is going to end any time soon? We've kind of encroached on a lot of, you know especially up north on the wintering area, this sounds like it's going to have to be kind of an ongoing thing.

Scott McFarlane: Um, I think you're right, it is going to have to be an ongoing thing because we've developed some - - - deer have adapted to a fairly, from a deer's standpoint, fairly harsh environment routine dealing with cars and kids, people, gardens, noxious weeds and plants that could kill them, they've adapted very well and so we've got some pretty healthy populations of deer. What we're trying to do is, we know we'll never get rid of them out of the cities but there might be some, with, to throw out a term I guess a social tolerance level to what people are willing to tolerate but it's above that tolerance level right now.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, and also I noticed you mentioned hours per deer, is this like a dedicated hunter project that you're doing with these? And also, on the meter, are you issuing tags on the people that take these deer can consume them or is it all like a donated thing?

Scott McFarlane: If the deer are donated it's usually done through a donation, if the city donates them they do them through their own program. Yes the deer are by rule all have to be tagged. We give them a tag. But what the rule does allow is for a single individual that's authorized by the city to take multiple deer instead of just being allowed one deer.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, so no consumption for the people that are doing these.

Scott McFarlane: They can do that if they want. But um, for example Highland city donated these deer but if the, if the hunters wanted to keep the deer they charged them \$50.00, and that was to pay for some of the costs of certifying the archers and the meat donation and everything. And a lot of those guys did choose to pay the fee and do that so that they could keep a few of the deer.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, so you only track hours for expense purposes just so you had an idea of what it's doing, it's not a dedicated hunter project or anything.

Scott McFarlane: Well it isn't a dedicated hunter project, however a lot of dedicated hunters did fulfill some of their hours helping trap and translocate the deer.

Sam Carpenter: On the live trap.

Scott McFarlane: On the live trapping, yeah.

Dave Black: Okay, I have a question from Mike right here.

Mike Staheli: I had one questions and that was why do you limit the number of animals that a city can remove during any year? It looks like to me ideally you'd remove them all so I didn't understand why we have a limit on the number, bucks and does or the number at all.

Scott McFarlane: That's a really good question. It's because the Division has limits on everything.

Mike Staheli: Yeah, but in the city you want to get rid of them all.

Scott McFarlane: That's correct. And so what we look at, and the reason that we wanted to put a limit on this is because there's, there would be occasions where there's a mix of resident and migratory deer so we want to be very, very careful on that.

Dave Black: Okay, Dale.

Dale Bagley: That was kind of my question; are there some season dates so that you're not taking those migratory deer and it's just the resident deer only that are getting taken, or can they take them any time?

Scott McFarlane: No, there will absolutely be season dates. And that will be the Division's main input on this is the season, when they can take them, and it would be left up to the regions, the biologists to know when they're really targeting resident deer versus migratory deer that might be coming in and out.

Kevin Bunnell: So Dale there will be seasons but they'll be specific to each city and each situation rather than just a set season that applies to everybody. It will be kind of negotiated and then worked out on each, on a case-by-case basis.

Scott McFarlane: Yes, thank you. Yeah, we don't, and it will be, you know, for example a lot of times it gets closer to the breeding season during the rut and there might be bucks that come down because there's does in the city and they might, more than likely they'd be prohibited from removal, lethal removal during those times because of that we don't want to target the migratory deer.

Dave Black: Okay, any further questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Any questions from the public?

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: I do have one comment card, this is from Bryce with SFW; he didn't want to come up but he did want to state his support for this item.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? Okay, I'm ready to entertain a motion. Okay, Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I move that we accept the Urban Deer Control Rule R657-65 as presented.

Dave Black: Thank you. We have a motion from Clair. Do we have a second? Okay, we have a second from Rusty. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Motion carries unanimous.

Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Urban Deer Control R657-65 Rule Amendments as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay, our next item on the agenda is item number 7, which is the Deer Management Plans and this will be presented by Teresa Griffin.

Deer Management Plans (action) 48:11 to 1:08:12 of 2:21:56

-Teresa Griffin, SR Wildlife Manager

(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you Teresa. Do we have questions from the RAC? Sam, are you ready?

Sam Carpenter: First off, I really like the fact that you've increased some of these uh, not carrying capacities, but our population objectives. I've been, this Paunsagaunt one, and it's not in this pack because it's my last chance to hit on you about getting that population on the Paunsagaunt back where it belongs. It also triggers another question and that's the doe to fawn ration on that unit has consistently been below 70 percent. Are we going to initiate a predator management plan over there and kill some coyotes and increase some cougar hunts over there? Is that in the plan at all?

Teresa Griffin: The Paunsagaunt is currently on a predator management plan. We have contractors working on the units to address coyote issues, and we're looking into other ways that we can increase cougar take. We discussed that with the group a little bit and I know that's a huge concern so Josh and I are looking into how we can do that for the unit.

Sam Carpenter: Why aren't we talking about the Henry Mountains in the Southern unit hunt, like any other premium unit, is that not considered part of our?

Teresa Griffin: It's not in the Southern region.

Kevin Bunnell: It's part of the Southeastern region.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, it should be on the southern. On these population objectives, why do we even have a population objective and what is it that we look at to determine that number?

Teresa Griffin: And that's kind of a difficult one but uh, it Utah state code we are required to have a population objective for big game animals, for deer and elk specifically. We have to have a population objective. Sometimes I think when those numbers were set we do our best to set them at the right level but every year, every few years, we're learning a little bit more, watching, you know, if we're carrying a certain number of animals and we're still not seeing habitat degradation or heavy use, it may be reasonable to increase that.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, and then what's carrying capacity? Where does that term fit into this formula?

Teresa Griffin: And I think a lot of thing that go into that because you've got different parameters. We've got depredation issues, social issues that come into it, or in just the habitat issues.

Sam Carpenter: Why wouldn't that be a better number than carrying capacity? I mean, I mean in an objective?

Teresa Griffin: And that's what we try to hit on. Uh huh, and that's what we try to hit on when we choose our population objective. We try to make that match with the carrying capacity for the unit.

Sam Carpenter: Good. Okay, next question. The Zion unit, you know the only thing that separates the Zion unit from the Paunsagaunt, and the similarities are immense, they're just almost identical, terrain, everything. We have done a fence, we have done water, we have done, what was it 60,000 acres of improvement, we're not growing any deer over there. What's going on? I look at the Zion which is the only thing that divides those two units is Highway 89, and we are growing deer, I think Jason needs to come on over there to the Paunsagaunt and tickle some of these does or something. We've got to get some deer growing over there. I mean we've gone 4 years without increasing one deer on the Paunsagaunt.

Teresa Griffin: On the Paunsagaunt or the Zion?

Sam Carpenter: No, the Paunsagaunt. But the Zion is a (unintelligible) and we're putting 3,200 hunters out there on this Zion unit and have been hunting the heck out of it every year and it's just growing like a rose. And the Paunsagaunt is over there doing nothing and we've done everything to that unit that I think that we can possibly do, you know, to spur an increase in population. I know we were holding it down, and you've even lifted that for us to where we can put 6,500 deer over there again. Why, is it in the models? What can possibly put 15,000 deer on one side of the highway and 5,200 on the other when they're just so similar in stature or topography, and the oak belt and everything else? How can we be hunting and doing all this stuff very little improvement and have 15,000 deer on one and one that we've done everything to grow deer and we haven't grown a deer over there? What could possibly cause that?

Teresa Griffin: And that's a good question Sam. You know I don't know if there's some fine . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Not from lack of trying.

Sam Carpenter: I understand. I know what projects we've done. I know how hard we've worked.

Teresa Griffin: . . . If there's a little more water on the Zion, I don't know. Because I know how hard we've worked on the Paunsagaunt and put so much money into it. Kevin are you going to take a stab at that?

Kevin Bunnell: I was just going to ask if Josh or Jason, any insight there that you want to add? We made them travel here we ought to get them up to the mic.

Sam Carpenter: Before you get up there, I've hunted the Zion all my life, and the last 12 years consistently, and I can't tell you that there's one more deer over there than there was 12 years ago. And honestly I think there's less but I don't know if this is modeling or if Kolob or somewhere over there where I don't go on those private land holdings up there, which are immense during that migration and the deer hunt, that oak belt and that area there is where the deer are during that migration and when we hold the hunts. So I know a lot of deer stay up there, but I'm baffled with this question.

Jason Nicholes: I think there's possibly two differences between the Zion and the Paunsagaunt. One, the

topography is the same; you know it's really similar. The Zion does have a lot more water. I think you'd probably agree that there is quite a bit more water on the Zion, at least on the summer range, than there is on the Paunsagaunt. Another thing would be the buck to doe ratio on the Zion. We've been keeping that right in that 20 range and it's more than twice that on the Paunsagaunt. And when you've got more bucks and less does the less the potential for growth.

Sam Carpenter: Well I buy into that and understand biology and I used to argue with Anis quite a bit about how that works. But there's just got to be something there. Does it make any sense to you Jason that you've got two units sitting, now you say water, uh, that's a stretch if you ask me because we've got plenty of water on the Paunsagaunt, and we've developed all kinds of water on the Paunsagaunt. And I just can't help but think that there is something not right. And the DCI, when we bring that up again, because I noticed that they did do a DCI in 2013 and that we have actually, the habitat has improved on the Paunsagaunt. You list two areas that are listed as poor, and one of those of course is the Nephi Pasture, which hasn't been manipulated in any way, and the Mustang area. The same year they did the DCI they went in and clear-cut all of that area around Mustang, so that has been done on there. And gosh, I don't know. Josh can you, do you? I don't want to just pick on Jason, but do we; I just hope we really have 15,000, that is great.

Jason Nichols: You know the thing that gives me confidence in that 15,000 are the number of bucks that we consistently harvest. Over the last few years we, to consistently harvest that many and to maintain that buck to doe ratio we've got to have that large of a population to sustain that kind of harvest.

Sam Carpenter: We've got a pretty good buck to doe ratio on the Paunsagaunt too. I mean you're saying it's too high, right?

Jason Nichols: Well it's managed for high . . .

Sam Carpenter: I understand that. I know that.

Donnie Hunter: Donnie Hunter. This is just personal. I'm concerned about that Paunsagaunt too. There needs, there could be a lot more opportunity for sportsman there and originally we wanted that to happen. That Paunsagaunt gets used a lot. Those deer get bothered a lot. They get bothered all year by trophy hunters watching them, taking pictures of them, around them all the time. But not only you, there's a lot of . . . I'm a problem too. We like to look at them. But those deer, humans are around them I think too much. We have a lot of people out there looking for those big horns. I think that might be a little bit of why those deer are stagnant and coming back. I don't know, but just a thought.

Sam Carpenter: Those are some good ideas, but I can tell you I shed hunt every year and I haven't found any dead deer anywhere. I still see 60 does per 100 fawns. I see you out there every year and there are a lot of people out there. That's all usually turns off right after the rut and they're usually, it's pretty stable until we start getting into the spring areas where we, you know, start doing a little antler hunting and things that way. So you know we're back out in there but that's kind of true. But I, I think you've got something there.

Donnie Hunter: One more thing. I'd like to commend the Division for their recommendations; we're going in the right direction. Thank you.

Josh Pollock: Sam all I was going to say is the one thing I can think of is increased recreation that we have in the summer range, I mean up on top of there now there's a lot of recreation that I've seen a big

increase; and that's right in some of our fawning ground is up there by Tropic reservoir and up on that end. So there's a big increase up there in those people. And it's similar to the Henrys. You know the Henrys aren't really growing the big objective, their population objective it's, they're not growing a lot of fawns. And it's the same kind of thing, if you have a lot of bucks on the range then it's not going to allow that; there are a lot of mouths to feed out there. With having that many more bucks so that's why I could see . . .

Sam Carpenter: Do we blame the elk at all?

Josh Pollock: Anyway that's what I can think of.

Dave Black: Um, Taylor hold on just a minute. We'd love to have you come up. We can do it in the format that we have. We have a comment card from you. And if it's a question we have a question time. So we do want to hear from you.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me have maybe a closing comment on the Paunsaugunt. We know what a gem, you know as a Division, that the Paunsaugunt is. And we want to maximize it just like you do. Sam, like you mentioned we've, we're trying everything and we'll continue to try everything. The population isn't growing but as you stated yourself, it's not for a lack of trying. And maybe there's something out there that we haven't figured out yet but we'll keep trying. And so whether you're here or not we'll keep trying.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a question down here from Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: What kind of an impact does that Arizona hunt, the late Arizona hunt have on the Paunsaugunt deer?

Teresa Griffin: Josh, I turn this one to you.

Josh Pollock: Well it's hard to know how many deer they're actually killing that are state of Utah deer living in Utah in the summer time. But in talking with some of the Arizona biologists and that, they get a lot of harvest. We figure we're losing, we could be losing up to 100 bucks a year that get killed after they cross and go that way. So that's also something that, you know, could limit some of those things. But yeah, that's definitely an impact on it as well.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, thanks.

Sam Carpenter: Actually they have opened a new unit just to address those deer in Arizona and there's over 235 permits issued in the late hunt for those deer that migrate down there; so I'd bet we lose a lot more than 50 bucks down there.

Josh Pollock: Yeah, we estimate about 100 because not all of those will be Utah deer per say, but about 100 could be that.

Cordell Pearson: In Arizona that new unit that they just opened up isn't it 340 permits?

Josh Pollock: I don't know.

Cordell Pearson: I read that somewhere, it was like 340 permits, additional permits on a separate hunt.

Sam Carpenter: What it is is there's 235 permits just on the 12B West they call it. I think that came about around 2005 is when they initiated that. If you count the other units they migrate in there's 500 on the 12B, on the early hunt, which is after our rifle hunt; it's in November. They have another 135 on the 12B late hunt, 60 on the 13A and 70 on the 13B early and late hunts. So there's probably close to 7 or 800 deer that have the possibility of getting taken on those hunts.

Josh Pollock: Yeah, and we've, actually this year, this year we started with our new modeling. We've actually started adding 100 of those deer that, a mortality of 100 extra deer on top of that this year to that model so it's going to get us a better idea.

Dave Black: Thank you. Any more questions from the RAC? Dale.

Dale Bagley: On the Dutton, what's the limiting factor that keeps us at 2,700 on that? I mean Monroe and that mountain are similar in your acreages, and summer and winter range are a little bit different, but we're at 7,500 on Monroe, why are we so low for an objective on Dutton?

Teresa Griffin: I don't know if it's a little less water on that unit. Josh? Sorry buddy.

Josh Pollock: Yeah, I'll just sit here. I'm not exactly sure Dale why that is. It's just a number that we've kind of set. And with our models it's kind of showing with that but some of that could be habitat issues and water with that in there. And a lot of it is terrain too; it's pretty rocky nasty mountain so it's not quite as nice as the Monroe and stuff to grow a lot of good deer . . . that fire may have had impact on that as well with the amount of the change in some of the habitat there. That's the only thing I can think of.

Dave Black: Okay, Mack?

Mack Morrell: I noticed in the information you sent us that on the Mt Dutton the year round percent of private land for habitat is 59 percent. Is there a landowner association down there? Or can they be one?

Teresa Griffin: Not for general season deer. You can only have landowner associations for limited entry animals, whether it's pronghorn, elk, or deer, it has to be a limited entry rather than a general season.

Mack Morrell: What about a CWMU?

Teresa Griffin: If someone had, for deer they would have to have over 5,000 contiguous acres for a deer CWMU. I'm not sure if there's 5,000 contiguous of private.

Kevin Bunnell: Mack, there is a landowner association for the pronghorn because it is limited entry on that unit.

Dave Black: Okay. Any other questions from the RAC? Okay, Sam.

Sam Carpenter: A real easy one. This deer management plan, when we voted and accepted that plan we do have the ability to tweak that if the Board chooses to do that, is that true?

Teresa Griffin: The statewide plan or the unit plans?

Sam Carpenter: The statewide.

Teresa Griffin: I believe that the Board does have that latitude to change things but typically once they pass something they've been trying to stick to it for the 5 year duration but plans are changed.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me clarify that. The Board can do that, but the Division, you know, once the Board passes that we are stuck to those sideboards. So we're going to make recommendations that are consistent with that statewide plan and that's what you're seeing here. But the Board at times does tweak things, absolutely.

Dave Black: Okay, further questions? I have one question for you Teresa. And this is more on the format of the public input in the meetings that you had. Now that you've gone through the Southern region, would you envision doing things different down the road or next year when you have one of the other regions or how do you feel your input was in the availability for the public to really comment?

Teresa Griffin: It's difficult to get public comment whatever forum you use. The majority of the other regions don't even have public meetings; they'll call some constituents. So I felt it was important to at least have some public meetings so we could gather that input. It's never as much as I would like to see but I think the Southern region is doing more than some regions throughout the state.

Dave Black: Would you see any value to have like an annual meeting or a group of interested parties that could meet yearly and talk about a specific unit and have the DWR there and all of the stakeholders there, like the ranchers, and the sportsman? I guess where I'm going was, as a RAC a few months ago we voted to make some changes on the deer management plan. And a lot of those changes you've made and I accommodate you for that. But, when we went to the Board level I think there is, uh, they said well no let's address these particular items when we do the individual unit plans. And so we envision that maybe we would have to go and talk those things up and have a forum where we could talk and promote some ideas and maybe make some changes. And we didn't see that particular thing happen at the open houses, however, the suggestions that you made, the changes that you have made have been you know, right in line with a lot of the ideas that we had. So I mean, that's great, but I just wonder if there's a value or something that we could promote to try to get groups together that met once a year that was concerned about Panguitch Lake or concerned about Pine Valley - - - I know there is a group right now that's a Pine Valley group - - - and you know these units and see how we could maybe help with the public input process.

Bill Bates: Dave, if you don't mind I'd like to answer that because it's a statewide issue rather than just specific to the Southern region. And uh, there's, the Division's philosophy on these kind of groups is we, groups for public input they're great. And when we put together an advisory committee we try to write them a charter and once they are done with their, you know, with the task we asked them to do then we make, the group actually goes away. The one exception to that is the Henry Mountains bison committee, that one is still somewhat in tact. It doesn't quite serve the same function it did in the past but it's used to do kind of what you've talked about. I guess what we would look at is on a statewide basis is if there are units where there are overwriting concerns and there's real sticky issues that we need a committee to go through that kind of effort to deal with, you know, that would certainly be very helpful. I think that Teresa and you know Kevin's staff down here did an excellent job even though the open houses, you know, may not have appeared to accomplish the same thing. We've actually all been

to a training called public politics and problems that talks about the different public input methods. And public open houses are actually a very good tool to use to do that because what it does it puts the biologists one on one, or one on, you know they typically end up one on about six, with the people chiming in, and you get dialog and people are able to talk to each other; rather than in a committee a lot of times you get grand standing. And you know of course here at the RAC meeting, and I'm talking way too long so I'm sorry, but oh I actually think it worked out great. And I think that you know, after she had these meetings she came back and met with us in Salt Lake and we said, you know, it's what the public wants and so that's why you're seeing some of these changes. And so I would just say to you that I actually think that the system worked. And you know, on big issues we'll look at that when it's needed.

Dave Black: Well I would agree with you, I think the recommendations that have come back with have been spot on, personally. But it just seemed like the process was maybe different than what we envisioned and so it's probably an expectation type of thing more than anything else.

Bill Bates: Sometimes change is good.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me add to the other part of your comment there Dave a little bit. I think these, when you have groups that start from kind of a grassroots level, like Friends of the Paunsagaunt did, like the Pine Valley group, I think they actually do better if they're organized, not, if we don't organize them; if there's a group of folks that come together and organize that. You'll never see us deny, or if we're invited to come visit with a group like that we will always engage. But I think those groups work better if they come out of kind of a grassroots type of an effort where there's a group of people that are highly concerned and they organize themselves. And then if they invite us to come and participate we'll never turn down that opportunity.

Dave Black: Well and I guess I've kind of been a champion of that type of scenario; like I was really encouraged the Pine Valley guys to get together. I've tried to encourage groups in some other regions to get together and if there is value there then I would continue to try to do that. And more than anything I want to try to build relationships between sportsman and ranchers and to address the real issues. And if there is value there then I would continue to pursue that but if I'm wasting my time then I don't know that I'd necessarily want to do that.

Kevin Bunnell: I would say there's probably not value everywhere but there certainly is in some places.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Any more questions?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Okay, we'll turn questions over to the public. We do have a lot of comment cards so if you, just keep your comments to questions right now and then we'll call you up one at a time with your comments. So state your name.

Gregg McGregor: Gregg McGregor, Santa Clara, Utah. Just a follow-up on that about the groups, one thing that disappointed us a little bit in the Pine Valley group is the fact that we had organized a group and then we invited some of the other officials, we invited BLM, we've invited Forest Service to join

with us and be part of that group. Negative comment we got back from them, especially the BLM is they felt like if the Division wasn't there in person to monitor and to give input that they weren't going to participate themselves either. And that was kind of a negative thing we had. And I won't go any further with that. I have two questions; a couple of them have a couple of sub-questions to them. The largest unit in the Southern unit I believe is the Southwest Desert, correct? And it has the lowest population of deer. Can we, it's kind of like Sam's conundrum up there, what can we attribute that to?

Teresa Griffin: And that's a really, if Jason wants to add anything he sure can. But that's very water limited. I mean, habitat and water limited. There's not a lot of high elevation, lush aspen on it. It's just a lower elevation, lower population.

Brian Johnson: Horses.

Gregg McGregor: That was my next question. My next question is the horses seem to do just fine. And is our state and is our Division doing anything to lobby with the powers to be to get those horses out of there? Are we contributing anything?

Kevin Bunnell: Before you sit down I want to say something. Yeah, at the statewide level we're engaged on the horse issue consistently.

Sam Carpenter: Gregg, on Friends of the Paunsagaunt we organized that. We have never even had a meeting where we did not have the unit biologist present. The department has been worked with us very well on that stuff. If you've got a unit and out of concern the department should definitely have their biologist there for you.

Gregg McGregor: I agree, I agree. But I thought it was odd that the BLM would decline if we didn't have Jason or somebody there to give input that way. The other question I had is, now I went through almost unit-by-unit the plan for the Southern region and I was impressed. And one of the things that I did find though is that when the predator management plan kicks in based on objectives there's a question here, not a question, that says, if the population vestment is less than 90 percent of the objective and the fawn to doe ratio drops below 70 percent for two of the last three years, or if the fawn survival rate drops below 50 percent for one year then the predator management plan kicks in for coyotes. Okay, conversely, if the population management is less than 90 percent of objective and the doe survival rate, it says doe survival rate rather than fawn survival rate, drops below 85 percent for two of the last three years or below 80 percent for one year then the plan kicks in for kitty cats. Correct?

Teresa Griffin: I believe that's correct. I don't. . .

Gregg McGregor: Yes, that's what it says. What is the difference, why would one be predicated on fawn survival and the other predicated on doe survival? Just FYI that's all.

Teresa Griffin: And I think that lions can target adult animals more, and coyotes certainly have more of an impact on our fawns. So currently I believe the Southwest Desert and the Paunsagaunt are the only two in our region right now that we've got contracts with predator management plans.

Kevin Bunnell: And it's certainly not cut and dry but in general coyotes have a larger impact on fawns and lions have a larger impact on adult survival. So that's why we use an adult trigger for lions and a reproductive or fawn trigger for coyote.

Bill Bates: Dave, if it's okay, I'd like to add a comment. We're kind of at an awkward stage right now. The Wildlife Board asked us to go back and look at the cougar plan and simplify it. And these predator management guidelines that the Southern region put into their unit plans stand as they are right now but they are going to be tweaked just in a minor manner. And so I'm just warning you that you know the next, you know I don't know when we're going to bring it out, but I think it's in August that they will look just a little bit different, but the same concept.

Dave Black: Thank you. I think you did a good job answering the questions. Thank you. Any more questions from the public?

Jason Aiken: I'm Jason Aiken from Cedar City, representing myself. On the units that you've got crowding, you talked about splitting up the allocation more towards archery and muzzleloader, what's the ability to maybe look at splitting the rifle hunt and doing two separate rifle hunts over a two week or three week period instead of having all those rifle hunters on the unit at the same time?

Teresa Griffin: I would have to review the statewide plan to see. We do have the option of course to adjust the percentages. Bill, does that say anything in the statewide plan about an additional rifle hunt?

Bill Bates: I'm not sure.

Teresa Griffin: I mean we discussed that five years ago.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me comment on that a little bit Teresa. We do have, we've had an idea in place for a long time that's pretty well flushed out, changing the hunt structure around. We haven't implemented that yet. We were really close at the same time that we did the unit, we changed to unit by unit. But we felt, it scared us a little bit to add too much change at one time, to go unit by unit and change the hunt structure. But there's an idea out there and maybe Bill it's time to bring it out as an informational item again and back through the RACs. One of the things that that hunt structure does is it does separate into two different deer hunts but it also means that you could hunt deer and elk at the same time, which is another really appealing part of that hunt structure for some people. And it's, we do have a pretty well thought out plan, we just haven't pulled the trigger on it yet because we wanted to let this idea of the unit by unit stuff kind of settle in and let people get used to that before we added another big change.

Bill Bates: Let me preface what I'm saying by telling you I may be wrong, okay. But I don't believe that the statewide plan really restricts us on this other than it's not really a strategy that we flushed out. However, Steve just brought up a good point to me, right now we're going to take out, start taking out the elk plan and revising it and those are certainly issues, what Kevin just talked about, that we will talk about with the elk committee. You know this year one thing that we're tackling in the next round of RACs, or I guess it's going to be later in the fall, we're going to be looking at primitive weapons; looking at you know, magnified scopes on muzzleloaders, and crossbows and things like that. So that's kind of what's in the queue right now but I think that once the elk committee is done that might be the time to start looking at our hunt structure again.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Additional questions? Okay.

Russell Todd: Russell Todd. I'm part of Friends for Pine Valley. One question I had, if I remember right, your current population estimate for Zion is 15,000 and 13,500 for Pine Valley but your allocating

700 more tags for Pine Valley than Zion. I was just trying to figure out why you would give more tags for a unit that has less population on it.

Kevin Bunnell: If I remember right, I think you are right and I'll let Teresa look at that. The simple answer to that is all the private land on the Zion. We don't have as many places we can put people on the Zion. We don't have the, we're not restricted with private land on the Pine Valley. If we could put more, if we had the room to put more hunters on the Zion we would but we just don't have the room because we're restricted to just the public land; a lot of the private land is not available.

Russell Todd: That makes sense. I was just hoping it wasn't a popularity thing because Pine Valley is more assessable and easier to hunt.

Kevin Bunnell: It's just the places that we have to put hunters. Jason?

Jason Nichols: That's right on.

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, just representing myself with a question. I think the first time I heard the comment that you had refereed to about a higher buck to doe ratio often times is leading to a lower fawn production; and that's kind of new to me. I've been around a while but I've never heard that. So are we growing deer at a faster rate on our 15-17 buck units than we are at our limited entry unit?

Teresa Griffin: If you are at carrying capacity it's going to have more of an impact. So this is information that I was, you're familiar with, Dr McMann with BYU, and this is a study out of Colorado. I can find it for you if you are interested in it, but it does say there's some correlations. So as you're increasing your buck to doe ratio, I mean, and if you're closer to your carrying capacity then you're going to start affecting your production.

Scott Christensen: And so I'm just, I guess the question is, what units are we worried about then specifically that our buck to doe ratio would start to impact our fawn production? Because it seems, I'm struggling with the whole, I know bucks don't have fawns and now we're finding out that bucks kill fawns.

Kevin Bunnell: Don't kill but limit production is what it comes down to.

Scott Christensen: I can see if we're at carrying capacity but we already established, I thought earlier tonight that we really don't know what our carrying capacity is.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, that's a very difficult one to see. So we're trying to make sure our population, we'd love in a perfect world for our population objective to align with K, so we know that. But often times it doesn't because there's so many other aspects involved in the carrying capacity. I mean there's a lot of social aspects that we need to recognize.

Scott Christensen: Absolutely. I just worry that it's kind of the new oh we can attach to that and that's why we're not growing the herd.

Teresa Griffin: No, it's just another tidbit of information. You know we just need to be cognizant of.

Kevin Bunnell: The best way to get at carrying capacity is to let the animals tell you. And the best way

to let the animals tell you is through that body condition index that we're doing. And that's why when we look at the Monroe right now and our body condition index is low that's probably the best indication that right now we're close to carrying capacity on the Monroe. Because we're seeing deer that were in, at one body condition drop; and there's not many other things you can attribute that to besides habitat.

Scott Christensen: Sure. I guess I see it as a different correlation than a more buck population. But maybe I don't understand.

Kevin Bunnell: And this is pretty new research; we need to look into it more ourselves.

Teresa Griffin: And that's just one of the many aspects that I listed about the Monroe. I mean with the poor body condition we also recognize that it may be a summer range thing; it maybe precipitation from the last few years too. I've had those discussions I believe with you. So there's a lot of different factors going on. Vance has been working with the federal land management agencies and looking at a few areas to see if we've got some heavy habitat use. So it's all coming into effect but also we're recognizing that production is still maintaining on the Monroe. If we start seeing that drop off in, you know, with the poor body condition then that that's an even bigger indicator that we're probably reaching K.

Scott Christensen: Well and I think the Monroe is a great unit. We've done so many studies there it just needs to continue.

Teresa Griffin: Absolutely.

Dave Black: Thank you.

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: Okay, we do have a number of comment cards. If you're representing a group we'll let you take 5 minutes. If you are representing yourself you have 3 minutes. We start off with Bryce first and then Scott Christensen.

Bryce Pilling: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Bryce Pilling, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. I'd like to say that we support the Division's recommendation.

Dave Black: Thank you. Uh, after Scott we have Taylor Albrecht.

Scott Christensen: More than anything I want to commend the Division on seeing how this plan came together. We lost the Thousand Lake, it's a limited entry, I was excited to see that we're trying to expand and put some of that limited entry opportunity back, including the Pahvant I think that was a great move. My biggest comment was it was that I appreciate the Division came not only once but twice to the Richfield Wayne County area to meet with the general public. In both those meetings we kind of set some questions and appealed to the Division to increase the buck to doe ratio. We understood when we left that the sideboards were in place but under an overwhelming consensus in those groups the Boulder and the Monroe was to increase those from a 15-17 to an 18-20. We would hope the RAC would recognize that that was the majority of the consensus of the group in all three meetings that were held.

Sam Carpenter: You're talking about the five units that are 17-18 right now or 15-17 or just the Monroe?

Scott Christensen: Just the Boulder and Monroe. That's what came out of our town hall meetings. Again, that was just from there and I believe the comment cards showed that.

Dave Black: Taylor, please take the time you need. We cut you off before so if you would like to comment on the Paunsagaunt or anything please do so.

Taylor Albrecht: All right. Taylor Albrecht; I'm just representing myself. To go back to kind of like what Sam was saying, and Donnie brought it up, that more people are out viewing the deer on the Paunsagaunt and stuff. I work for Gar-Kane Energy over there and during the summer months to go back to what you were saying mostly Donnie about more people viewing, um, working with them we've got more people on the Cedar Mountain during the months from June to August than we've got in the rest of all Kane County. There's more private property up there than a lot of the units. And so I don't really think that's a determining factor on why Zion is growing more deer faster than, but that's beside the point now. But and then my other comment just like Scott said, at these town hall meetings I'd like to see the Monroe also go to 18-20 bucks per 100 does.

Dave Black: Thank you. Paul Niemeyer followed by Kalan Lemon.

Paul Niemeyer: I'm Paul Niemeyer representing the Sevier Wayne County chapter of Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. The first thing I guess that I would like to do is thank the DWR for the amount of effort going in this; it is unbelievable the hours that they've spent. Also, I would like to say that as sportsman we have spent a lot of hours. Town hall meetings, SFW, Board meetings, uh, you know we come into this not just to blue print the DWR. We do concur with the recommendations that they have made. These are thought out, they're worked out, doing a lot of stuff both from the public and the DWR into this. So we do concur with their recommendations. As a personal note, not representing anybody except myself I would like to see that Monroe, I was at the same town hall meetings as Scott and these other guys were, and people would like to see that Monroe and Boulder go up with the other units and be more consistent through the whole area. But I think it's a great job that the DRW has done on these and we certainly support them.

Dave Black: Thank you. After Kalan we have Gregg McGregor.

Kalan Lemon: I guess I better add in there that I'm super happy with all the proposals and everything. You guys are doing a great job. You know obviously you're listening to what the public and the sportsman, and you know, land owners, everybody together are for with this so I commend you with that. Um, I'm here representing local sportsmen in both Millard and Juab County. I do a lot with sportsman group, you know, SFW, but also spend a lot of time personally you know with a lot of the different groups and everything around. For our Oak Creek and Pahvant boundary change there, that's been something that's, you know, that's been on, I mean that's been on the board for a long time. I believe currently if I'm not mistaken the Oak Creek's a limited entry unit is the only unit in the state that holds a fence line boundary for the majority of the unit that is the Forest Service. Right now there's not even an existing fence line that is up due to the fire I believe 90 plus percent of that fence line which is our manageable boundary is burned into dust. So right now there is no actual way for us to manage this unit for any kind of a trophy quality or for a limited entry so it really needs some kind of a reform. We're in huge support of exactly how this is drawn up. This has took a lot of hours, a lot of effort. It actually, it appeals to both sportsman and the landowners and everything the way that this has been

drawn up. This has been great from Riley taking care of it. I just wanted to let everybody know, you know, how much time this has took, how passionate we are about seeing this change take place, and especially for the resource, you know the deer on the unit; it is the best thing that could ever possibly happen for us right now. A few more steps, you know, down the line to keep the quality there that we'd all like but this is the first step in the right direction no doubt. Anyway, um, combining the general units, I think that's actually appealed as much to the landowners as it has to the public as far as taking up Pahvant and stretching it out to the west there for that. So I felt like everybody should know that. Um, that's all I've got.

Dave Black: Thank you. Kevin.

Kevin Bunnell: Kalan, and this is a comment to Kalan and to Bryce, um that live over in that area, getting that landowner association in place is going to be really key for this proposal to be successful so Riley is going to continue to need the support of the sportsman as he reaches out to the landowners to get that landowner's association in place. So please don't walk away from it now. I don't think you intend to but getting that landowner's association organized is going to be a huge key to this proposal being successful.

Sam Carpenter: So in tell you want the recommendation, you agree with exactly what they've got proposed here on this? You're not looking for any change?

Kalan Lemon: Exactly that, exactly that. And just to comment back to you there Kevin on the uh, you know on the landowner stuff, before they changed the elk plan and turned this to a general unit for elk, you know, there always was a landowner association. It's been set up for years, you know, for the elk hunts but never for the deer. So it's a pretty easy form to actually get, you know, everybody that was on that elk, you know, plan there right onto the deer and moving forward. I know Riley's dealt a lot more recently with the landowners on the unit. Bryce and I have both spent a tremendous amount of time personally and as well as with a group, you know, kind of making the landowners aware. I personally have family, you know, on that unit right there on two different sides that have land that are part of the landowner association, you know, previous with the elk. There is a lot of support on it. There's very few that have been against it. Um, but I believe with the way that Riley's been handling this with the way that you know, the state, you know, yourself involved has been handling this, there's a lot more support coming from it. You know there are a lot of people that are coming on and being very supportive of it now and as far as the landowner's side there.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, we have Gregg McGregor and then our last one is Jason Aiken.

Gregg McGregor: First of all Gregg McGregor, Santa Clara, Utah. I'm here in part for the southern chapter of Safari Club International and also part of the Partners for Pine Valley group. I would like to throw a shout out to Paul Neimeyer, he's a former member of this, also the former chair and also former member of the Wildlife Board and he's still active and throwing his voice and I think that's really cool. Thanks Paul. Also, as we went through the recommendations we were really thrilled with the amount of work that has gone into this. The Division is to be complemented. It's a good amount of work and it's precise and it's got valuable information in it and you are to be complemented on that. The one thing that we would like to reiterate as sportsman groups is that an emphasis be continued to be placed on the predator management plans for all the units not just the Southwest Desert and the Pine Valley. We think that's key. If we're ever to get our deer herd back we have got to really focus on those predators. And not passively so like if it kicks into the plan we can't say okay we're going to kill one more cat, we've

got to hit it aggressively. We've got to kick their butts and we've got to get our deer back because that's the bread and butter of this Division, or our state, all of our hunts in this state and that's what our recommendation would be. Thanks very much for members of the RAC for being here and for hearing us out. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Gregg.

Jason Aiken: I'm Jason Aiken representing Iron County chapter Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. We are very pleased with the recommendations that the Division has brought to us today. We are excited about the Panguitch Lake unit in Iron County, especially about that buck to doe ratio going up; and then the Panguitch Lake and Zion the population objectives being increased, we're excited to see that. So thanks for the Division and the RAC for hearing us out. We appreciate your hard work.

Dave Black: Thank you. That closes our comment portion. We appreciate all your comments. We appreciate you being here tonight. There's been some very good discussion and comments that you brought forth.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: We'll turn the time over to the RAC members for comments now. Dale.

Dale Bagley: Question on Monroe. I spend a lot of time there; it's one of my favorite units if not my favorite. There's a lot of comment to raise that from the to the 18-20. Go over one more time for me, what the detrimental effects of that could be. We're finally seeing that unit rebound. I don't want to vote to raise something if it's going to have a detrimental effect. If it's going to have a minimal effect then, I mean, kind of tell me what I guess the consequences of that could be.

Vance Mumford: Sure, you know there's not a big difference between the 15-17 and the 18-20. Really I think the only negative part of that is you'll have fewer hunters getting the opportunity to hunt every year. Probably, if we move to the 18-20 category a couple of hundred hunters a year, somewhere in that vicinity, and so I think that's why I recommended that it stay the same is just to, I guess I'm the only, because Monroe's the only unit in the Southern Region that's not 18-20 this year. But, so that's why. In my mind really that's the only negative effect. You're not going to really see a big difference in reproduction or anything with that small of an increase of bucks on the landscape. And so that's really it. I mean we're there now; we're at 22 bucks per 100 does. The hunting is great. Success rates are through the roof on it. So . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Does the history of that unit play into it at all Vance? There was a time when we had a really, we really struggled to get the buck to doe ratio up.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, Monroe is very accessible, we've heard that many times, and that's why our success rates are so high; all over 66 or something percent success on the rifle hunt. And so historically it's really popular. We've had, I think averaged in the 2000's 2,500 hunters total between all the hunts there and so it's a really popular spot. Being popular and easy access we've averaged 12 bucks per 100 does during that time period. So we usually have low buck to doe ratios there because of the reasons I mentioned.

Kevin Bunnell: The Monroe is probably a really good example of how unit-by-unit management gives

us the opportunity to address that because now we can control the number of people on the Monroe where as when it was region wide we couldn't and that's why buck to doe ratios were as low as they were.

Dale Bagley: While you're there, could that be one of the reasons for the lower health I guess, is the pressure, the accessibility, the you know, are those deer getting pushed too much, too much pressure from hunts or recreationists or?

Vance Mumford: You know I think deer are really adaptable and I don't think that's why we're seeing it. I think we're seeing lower body condition because of our springtime droughts the last two years. And our populations, we've grown a couple thousand more deer on the unit and we're not really seeing range damage yet but hey, we're getting up there pretty close to really our long-term average on our population. I think Monroe, the population objective is at 7,500 and if I look at the long-term average on that, that's pretty close to the average carrying capacity of the range. And so it's just something we're going to watch really close, watch the condition, watch the range real close over the next couple of years.

Sam Carpenter: I just want to ask him a question before he goes. You're saying right now that we're, it says 21.3 on the three-year average and a year of 22.2 on the Monroe right now. And that is very difficult to get that average up, that almost sounds like a recommendation to raise that to 18-20 or at least that you would agree that it would be a good thing to do to keep it from getting down there again.

Vance Mumford: Yeah well it's easy, it would be easy to raise it up there. And just as long as we understand the downside as far as opportunity goes, yeah, it wouldn't, uh. . . I think a lot, locally we've heard today at our open houses that we held locally that the vast majority of the people were for raising the objective of bucks.

Bill Bates: I wish Kent Hersey was here, and again, I may be wrong, but I think I can shed a little bit of light on the question you asked Dale. I believe that for every year of age, of the average age you drop or increase the objective you have to decrease permits by around 6 percent. So we'd be looking at about an 18 percent reduction in permits if I'm recalling right. The 6 percent is the thing that might be wrong. It might be 10, it might be somewhere, but I seem to recall that Kent said it was 6. But what, you know, Teresa and Kevin and the biologists came back and talked with us in Salt Lake about this issue and we would prefer it stay at the 15-17 from the standpoint that we need to provide opportunity for citizens statewide. And we understand that the Monroe is a very important unit to people who live down here just as Elk Ridge is very important to the people who live in Blanding. But you know, it's a statewide issue and the Monroe with its accessibility and just the topography of it, it fits more with the 15-17 bucks per 100 doe units. We are looking at trying to provide as much opportunity as we can. And as you can see we're already at 21.7 bucks per 100 does so it's, you know obviously we're doing well there.

Sam Carpenter: Didn't we say that the deer are in poor condition on the Monroe? Isn't that the unit we're talking about that that's going on? Well it sounds like they need a break. If we had less, less hunters

Bill Bates: No, no, it's actually the exact opposite. Sam we need to reduce the population if there are deer in poor condition.

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, thank you Kevin. Also I need to comment that at that town hall meeting it was discussed a lot to not cut opportunity; that we shift some of that efforts and changing up some of the 60-40 rules. And I would definitely think that needs to be taken into account with that unit if we do go to the 18-20. Personally I don't want to see that unit cut opportunity either. I think we can still work through providing that opportunity and keep the same number of tags but not necessarily all rifle tags.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Okay, any further comments Brian.

Brian Johnson: I've tried really hard to keep my mouth shut today, just for Sam because it was his going away present. So I kept it quite, I kept it quiet just till now, you're welcome Sam. I look at this and I just for discussion sake, for us guys up here on the RAC, just as we sit here and think about it, you got 8 or 9 units at 18-20 bucks per 100 does, and then you got 3 units at 15-17, and I don't necessarily represent sportsman at-large here but I know some of you do, and I'm just sitting here thinking you start raising every unit in the southern part of the state to 18-20 bucks per 100 does, and I'm all for it, believe me personally I've got a lifetime license tag and I can hunt whatever I want so it doesn't matter to me. But you start looking out at the public and you know the majority of these guys here and Clair, I've heard you say it before, you hate to see the opportunity go away. And I mean I'm not necessarily closed to the idea of 18 per 100, 18-20 on the Monroe, but okay, so what do you do? You slam another 200 archery tags on there and you're only going to kill 30, you're only going to kill 36 deer. And I'm all, you guys have heard me when I was on that side of the table, I'm not opposed to that. And I definitely would entertain a motion to keep opportunity up, you know. I mean you put rifle hunters on there and they will, they are extremely effective on that unit at killing deer. And I'm not opposed to that either. I'm just it's something to stop and think about here as we're discussing this guys.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Any more comments?

Sam Carpenter: I also see we're killing 150 does on that unit.

Brian Johnson: Those are farm deer right? Farm deer are different.

Dave Black: One more, Dale.

Dale Bagley: We're already at objective, so we're really not going to lose any opportunity not going to lose opportunity really at this point. I mean we're there as far as the 18-20 we're there now so I mean we could keep the permits the same as we had for this last year, we're not going to cut, we're there. The only time we would cut is if it dropped back down I guess. Am I wrong? Is that?

Teresa Griffin: This year we actually increased permits on the Monroe by 100 so we can come down to closer to our objectives. So we're taking action. So at this rate it might be the right amount of permits that it may be driving us downwards to meet our current objective. But we have increased it.

Dave Black: Okay, Kevin had a comment. Let me summarize some of the comments that we've heard on this. From SFW we've heard that they support the DWR's recommendations as presented. From the local public in the Richfield area we heard that they would support or encourage us to raise the buck to doe ratio from 18 to 20; we've heard a number of comments regarding that. We've also heard comments regarding the predator management plan and that we continue to focus on that when needed. Is there anything that I've missed Kevin? The other comment that I wanted to make was if you recall

when they presented the deer management plan to us, the Southern region voted and passed that we raise all the buck to doe ratios for the Southern region to 18-20, and that was just a few months ago. And so now is our opportunity to bring that up again and take care of that now. Sam.

Sam Carpenter: I'm really excited in what we've done and the fact that we're raising all of these. And one thing that would really have made this an awfully lot easier for me is going through and reading all these plans and trying to keep track of the changes you made because you didn't really note them as changes. If you could put something like that in that packet at the front like you do the recommendations I think you'd save me a whole lot of frustration on that. You got a pound of flesh. But the one big concern I have is all these gentleman, all these people that are here to comment you know, and we vote as a RAC on any one of the recommendations or changes or amendments to whatever and then just after this last RAC we made a recommendation that we only have 3 of those late hunts. It didn't even get represented. Now there's something wrong there. I don't know why it wasn't addressed.

Dave Black: It was addressed, it just wasn't. It was part of the discussion, it was addressed but those making the motion didn't make a motion to. . .

Sam Carpenter: Okay, it was addressed then. I feel better already. Steve you're off the hook.

Dave Black: The Board sees all the minutes from the RAC, so they see that and when we go over our motions we summarize all the motions. It was addressed that that was a motion that came from the Southern RAC. What we meant was is you know they had the opportunity to see if that's something that they want to bring up in their motion and so nobody made a motion to bring that up and so it wasn't addressed in that manner. But it was addressed on our end. We're not uh, definitely not ignoring any of the recommendations that come from the Southern region.

Sam Carpenter: I guess my heartfelt emotion on this, is that when you have a Southern region and a unanimous RAC vote on something that it should carry a little more weight with the Board than we normally see in this. I know we've discussed this before and a lot of people come out to, you know, to get this and to get these recommendations and present it to the Board and it should carry enough weight that you know, something like that area specific and the RAC does it that they we should be able to get it through.

Dave Black: Well I think we saw that this last time. I mean all the recommendations that were passed came directly from the Southern RAC. There's been times that I've been discouraged as well that we've sent recommendations up and they weren't felt, you know, the same way we did when it went up there. But this last time, I mean, it almost went exactly the way, with the, with just a few exceptions they really looked at the Southern RAC. And also those that came to comment, there was a lot of support. So I guess my comment there would be is the next time we feel real strongly about something and it's only the Southern RAC that feels that strong we need to carry that same number of comments and people from the audience, from the public to be up there as well, because it's hard for just the chairman to carry that forward when we don't have all the public support. But with this last time we had, you know we filled the room with people from southern Utah and that's why it went the way it did.

Sam Carpenter: Okay. Just apologize maybe to you if that sounded a little rancor. But here again, with this Teresa showing us here, had we had something like that where we could see that all these changes, until Kevin brought it to my attention and I was looking at the data that I had on the, what the recommendations and so on were made on on that other meeting I had made the assumption that this

stuff just didn't, and the way when we talked about the meeting, the way that it was addressed that they didn't even look at it. But like I said, I'm really happy with what's happened.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any further comments before we entertain a motion?

Brian Johnson: I just want to say that I've noticed in the last, in the last 4 years I've noticed an increase support from the Wildlife Board with stuff that's come from the RAC system statewide. I've noticed, and I appreciate it, and I know the general public does too because you know 4 or 5 years ago it was the Board's just going to do whatever it wants and now there's been some changes made and I think it's beginning to work a lot better. And I just wanted to thank the Board for paying attention to all the RACs, not just the Southern RAC, because I've noticed the difference as I read the minutes and I listen to the Board meetings. So I just wanted to, I just wanted to state that because I have noticed a difference.

Dave Black: Thank you. Just to add to that, I guess I'm not sure where the motion is gonna go and if it's going to pass; but if by chance we did vote and pass that we raise the buck to doe ratios for the Monroe and Boulder units I'd encourage those of you in the audience that are here today to also be at the Wildlife Board meeting because they need to hear from you there as well as here.

Kevin Bunnell: The Boulder is already recommended. If that's the only change would be the Monroe.

Dave Black: And so it would just be the Monroe. Okay, thank you. All right, I'm ready to entertain a motion.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me say one thing before you do a motion, just based on what Bill said yesterday. I would suggest that you include in your motion that any changes that happen in the predator management plan in the future automatically be incorporated into these deer unit plans so that we don't have deer unit plans that aren't lining up with the current predator management plan if there's changes coming in that; that way we just keep everything in sync.

Dave Black: Good idea. Okay, Dale.

Dale Bagley: I'll make the motion that we approve the deer management plans as presented with the exception we raise Monroe to 18 to 20 and we also include any changes to the predator management plans incorporate them into these deer management plans also.

Dave Black: Okay, and we have a second from Mike. Any discussion on the motion? All those, okay Brian.

Brian Johnson: Do we want to entertain the idea of shifting some of that 60-20-20 split to more primitive weapons?

Kevin Bunnell: Brian, that's already in plans for a couple of the units and we'll be addressing that with our recommendations coming forward.

Brian Johnson: Beautiful.

Dave Black: Okay, it looks like we're ready to vote. All those in favor? It looks unanimous.

Dale Bagley made the motion to approve the deer management plans as presented with the exception that the buck to doe objective on the Monroe be raised to 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does and to incorporate any changes to the predator management plans in the deer management plans.

Dave Black: Okay that was easy. We have one other item of business and we'll turn the time over to Kevin.

**Election of RAC Chairman and Vice Chairman
-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Okay the last agenda item is we need to have elections again for our RAC chair and vice chair. But before we get into we do have 4 members of the RAC, and I'm very pleased that all 4 of them are here tonight, they're going to be leaving. We've got Clair Woodbury; this will be his last RAC meeting. I appreciate the time that you spent Clair and the voice that you provided. Cordell, same applies to you. And you know the time that you guys have spent, I think you guys have both, this is 8 years? Nine. That's a lot of time to put into this. You know Mike, also we appreciate the time that you've spent. That's a long ways to travel to most of our RAC meetings from Delta. I think you probably have as far to travel as anybody. And Sam, I don't think anybody has put as much time and effort into this and studying and coming prepared to the meetings as you have and that's what makes this process work. And I appreciate the efforts that you gentlemen have made in making the process work. So thanks. So with that we will have some new RAC members that will join, that will come on starting July 1st and be at our August meeting, which is August 4th. So they'll be hot off the press with their, with the first meeting. I don't know who that is yet. We did have 17 people apply, which was fantastic. That gave me a lot of choices and a lot of opportunity, or a lot of ability to make good choices. And I've sent my recommendations up to the director's office and they'll be making decisions within the next couple of weeks I would assume. So back to the item at hand, we need to elect, hold an election for chair and vice chair. Dave is eligible to serve as the RAC chair again if you guys are, it that's your preference as well. We do need regardless of what happens with Dave, we do need to have a new vice chair because our current vice chair is Cordell and he's going to be leaving. So with that being said is there anybody, I'm open to nominations from the members of the RAC, first we'll fill for our chair.

Cordell Pearson: I nominate Dave.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, we have a nomination for Dave to continue as the RAC chair, and a second. Anybody want to make any comments on that? Is everybody in favor of that? Okay. Dave are you okay with that? Okay, so Dave will maintain for the next 2 years as the RAC chair.

Rusty Aiken: I nominate Mike Worthen for vice chair.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay we have a nomination for Mike Worthen. And seconded by Brian. Is there any other nominations for vice chair? Mike are you okay with that nomination? Okay. Any other nominations for vice chair? Okay this is going to be pretty easy then. Any objections? Let's just do it, do I have any objection to Mike being vice chair? Okay, as so. Our for the next 2 years Dave will continue as the chairman and Mike will be the vice chair and serve as to run the meetings if in any instances where, for 2 years, any instances where Dave can't be present. And I'll turn it back to you Mr. Chairman.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to elect Dave Black as Southern RAC chair. Motion seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Rusty Aiken made the motion to elect Mike Worthen as Southern RAC vice-chair. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business:

Dave Black: Okay, it looks like the next meeting will be on cougar hunt tables and permit numbers, bobcat permit numbers and fee proposals. And with that there's no other business so we call this meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23.