

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

April 29-30, 2015, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 1:00 p.m.**

Board Appeal – Brad Turner

**Thursday, April 30, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director   | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments<br>- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015<br>- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator and<br>- Regional Wildlife Manager  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015<br>- Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator and<br>- Regional Wildlife Manager  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations<br>- Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans<br>- Dustin Schaible, Bighorn Sheep Biologist<br><b>Uinta Mountains (Kamas, N. Slope, S. Slope)</b><br><b>Wasatch and Central Mountains (Lone Peak, Box Elder Peak, Mt. Timp, Provo Peak, Mt. Nebo)</b><br><b>Tushar Mountains (Beaver)</b><br><b>Cache/Ogden/East Canyon</b> | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. Other Business<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

**Wildlife Board Motions**

Following is a summary of Wildlife Board motions directing the Division to take action and the response to date:

**Fall 2016 - Target Date – Impacts of lead poisoning**

**MOTION: To add a provision into R657-19, Taking of Non-Game Mammals, for proper disposal of non-game mammals shot with lead ammunition as proposed by Derris Jones in the Southeast RAC and report back to the Board at a later time.**

Motion made by: Mike King  
Assigned to: Kim Hershey  
Action: Under Study  
Status:  
Placed on Action Log: March 5, 2015

**August 2105 – Target Date – Primitive Weapons**

**MOTION: I move that we put the following on the action log item to be presented at the August 2015 Wildlife Board: The Division will prepare an informational status review of allowable primitive and non-primitive weapons usages compared with other states. Additionally, the Division will prepare a review of evolving technologies in hunting weapons and related peripheral devises and optics. That review should include, but not be limited to, the use of crossbows of various categories of archery hunts, magnified optics on muzzleloading rifles, calibers of firearms allowed on rifle and pistol hunts, draw poundage and sighting devises on archery equipment, as well as the use of self firing rifles.**

Motion made by: Kirk Woodward  
Assigned to: Justin Shannon  
Action: Under Study  
Status: Informational item to be presented at the July RAC meeting  
Placed on Action Log: March 5, 2015

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

March 5, 2015, DNR, Boardroom  
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

## AGENDA

Thursday, March 5, 2015

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**  
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman
2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**  
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman
3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**  
– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair
4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**  
– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director
5. Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan **ACTION**  
- Kevin Bunnell, Southern Region Supervisor
6. R657-70 Taking Utah Prairie Dog – New Rule **ACTION**  
R657-19 Taking Nongame Mammals – Amendments  
R657-3 Collection, Importation, Transportation and Possession of Animals – Amendments  
- Kevin Bunnell, Southern Region Supervisor
7. Legislative Request of the Wildlife Board regarding primitive weapons **INFORMATION**  
- Robin Cahoon, Legislative Liaison
8. Other Business **CONTINGENT**  
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
March 5, 2015, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
**Summary of Motions**

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

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.**

2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as corrected.**

3) Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item: the Division will research the potential impact of lead poisoning on wildlife killed in the field (i.e., prairie dogs) as proposed by Derris Jones in the Southeast RAC and report back to the Board at a later time.**

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

4) R657-70 Taking Utah Prairie Dog, New Rule; R657-19 Taking Nongame Mammals – Amendments; R657-3 Collection, Importation, Transportation and Possession of Animals - Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve new rule R657-70, with the amendment to method of take, and rules R657-19 and R657-3 as presented by the Division.**

- 5) Legislative Request of the Wildlife Board regarding primitive weapons  
**(Information)**

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we put the following on the action log item to be presented at the August 2015 Wildlife Board: The Division will prepare an informational status review of allowable primitive and non-primitive weapons usages compared with other states. Additionally, the Division will prepare a review of evolving technologies in hunting weapons and related peripheral devises and optics. That review should include, but not be limited to, the use of crossbows of various categories of archery hunts, magnified optics on muzzleloading rifles, calibers of firearms allowed on rifle and pistol hunts, draw poundage and sighting devises on archery equipment, as well as the use of self firing rifles.**

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
March 5, 2015, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
[http://wildlife.utah.gov/public\\_meetings/board\\_minutes/audio/15-3-5.mp3](http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/15-3-5.mp3)

**Wildlife Board Members Present**

Jake Albrecht – Chair  
Greg Sheehan – Exec Sec  
Bill Fenimore – Vice Chair  
Mike King  
Calvin Crandall  
Kirk Woodward  
John Bair - Excused  
Steve Dalton

**Division Personnel Present**

Mike Fowlks	Bill Bates	Justin Dolling
Rory Reynolds	Kenny Johnson	Ben Nadolski
Mike Canning	Martin Bushman	Chris Keleher
Staci Coons	Dean Mitchell	Mitch Lane
Thu Vo-Wood	Rick Olson	Greg Hansen
Kevin Bunnell	Roger Wilson	Mark Hadley
Robin Cahoon	Judi Tutorow	Mike Styler
Justin Shannon	Lindy Varney	Adam Kavalunas
	Ashley Green	Jessica van Woert

**RAC Chairs Present**

Northeastern - Boyde Blackwell  
Southern – Dave Black  
Southeastern – Robert Edgel  
Central – Gary Nielsen  
Northern – John Cavitt

**Public Present**

Larry Crist, Fish & Wildlife Service	Robert Byrnes
Commissioner Miller, Iron County	Ken Strong, SFW
Commissioner Pollock, Garfield County	Allison Jones
Laura Romijn, US Forest Service	Brian Brenner
Brett Prettyman, SL Trib	Lisa Taylor
	King Smith

Chairman Albrecht welcomed the audience and introduced the Wildlife board and RAC Chairs.

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:58 – 00:03:19 of 02:13:48**

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.**

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:03:21 – 00:04:17 of 02:13:48**

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 6, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as corrected.**

- 3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) None.
- 4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:04:21 – 00:10:05 of 02:13:48**

Greg Sheehan mentioned the upcoming aquatics summit on March 19 in Central Region.

Big Game application period ends tonight at 11:00 p.m.

The Division is accepting nominations for the Wildlife Board. Nomination forms are available online.

Greg reassured the Board that DWR employees are able and capable of managing and addressing Utah prairie dog issues.

- 5) Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan (**Action**) **00:10:07 – 00:35:58 of 02:13:48**

Kevin Bunnell presented the Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan and transitioned into item 6 without breaking.

- 6) R657-70 Taking Utah Prairie Dog, New Rule; R657-19 Taking Nongame Mammals – Amendments; R657-3 Collection, Importation, Transportation and Possession of Animals - Amendments (**Action**) **00:35:58 – 02:05:31 of 02:13:48**

Kevin Bunnell presented the rule amendments relating to the take of Utah prairie dogs.

**Board Questions 00:39:38 – 00:51:32**

The Board asked for further explanation about the options for lethal removal, prairie dog counts, and trapping methods.

**Public Comments 00:51:33 – 00:59:31**

Chairman Albrecht changed the format of the meeting to allow the commissioners from Iron and Garfield Counties to make comments. Board questions continued afterward.

**Board/RAC Questions 00:59:32 – 01:06:02**

The Board asked for more details on the take of prairie dogs and survival rates after translocation. Cavitt asked what the impacts would be for moving the buffer zone.

**Public Questions 01:06:04 – 01:09:31**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**RAC Recommendation 01:10:35 – 01:13:02**

All RACs passed the management plan. Northern and Northeast RAC were unanimous. The other RACs had varying dissent.

All RACs passed the amendments. Northern and Northeast RAC were unanimous. Central RAC voted unanimously for R657-19 and R657-3. There was varying opposition in Southern and Southeast RAC.

**Public Comments 01:13:06 – 01:42:17**

Public comments were accepted at this time. Chairman Albrecht read the letter from the Humane Society into record.

Chairman Albrecht asked Martin Bushman to address methods of take. The board continued to discuss the Forest Service's request to change language in the new rule R657-70-14. Both parties agreed to the change.

**Board Discussion 01:42:19 – 02:05:31**

Chairman Albrecht reviewed the RAC votes. He asked the Division to address the Southeast's recommendation for proper disposal. Mike King expanded on the Southeast's recommendation and cautioned the Division on how to approach a resolution.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we put on the action log item: the Division will research the potential impact of lead poisoning on wildlife killed in the field (i.e., prairie dogs) as proposed by Derris Jones in the Southeast RAC and report back to the Board at a later time.**

1:52:26 Law enforcement issues were discussed as well as the education component of the plan and annual review process.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Utah Prairie Dog Management Plan as presented by the Division.**

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve new rule R657-70, with the amendment to method of take, and rules R657-19 and R657-3 as presented by the Division.**

7) Legislative Request of the Wildlife Board regarding primitive weapons  
**(Information) 02:06:04 – 02:13:48 of 02:13:48**

Robin Cahoon presented the legislative request to the Board. Greg Sheehan prepared a statement for the action log item.

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we put the following on the action log item to be presented at the August 2015 Wildlife Board: The Division will prepare an informational status review of allowable primitive and non-primitive weapons usages compared with other states. Additionally, the Division will prepare a review of evolving technologies in hunting weapons and related peripheral devices and optics. That review should include, but not be limited to, the use of crossbows of various categories of archery hunts, magnified optics on muzzleloading rifles, calibers of firearms allowed on rifle and pistol hunts, draw poundage and sighting devices on archery equipment, as well as the use of self firing rifles.**

Meeting adjourned.

**REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
**April 2015**

**CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN PERMITS RULE R657-41 AMENDMENTS**

NRO, CRO, NERO, SRO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Conservations and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

SERO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Conservation and Sportsmen Permit Rule R657--41 amendments as presented with the changing of the words "Annual Wildlife Exposition" to the "Western Hunting Wildlife Conservation Exposition" throughout the rule.

Motion By: Charlie Tracy, Amendment and Seconded By: Derris Jones

**VOTE:** Passed 5:4

**BUCKS, BULLS AND OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

NRO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

CRO -

**MOTION:** To keep the Wasatch bull elk permits for all seasons at the 2014 numbers

**VOTE:** Passed 8 to 2

**MOTION:** To accept the balance of the recommendations as presented

**VOTE:** Passed unanimously

SERO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls, OIAL Recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exception of keeping the number of permits on the Central Manti unit the same as 2014 and also decreasing the number of permits on the La Sal unit by 200 permits for a total of 1600 La Sal unit permits in 2015.

**VOTE:** Passed 9:1

NERO-

**MOTION** to approve the recommendations as the Division has proposed except:

-leave Vernon like it was last year

-Manti raise it only 100 not 500

-Beaver Unit, leave as was last year, don't raise

**VOTE:** passed 8-2, 1 abstention

SRO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exception of not increasing the general deer permits on the Vernon, Manti, Zion and Beaver units and to decrease the late Zion deer hunt permits to 3.

**AMENDMENT:** To lower the general deer permit numbers on the La Sal and South Slope Bonanza by 150 permits.

**VOTE:** Carries 6:2 (2 opposed)

**AMENDMENT:** To increase the Bison Hunter's choice permits on Henry Mtns. by 10.

**VOTE:** Carries 7:1 (one abstained)

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:** Unanimous

## **ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

NRO, CRO, NERO, SERO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

SRO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exceptions of increasing the antlerless elk permits on the Southwest Desert unit to 600 permits, increasing the antlerless elk permits for the Monroe/Mt Dutton/ Plateau multi unit hunt by 200 permits and if you draw a buck pronghorn permit for the Plateau hunt you can purchase a doe pronghorn permit for the same unit.

**VOTE:** Carries 6:2 (2 opposed)

## **2015 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

All Regions

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

**VOTE:** Unanimous

## **MOUNTAIN GOAT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLANS**

NRO, CRO, NERO, SRO -

**MOTION:** To accept the Mountain Goat unit management plans as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

April 7, 2015

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

**Summary of Motions**

**Meeting Begins: 6:03 p.m.**

**Approval of the Agenda and March 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Move to approve the agenda

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Move to approve the Minutes of March 3, 2015.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Bucks, Bulls and Once In A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans**

**Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans as presented.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion: Motion to adjourn.**

**Motion Passes:** Acclamation by RAC Chair

**Meeting Ends: 7:40 pm.**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

April 7, 2015

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Begins: 6:32 p.m.**

**RAC Present**

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

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Justin Dolling  
Randy Wood  
Darren Debloois  
Dave Rich  
Chad Wilson  
Scott Walker  
Jim Christensen  
Justin Shannon  
Dustin Schaible  
Scott McFarlane  
Dave Beveridge  
Chris Schulze

**Wildlife Board**

Bill Fenimore

**RAC Excused**

Bruce Sillitoe- BLM

**RAC Unexcused**

Joel Ferry- Agriculture  
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected

**Agenda:**

Approval of Agenda  
Approval of March 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes  
Wildlife Board Meeting Update  
Regional Update  
Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments  
Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015  
Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015  
2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations  
Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans:  
Uinta Mountains (Kamas, N. Slope, S. Slope) Wasatch and Central Mountains (Lone Peak, Box Elder Peak, Mt. Timp, Provo Peak, Mt. Nebo) Tushar Mountains (Beaver) Cache/Ogden/East Canyon

### **Item 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

Welcome: Robert Byrnes, Chair

Introduction of RAC Members

### **Item 2. Approval of Agenda and March 3, 2015 Minutes**

**Motion:** Paul Cowley- Move to approve the agenda.

**Second:** Jim Gaskill

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Move to approve the Minutes of March 3, 2015.

**Second:** Russ Lawrence

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

John Cavitt, Vice-Chair

Two action log items. Motion for prairie dog management plan is as follows: The division will research the potential impact of lead poisoning in the field as proposed by the southeast RAC and report back to the board at a later time. The other motion was that we put the following action log item to be presented at the August 2015 Wildlife Board. The division will prepare informational status review of allowable primitive and non-primitive usages compared with other states. The division will prepare a review of evolving technologies of hunting weapons and related peripheral devices and optics. The board also approved the management plan and the rules that we also approved at our RAC meeting.

Robert Byrnes- The action log item pertaining to the primitive and non-primitive weapons is in reaction to a request by a legislator. We are going to go back and look at those things again. There will be a review of those advances in technology.

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

Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Aquatics- Egg take on walleye at Willard Bay. Fishing is good for wipers and walleye. Trout good at Rockport, East Canyon and Echo. Cutler Reservoir is fishing well for catfish.

Wildlife- Finishing up spring deer classification. Sage Grouse and Sharptail Grouse Lek Counts. Pilot Urban Deer control rule. Next RAC will have revised rule to take that deer control effort statewide.

Outreach- Planning for fish with a cop day in Brigham City and other select cities along the Wasatch Front.

Providing wild aware information to the counties and cities. Hardware ranch turkey hunting seminar.

Habitat- Bull hog projects in West Box Elder. Spring weed season.

Law Enforcement- Trevor Doman will be transferring to Davis County. Youth hunter education challenge.

R.Jefre Hicks- Those two new Lek's in Chalk Creek, are those newly discovered. Or are they new Lek's?

Justin Dolling- To my knowledge, they are newly discovered. Is that correct?

Dave Rich- Yes.

Justin Dolling- Probably have been there but we just did not know about them.

Dave Rich- Aerial survey over East Canyon and ended up in Chalk Creek and found two new Lek's. We have never counted or have any evidence of birds being there before.

Robert Byrnes- Thank the council members who attended the aquatics informational.

### **RAC Procedure: Robert Byrnes**

### **Item 5. Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments**

Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator

See RAC Packet

## **RAC Questions**

Jim Gaskill- It is possible for someone that did not draw could get a permit. Wondering if you could explain how that works and what might be the considerations the conservation organization would use to award the permit if the original person were to withdraw or be unable to hunt?

Justin Shannon- I am not sure I understand the question. They can get a permit even if they did not draw?

Jim Gaskill- The situation would be that the person who drew could award that permit to someone else or if that person who drew was unable to hunt for whatever reason, then the organization could give that permit to someone else?

Justin Shannon- I don't know.

Jim Gaskill- It has been there but I wanted clarification.

Justin Shannon- I don't have a good answer for you.

Robert Byrnes- Are you confusing the conservation permit with the public drawing permit?

Jim Gaskill- No.

Robert Byrnes- The drawing permits are only for the public and that is administered by the division.

Jim Gaskill- No, I am talking about the conservation permits, not the permit that is drawn. It is pretty plain that if say SFW were running it then the person who got the tag could not use it, they could give it to someone else. It does not have much specifications in the language as to how they would choose the person to get the tag.

Robert Byrnes- It does not state specifically who could get the tag but there is a lot of information there about how that is done right?

Jim Gaskill- The rules are outlined that they have to have a license to be eligible. Other than that, there is nothing saying whether they will have another auction or drawing or anything like that. We can meet afterwards.

Bryce Thurgood- I think it has a lot to do with the other conservation permits. If someone buys one and can't use it, they can turn around and sell it for the same price. They cannot make a profit on it. Or, they can give it to someone.

Jim Gaskill- Right. There is another stipulation for the organization to do that. Somehow, I missed last time.

Justin Shannon- I apologize that I am not prepared to discuss that.

Jim Gaskill- No Problem.

Bryce Thurgood- Are you ramping up to try and sell two? Why are you changing it from one deer to multiple deer and sheep?

Justin Shannon- Right now, we have one that is a public draw and one that is a conservation permit.

Bryce Thurgood- Yes.

Justin Shannon- If we ever decided to expand, we want the rule to provide sideboards for that to be done. Right now, the answer is no, not for next year.

John Cavitt- How does the revenue partition between state parks and DWR?

Justin Shannon- Right now, when a permit is sold, 90% comes right back to the Division of Wildlife. That is given to Antelope Island State Park. It is going to discuss the transfer of that money and how it can be improved upon if it can be. It does not go directly to state parks.

John Cavitt- In the MOU, it will describe the ways in which the park can use those funds? Will it be that specific?

Justin Shannon- I think we already have sideboards for that. It has to be for the species the permit is valid for.

Jim Gaskill- Is there anticipation that the division will get some of that money instead of giving it all to Antelope Island?

Justin Shannon- I don't know if anticipation is the right word. Right now, we give it to Antelope Island State Park. We work so closely together, especially on transplants and habitat.

Bryce Thurgood- Does the division have a biologist assigned to Antelope Island?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

Bryce Thurgood- Who is it?

Justin Shannon- Chad.

Bryce Thurgood- This rule makes it kind of open that you guys could possibly have another permit as soon as next year. Is the quality supporting multiple permits right now? You see what the prices have been bringing. Every year, the score is going down. I see them ruining it by issuing multiple permits.

Justin Shannon- How many permits, in any given unit, will support is really a social thing. We are harvesting males and buck to doe ratio there is fine. It just depends socially what level of quality we want out there. It can certainly support it but the question we should discuss is if we want more.

Robert Byrnes- Will we negotiate permit numbers between the division and parks?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- But they are approved by the Wildlife Board in the MOU's.

Justin Shannon- Correct. That is why we are doing this to better define those roles. We are trying to get a line between what we are going and what state parks are doing.

Robert Byrnes- Will the MOU come back through the RAC process?

Justin Shannon- It is my understanding that it will go to the Wildlife Board. I think we are leaning towards taking it through the RAC process as well.

Robert Byrnes- There has been a lot of interest in the past and obviously some on our council now.

Justin Shannon- Whether the MOU goes through this process or not, season dates and permit numbers will always go through the RAC process.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Conservation and Sports Permits Rule R657-41 amendments as presented.

**Second:** John Wall

Gaskill- It was not my original intent but I will go with it.

Byrnes- That is the agenda item.

Gaskill- We don't always approve the whole item. I will go along with it, it is ok.

Byrnes- There are a few other things in there. Some housekeeping changes that are not related to Antelope Island.

Gaskill- That's ok, I will go with it. As long as the second will go with it.

Byrnes- I believe he would.

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 6. Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015**

Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager

See RAC Packet

### **RAC Questions**

Jim Gaskill- What is the maximum deer tag allotment that we could have?

Justin Shannon- 97,000.

Jim Gaskill- So we are 10,000 below?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

Jim Gaskill- It does not seem like we are following the buck to doe ratio very closely. I am wondering if those are just guidelines?

Justin Shannon- They are more than guidelines. The plan says if you are exceeding, you should increase. If you are below, you should decrease. The statewide deer plan says to take trend into account. If you are above but have been trending down, you can stay tight and not be so reactive from year to year. Some units are dominated by private lands. Even though there is opportunity to increase permits, because of the limited access and amount of public land available for hunters, it is kind of an artificial cap.

Jim Gaskill- I noted Box Elder, for example, where you are considerably off on what appears to be an opportunity to increase hunter opportunities because of the large disparity between the objective and the buck to doe ratio and so forth. I am just wondering if that is an example?

Justin Shannon- The Box Elder had a pretty good cut in permits last year. With that, our three year average is at 15. It was just a recommendation to stay stable and give it another year to see where it goes.

Jim Christensen- For the trend out in Box Elder unit, when we went to the subunit structure we had permits higher than we probably should have. We were at 20 bucks per 100 doe. Within a two year period, we dropped all the way down on a single year buck to doe ratio to 13 buck per 100 doe. We cut permits for two years in a row. Just last year, we started to trend back up. That is why we are leaving permits the same. We want to see if it will continue to rise or if it is going to stay steady or what is going to happen.

Russ Lawrence- There are 3 units showing a decreasing trend in buck to doe ratios. But permits were increased. What was the thinking there?

Justin Shannon- If you are managing for 18-20 buck per 100 doe and you went from 24 buck per 100 doe down to 22, we are still far exceeding the 18-20 sideboards. In some of those instances, we still recommended an increase. Unless you want to talk specific units. That was kind of the idea behind that.

Russ Lawrence- The Pahvant is 20 right now. That is the high end of the objective.

Justin Shannon- The Fillmore Pahvant, in 2012 they were at 16 buck per 100 doe, then to 24 and then to 20. We talked to the biologist in that area and he said the deer are in really good shape. Survival has been good. He feels like he can provide more opportunity. It is a pretty minor increase.

Robert Byrnes- Back to the 3 units under objective on the three year average, you talked about if they have an increase in trend they are ok. That gets it down to the La Sal mountains. It is under objective and is decreasing but you are keeping permits the same.

Justin Shannon- We did and the reason is that it is a really hard unit to classify. A lot of our traditional units, you will have deer that congregate on a winter range and with that you can get good classification counts. With that, they kind of trickle from the high elevation to low. You will notice on the La Sals, over the last 10 years, there is a lot of variance.

Craig VanTassell- On the OIAL for mountain goat on Chalk Creek Kamas unit last year there were 5 resident tags and this year there is 4 resident and 1 non-resident. I am wondering why that changed?

Justin Shannon- Which unit again?

Craig VanTassell- 6804.

Justin Shannon- In the past, if we have 5 permits or more, we try and offer non-resident. For OIAL you get caught in this 5-9 range. If on every unit, we wait until we hit 10 permits to issue non-resident, statewide, our ratio would be out of wack.

John Blazzard- The objective is still 9 to 1 basically?

Justin Shannon- Yes, we try to provide non-residents 10% of all the permits. We don't always get there because it is a lot of rounding on small units like this. It is just trying to compensate and provide opportunity where we can.

John Blazzard- On the late season muzzleloader deer hunts, that is the justification for having 4 resident permits and one non-resident?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

John Blazzard- Is that mandated by legislature that we provide those non-resident permits?

Justin Shannon- No, there is nothing. It is more of a culture to say 90% resident and 10% non-resident. It is something we strive for. Some states are a lot more liberal.

John Blazzard- It seems to me that when there is only 4-5 tags, it would increase the odds for residents to be able to have one more available.

Justin Shannon- It is a social issue. This year, we have to provide a non-resident because when we set the hunts, we allowed non-residents to apply. In November, if you are seeing hunts like this that do not warrant a non-resident, we can talk about it. We are just trying to find that balance.

Robert Byrnes- When permits are decreasing, sometimes you are trapped into a position.

Justin Shannon- Correct.

Robert Byrnes- It is going to balance out when you get above 5 or when you get above 10, they are not going to pick up another tag until you get to 15 basically?

Justin Shannon- Yes. On the Ogden/Willard Peak. In November, we took that non-resident tag away. Now that we are issuing 8 public draw permits, a non-resident does not get one. These units are so small with so few permits.

Paul Cowley- I am struggling as I look at that 3 year average and then looking at the increase or decrease. As I look at Fillmore, we have an objective of 18-20 buck per doe and then the 3 year average is 22 and yet we are not recommending an increase there. We are saying that ratio is increasing.

Justin Shannon- Correct.

Paul Cowley- I am struggling with that. When we look at the Cache, we have the 3 year average, although increasing it is having lows similar to Box Elder and then a high year. The three year average puts us on track and yet we are increasing permits. It seems to be inconsistent.

Justin Shannon- Every unit is unique. If you look at the Fillmore Oak Creek, part of that unit is general season. The other part is limited entry. It is really complicated. If you look at the limited entry side, their buck to doe ratio is 23. That warrants a decrease in limited entry permits. On that unit, because we are classifying the same deer, we recognize it is over on general season.

Paul Cowley- It is a mixed objective.

Justin Shannon- We are addressing that with that unit plan. It causes confusion as to why we are not recommending permits when we should.

## **RAC Comment**

Robert Byrnes- In your future presentations, on the elk permits and age trends, I really like that I can see four years of what the permits were. I can relate the permit numbers back to the effect it has had on changes.

Sometimes, it effects the age trend right?

Justin Shannon- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- On your deer, you only have one year. You have two years. You have your recommended and your 2014 permits.

Justin Shannon- I see.

Robert Byrnes- Without going in and looking through a bunch of reports, I can't find what the previous permit numbers were and if changes had an effect on the bucks per 100 doe. Maybe in your future presentation, you would want to put it in there if you can squeeze it in.

Justin Shannon- That is good feedback. I am flooding you with data.

Robert Byrnes- If it actually worked. If the change in permits affected your age objective. Here we are talking about bucks per 100 doe. We would hope the change in permit numbers would affect that also.

Justin Shannon- That is a good suggestion.

Jim Gaskill- In those situations where you appear to be not right on with your buck to doe ratios and your decrease and increase in tags that perhaps you could put a note by those saying mostly private land or just a few words. I realize that is a little bit of a hassle. It might avoid us railing on you a little bit in the end. I think that we should not hesitate to get up to that 97,000 number. Hunter opportunity is a major factor and we are assured every year that killing bucks is not really hurting the population. If we have a lot of bucks, we should have a lot of hunters. Whenever there is a question of an increase or not, we should if we are within guidelines.

Bryce Thurgood- Have done a fabulous job.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** Paul Cowley- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Bucks, Bulls and Once In A Lifetime Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**Second:** John Cavitt

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

## **Item 7. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015**

Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator and Regional Wildlife Manager

See RAC Packet

## **RAC Questions**

Jim Gaskill- I noticed on the La Sal that you are a couple hundred elk under objective but did not reduce the number of tags. Just wondered why?

Justin Shannon- That population has been pretty stable. The reality with 210 permits and the limited harvest with CWMU and agriculture there, with that recommendation, that population should grow. With that recommendation it is not intended to keep it stable or hold back.

John Cavitt- Historically, how far back would we have to go before we would see Utah deer populations at what our current objective is of 425,000? To see where conditions would have been favorable for that many deer.

Justin Shannon- Mid 80's would be my guess. It is hard to estimate that far back. You can look at harvest and some of that stuff but that would be my best guess.

John Blazzard- I would like to follow up more on the difference between the objective population and where we are at. For instance, the Wasatch, we dropped from 1,150 tags down to 150 and yet our population of elk has not changed. We are still over objective.

Justin Shannon- Correct.

John Blazzard- The whole purpose for the cow elk tag harvest was to get us down to those objectives we were trying to get to. I know there has been a lot of public outcry about us killing all the elk. They are still there because we counted and still saw them.

Justin Shannon- The Wasatch is an interesting one because we are over objective. As we issued more permits in the past, a lot of the increases you saw where we were climbing on public draw permits, were going to these units. The challenge was we were growing elk on private land and losing them on public lands. Our public land hunters were getting frustrated. The antlerless elk control permits went to the Wasatch. The harvest was comparable to last year if not even a little better. If we added more hunters, we could hurt our chances to kill elk. Sometimes you can kill more elk with less people. If you are scaring them onto private lands, our public have a hard time harvesting.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** Russ Lawrence- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**Second:** Bryce Thurgood

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

## **Item 8. 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**

Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

See RAC Packet

## **RAC Questions**

R. Jefre Hicks- Why are pronghorn set at 60/40 public split and the deer and elk can go up to 90/10 if they wanted.

Scott McFarlane- When we originally set up the program, and I think it is mainly because of low numbers, it was set up as the posted hunting unit program. When they set those permit splits, it was agreed by the committees and everyone was involved.

R. Jefre Hicks- Is it going to be like that forever?

Scott McFarlane- It does not have to be but currently is staying on that trend.

Craig VanTassell- You mentioned that during the three year with the CWMU, they can request a change during that time. Can the DWR also request a change?

Scott McFarlane- That is correct. As populations change and sometimes management objectives change within the units. We do have the ability to adjust that up and down as populations change. It can come from the CWMU by request or by the division.

## **RAC Comment**

Robert Byrnes- Commend you for having 100% agreement on permit numbers and season dates.

Scott McFarlane- We will have to commend the biologists for that. They set all the numbers.

Robert Byrnes- It seems to be working fairly well right now.

Scott McFarlane- I think the system is working very well right now.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** John Blazzard- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

**Second:** John Wall

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

## **Item 9. Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans**

**Uinta Mountains (Kamas, N. Slope, S. Slope) Wasatch and Central Mountains (Lone Peak, Box Elder Peak, Mt. Timp, Provo Peak, Mt. Nebo) Tushar Mountains(Beaver) Cache/Ogden/East Canyon**

Dustin Schaible, Bighorn Sheep Biologist

See RAC Packet

## **RAC Questions**

John Wall- On the goats that are dispersing on their own, are you finding this out with your biologists or are general public letting you know about this?

Dustin Schaible- It is a combination of both.

Kristin Purdy- While we would like to increase non-consumptive viewer opportunities and more watchable wildlife events, are there any actions in the works to do any of those things?

Dustin Schaible- We do have plans to go find an area on the Mt. Dutton. In terms of watchable wildlife, we are in year 2 of a brand new one on the Uintah's. There is certainly room for more expansion. Those are the most recent.

Paul Cowley- Wondering if you could review what efforts are being made to maintain wilderness characteristics in areas where mountain goats are expanding into wilderness. As we increase the population number up around Willard Peak because of natural expansion, what are some of the actions the division is working on with the forest service to maintain the wilderness characteristics.

Dustin Schaible- As it pertains to mountain goats, we do not have a plan for transplants into the wilderness. I am not sure what you are trying to address.

Paul Cowley- Part of the joint responsibility we have under the wilderness act is to maintain wilderness characteristics. The state is responsible for part of that along with the forest. As we see the expansion of mountain goats into these areas, is there any concern with that?

Dustin Schaible- We don't have any intention at this time to transplant into the wilderness. If they get their on their own, that is partly what this management plan is for.

Paul Cowley- They actually increase the harvest to pull some of those out.

Dustin Schaible- It would provide opportunity to have hunts.

Paul Cowley- Okay. Thank you.

Robert Byrnes- Do you have an estimate of the current population on the new Cache/Ogden/East Canyon proposed unit. What the current population would be.

Dustin Schaible- We have some numbers. I will ask Darren to speak on that.

Darren Debloois- We are probably at about 300 in the area from roughly just south of Weber Canyon to Idaho and then including some small number in the Cache area. We have reports of goats and photos of goats over there. On the last survey, we did not encounter any goats over there. The bulk of population is from Willard,

handful on Wellsville. They are mostly expanding south from Willard to between North Ogden pass to Ogden Canyon and again from Ogden Peak and south of Weber Canyon.

Robert Byrnes- So the best estimate is 300?

Darren Debloois- Yes, somewhere in there.

Craig VanTassell- When the transplant occurred on the La Sal it was a bit controversial. Curious to see how that went and how many animals are there. What has the impact been?

Dustin Schaible- We started at 20, I believe we lost 4. One fell off a ledge, 2 were unknown, one was capture related. Of those, they watched them for a year and they documented 2 kids being born. We brought in another 15 last year and one died from capture related. The other 14 are still there. Immediately, the response was that several goats dispersed. Some went to the desert but did eventually come back to the La Sal. We are currently monitoring that and working with the forest on vegetation monitoring plan.

### **Public Comment**

Travis Hobbs- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Support the divisions proposals.

Steve Sorensen- Support the divisions transplants of goats.

Jeff Nielson- Safari Club International- Support the division and proposed management of mountain goats as well as the expansion of the Willard unit.

### **RAC Comment**

Paul Cowley- Appreciate the opportunity, as the forest service, to work with the division.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** John Wall- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans as presented.

**Second:** Jon Leonard

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

Robert Byrnes- Several of us will be going off the RAC after next meeting. There will be an election at the end of the May meeting. I will be off, Jon Leonard, Jim Gaskill, Jefre Hicks, Paul Cowley and Lynn Nielson. Those of you who are interested in running for chair and vice chair should exchange emails with the RAC. If you send it to me and ask me to forward to everyone, I will. It would be good to know who wants to be chair and vice chair before the election.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion:** Jim Gaskill- Motion to adjourn.

**Motion Passes:** Acclamation by RAC Chair

**Meeting Ends: 7:40 p.m.**

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Civic Center  
110 S. Main Street, Springville  
April 8, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

## **Motion Summary**

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

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

### **Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule R657-41 amendments**

MOTION: To accept the rule amendments as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015**

MOTION: To keep the Wasatch bull elk permits for all seasons at the 2014 numbers  
Passed 8 to 2

MOTION: To keep the West Desert, Vernon limited entry deer permits at 2014 levels for all the hunts  
Failed 3 to 7

MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015**

MOTION: To accept as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations**

MOTION: To accept as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans**

MOTION: To accept as presented  
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Civic Center  
110 S. Main Street, Springville  
April 8, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Matt Clark, Sportsmen  
Timothy Fehr, At Large  
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture  
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service  
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair  
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen  
George Holmes, Agriculture  
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair  
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive  
Jay Price, Elected  
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive

**Members Absent**

Michael Gates, BLM, excused  
Kristofer Marble, At large

**Others Present**

John Bair, Wildlife Board Member

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

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

2) **Approval of 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 Karl Hirst

Motion passed unanimously

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

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

4) **Regional Update (Information)**

- Ron Nielsen, Support Services Coordinator

**Aquatics**

- Native Aquatic program - starting Columbia spotted frog surveys
- June sucker program - Utah Lake northern pike needed for USU bioenergetics study (30 taken so far)
- Sportfish program
  - Gillnetting first week in May for Deer Creek and Jordanelle reservoirs
  - Proposed regulation changes for 2015
    - Remove special regulations for The Ladders at Strawberry
    - Retain special regulations for the Utah Lake tributaries
  - Priority planning efforts for 2015
    - Utah Lake monitoring plan
    - Jordanelle fishery management plan

- Jordanelle online angler survey completed
- Working group to convene by April 30

#### 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
- Held several meetings with stakeholders to discuss potential changes to Wasatch Elk Unit Management Plan
- Sage-grouse lek counts underway (Sheeprock Mtns. and Strawberry)
  - Contact Dale Liechty to attend lek counts at Strawberry
  - Contact Tom Becker to participate in counts at Sheeprocks
- Aerial survey completed to search for additional sage-grouse leks in Strawberry Valley
- Worked on recommendations for big game permits
- Winter deer condition monitoring program ended early this year, deer in good shape, high fawn survival expected

#### Habitat

- Bid closing for Anaconda Fire weed spraying project
- 1100-acre lop and scatter project in Vernon scheduled for this spring
- Meeting held on April 7 with conservation organizations to allocate conservation permit funding
- Weed spraying crew starting early this year, will begin at Utah Lake access locations

#### Conservation Outreach

- Turkey clinic at Cabela's was well attended (130+)
- First session of Utah Lake school field trips scheduled for April 29-30
- Community Fishing Program - Tonya busy training fishing clinic instructors

#### Law Enforcement

- Will explore the need for AIS/exotic species enforcement in the pet fish and reptile trade in 2015
- Enforcement of WMA access management plans paying off in Sanpete County
- Checking late-night walleye anglers at mouth of Spanish Fork River (1 over 24" regulation)
- Coordinating with Parks and Recreation on law enforcement needs at Deer Creek (AIS)

#### **5) Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule R657-41amendments (Action) - Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

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

Richard Hansen – Are the groups that currently run the convention 501c3 organizations?

Justin Shannon – Yes every organization we have in the conservation permit program is a 501c3 organization.

Matt Clark – How involved is parks in this process up to this point?

Justin Shannon – They have been involved. This doesn't change much from what we have done in the past other than it clarifies how we do it. Generally what we do is we meet with Antelope Island and talk about the season dates and number of permits which hasn't changed, one general draw and one conservation permit, since the inception of this program. The biggest thing is it gives some guidance to both of our boards. It spells out which board is responsible for setting

permits and season dates. In the past there was confusion so both boards were trying to set season dates and this will help alleviate some of that.

Gary Nielsen – On Antelope Island do we ever anticipate seeing an increase in tag numbers?

Justin Shannon – Potentially, this rule would allow for it. Essentially it says if we go down that road that DWR and State Parks would jointly agree to that and take it to our respective boards. I don't see anything in the near future but it is possible.

Richard Hansen – Have you ever considered doing a management tag for Antelope Island?

Justin Shannon – No, but that doesn't mean it's off the table but to my knowledge we haven't had those discussions. There are so few permits that I think we have just allowed the hunters to take what is there.

Richard Hansen – I have been out there and there are some big three point bucks out there that die of old age.

### **Comments from the Public**

Jon Larson – SFW – We would like to accept the Division's plan as presented.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Richard Hansen to accept the rule amendments as presented**

**Seconded by George Holmes**

**In favor: All**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

### **6) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015 (Action)**

**- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Jacob Steele – I would like to speak on behalf of our tribe. When they do make a new elk management plan I know the age class is 5 to 6 year old bull now on the Deep Creek and we manage our bulls to 8 to 9 year old bulls. We focus on nothing but trophy hunting. In that regard if the state is managing for a lower class of bulls we aren't balancing out the system when we are trying to focus on an older age when the state is doing a lower age class. That is just a recommendation sometime when they start doing a new management plan we would like to bring it back up to 8 to 9 year old.

Gary Nielsen – Is there a question for Justin.

Jacob Steele – It's just a recommendation. I didn't know when to bring it up.

Gary Nielsen – It is here in just a few minutes. I'll make sure I call on you.

Larry Fitzgerald – Are there any units the Division manages to an 8 to 9 year old bull?

Justin Shannon – No, our highest is 7.5 to 8 year old units. This unit is certainly one we can have a discussion on when we do our statewide elk plan which will be this summer. We are going to discuss all of these units and see where the best fit for these age objectives are going to be. That is certainly a conversation we can have.

George Holmes – In your opinion is there much difference between a 7.5 to 8 and an 8 to 9 year old bull other than a year?

Justin Shannon – For every age you increase you have to cut a lot of permits to get there. You have to limit that opportunity. The further you get from zero the more opportunity

you have to cut to get there. We can have the conversation. I don't know if an 8 to 9 year old bull would fit in our management plan but we can take a hard look at that unit.

Larry Fitzgerald – So to clarify that, if you raise that objective to an 8 to 9 you would lower the number of permits and would make it even harder to draw than it is right now?  
Justin Shannon – Essentially, yes.

Karl Hirst – A couple questions on some specific deer units. You have some that are under the three year average but we are recommending more tags, specifically the Beaver and Cache. Then you have nine mile which is quite a bit above but we are not recommending an increase.

Justin Shannon – Those are good questions. One thing we do with this new statewide plan, part of the change we made is to look at trend. One reason we did that is we had a unit last year where it went from 20 bucks per 100 does to 16 down to 11 but the three year average was still within the 15 to 17 guidelines. We just wanted to be more realistic. Anybody can see that trend and we want to get out ahead of it and cut permits. On the Beaver this is an interesting one because a few years ago we were at 3,500 permits then we went down to 3,150 and down to 3,000 and the population has really responded. Our buck to doe ratio has been increasing every year since then but you are right it is at the lower end. We were just trying to take trend into account on that one. The Nine Mile unit is heavily dominated by private lands and access is a real issue. On some of these units you could issue more permits but I'm not convinced you would harvest more deer. You may just frustrate the many hunters that are found on that limited public land. That is the reason for no increase there. What was the other unit?

Karl Hirst – I think that is all of them. I think we all got an email on the Stansbury bighorn sheep unit recommendation to go from three to four tags. Can you talk rams and classes on that unit?

Tom Becker – We have some conflicts with the data that they have on the s drive in Salt Lake and what I have on my flight data from a couple years ago. Two years ago if you added the class three and four together I have 10 instead of 18. The last two years we have had three permits and we have killed six class fours out of those. We have had a little bit of a disease issue and I know I lost at least one eight year old in that so I am a little concerned about putting too many permits. We were supposed to fly this year but the weather didn't cooperate and we didn't get it done. We are on the schedule for next year. I wish we would stay where we are at until we get a flight.

Matt Clark – Can you explain the reason for the dramatic increase in the youth any bull elk hunts?

Justin Shannon – That is a good question. We are gearing up to redo the statewide elk plan this summer and as I was reading the strategies looking at what it was that we would be up against with this plan there was a strategy in there that said for the Division to provide more youth hunting opportunities. As we got looking at the number of permits we are issuing for the youth on this particular hunt we have close to 5,000 youth that are applying and are only issuing 300 permits. As we talked it over with the regions, especially the northeastern region where the bulk of these youth hunters go they said we have so much opportunity that we could increase this and do a better job at providing that and the other regions felt the same way. That is all it is, just a chance to give the youth a little more opportunity.

Matt Clark – Do you know what the success rate of that hunt is?

Justin Shannon – Off the top of my head I want to say it is around 30 to 40 percent. I could pull that up.

### **Questions from the Public**

Roy Hampton – I have some questions on your elk numbers. There are five units that I noticed are over age objective with no increase. Then you look at the Wasatch which is over also but you increased 57 tags. In my opinion you are picking on the Wasatch and I want to know why?

Justin Shannon – It's very personal... If you look at these age objectives what we have is for the most part most of these units are either at or slightly over. We are talking 6.1 versus a 6.7. The thing with the Wasatch is we keep throwing more permits at it and the average age continues to increase and we are drastically over on the Wasatch. The reason for no increases on the West Desert like we were just talking about, there is limited access and different strategies going on. On Box Elder, Pilot there are so few elk there that we did an increase of two, one is a landowner association permit so it is not reflected. We are trying. In areas where we feel like we are there or slightly above we can take a less aggressive approach. We have done pretty good increases on these areas. I think last year we did a similar increase.

Roy Hampton – Wasatch went up 50 tags last year and the reason why is two years ago we didn't have a late hunt and it was at 6.3, almost right at objective to where it would have leveled off and we would have quit increasing. We put a late hunt on there and it has gone up every year. If you look at that it has gone from 6.3 to 6.9 to 6.8 and averages out at 6.7. That is exactly why it went up. We were at 600 bulls then and now we are going to be over 700 bulls.

Justin Shannon – I guess if those trends were going the other way, if we were seeing declines we would feel like we could back off and be patient like these other ones but if we are that far over and we have such limited opportunities to hunt elk in the state, we are only issuing 3,000 limited entry elk tags then I think we ought to identify the areas where we can provide more opportunity and do it. That is all it is.

George Holmes – What is the success rate on the Wasatch?

Justin Shannon – We will find out, let us look.

Kent Hersey – Archery is 35, rifle is 85 and muzzleloader...

George Holmes – How many permits were issued and how many were harvested total? I think that tells a better answer.

Justin Shannon – Let us do some digging and we will report back.

Casey Sorensen – As the age of the animal gets older how many tags do you issue to knock it down? Obviously the younger age needs more permits. I was just wondering what it would take to get up to 8 or 9 like he mentioned earlier. How many tags would you have to cut to allow that age to increase?

Justin Shannon – We have to look at those on a unit by unit level because the success rates are different for each one and the number of permits as well. For some units that are larger you might have a different ratio than a unit that is smaller. I guess the best way to answer that is similar to what you said. If you are trying to get to a 7.5 to 8 year old bull your cuts have to be quite a bit more than if you are going from a 4.5 to 5 and a half year old bull. It is hard to tell you exactly what that is for each unit but its more. One reason is because if you have 94 percent survival rate on elk that has a chance to die naturally year after year after year whereas if you are at a 4.5 to 5 year old elk the chances of dying aren't as great. The longer lived you are that stuff has to come into account as well.

Kent Hersey – It's a function of you have to kill less bulls per age class as you go up and you also increase percent success. So it is a function of those two things working together. On average you would see about two-thirds of the permits being issued for every one year age class you go

up. So if you issue 100 tags for a 6 to 7 unit then for a 7 to 8 year old unit you would be down to about 67 tags.

### **Comments from the Public**

Roy Hampton – I would be opposed to increasing the tags on Wasatch and leaving it at 703.

Ben Lowder – UBA – We support the Division’s proposals as presented with two exceptions. Those exceptions are on the limited entry Vernon deer unit we would like to see those tags stay at 2014 numbers. The reason for that is we are still within the buck to doe ratio objective and would like to see those tags remain the same until we reach the top end of that objective. Also on the Beaver general deer unit, same thing, we would like to see those permits stay as 2014 for the same reason. Both the 2014 counts and the three year average are still within that objective.

Dave Woodhouse – I would ask that we keep the Wasatch bull tags at the same number as last year. We did this same approach with the Manti a year ago when they asked for an increase we kept it the same at it seems to look okay on the age class. We would like to see that on the Wasatch because we are going to talk about antlerless elk tags next and there is part of the Wasatch that we are going to be addressing that needs some help. Like they said with the late tags it has bumped up the age class because it is a lot easier on the Wasatch to find those elk at that time and to find the best bulls which happen to be the older ones. I would also recommend that we keep the Vernon at the same tag numbers with no increase on that unit because it is just now starting to come around and have a little bit of an increase. I haven’t talked to anybody that has been hunting it that has really seen much of an increase that is blown away as far as the buck numbers go so I would recommend that we keep its where it’s at.

Jon Larson - SFW – We accept the Division’s plan with the following recommendation that on the Vernon, Southwest Desert unit, Manti unit, Zion unit and Beaver unit general season that the buck deer permits stay the same as 2014 for the very reasons that Dave Woodhouse just mentioned. We feel like they are just coming in now and I think they need more of a chance.

### **RAC Discussion**

Justin Shannon – Quick update. It is about 38 percent on the youth any bull hunt. The question on the Wasatch, we harvested 448 bulls out of 670 hunters that actually went.

George Holmes – So there were 703 permits and 50 of them basically didn’t go.

Justin Shannon – Yes, and that happens on a lot of our hunts.

? – Is that your lowest success rate for limited entry elk?

Justin Shannon – No, I think our 4.5 to 5 year old units have the lowest success rates.

Gary Nielsen – I know you mentioned earlier the reason you did increase those was because of your trend data. You had turned the corner and it was on its way back up. Does it seem like its increased enough to suggest increasing permits?

Justin Shannon – Certainly on the Central Mountains, Manti when you look at that unit when we went unit by unit in 2012 we ended up cutting over 2,000 permits on that unit and the San Rafael unit as a whole and one reason we did is because we said we know our buck to doe ratio is low, let’s build it and when we get it back we can recommend these increases. This last year on the Manti the buck to doe ratio was close to 23 and the three year average is 19. We did those big cuts to get that increased buck to doe ratio and now that is certainly one we can provide a lot more opportunity. The Beaver and Vernon, they are right, they are within the sideboards of the plan so if those aren’t increased it’s not like those are outside and really make a strong case. We were just looking at trend on those. What was the other unit? Zion, that unit the three year average is 23/24 bucks per 100 does and we have done slow increases every year on those permits by about 100 and that buck to doe ratio is still really high.

Karl Hirst – Can you speak to the Vernon deer on that? The buck to doe ratio is right at the bottom but we are recommending additional permits.

Justin Shannon – I want to pull this up. You are right, for two years we were under on that buck to doe average. There are some things with that. The timing of classification, if you don't get there before those deer migrate you still get a classification it just may not be a true representation of that buck to doe ratio. This year the biologist felt really good about that classification and the fawn production survival that we are seeing out there is really good so we feel like we are at the upper level even though our three year average is only 25. Right now we are at 33 and we feel like that is pretty good.

Tom Becker – Essentially a lot of that is based on what has happened. We look at the success rates and stuff like that but when I look at fawn survival four years ago which is basically what we are trying to harvest now which is a four year old buck we did see a dip in the survival rate. It was about 44 percent and that is the radio collared deer we have on the neighboring unit, the Oquirrh Stansbury that year. We have since increased the fawn survival. It has gone up this we should be seeing 93 percent and 77 and 78 for the last few years so we should be on the increase as far as buck numbers. We did see a dip this year, it is the only time we have ever seen it, and we lost almost an entire year in the harvest. We were harvesting a four to four and a half year old on average and we did drop to a three to three and a half year old. But when you start looking at what happened four years ago it kind of explains a little bit of that. Nothing has really changed a lot when you look at the hunter's success. The only one that shows any difference is the archery. Last year it was 55 percent and this year it was 37. But the muzzleloader was 56 last year and it is 61 this year. The any weapon was 83 last year and it is 84 this year. The model shows that the population is increasing. I thought it was a modest increase of ten permits. I didn't think it was going to be a big deal.

Larry Fitzgerald – Haven't we reduced these permits over the years?

Tom Becker – We have reduced permits over the years and that was a response to the buck to doe ratios.

Larry Fitzgerald – Like you said the last few years the buck to doe ratios have been growing.

Tom Becker – We are rebounding and so I think we have seen our low and are on our way back.

Larry Fitzgerald – Are you trying to get the numbers back up to where we were at?

Tom Becker – I actually don't think with the additional ten permits we are going to see any change in the actual total harvest.

Larry Fitzgerald – When you talk about the low success on archery you have to take into the consideration the weather and what type of weather we had last year.

Tom Becker – It could have been anything. It could have been weather; it could have been Wal-Mart hunters, who knows. It's one of those things that is second guessing and we don't usually try to do that. We go with the numbers. That was the only part that had any change was the archery hunt, I don't know why. The other ones stayed right where they have been the last few years.

Larry Fitzgerald – Have you ever considered a three point or better management hunt?

Tom Becker – I have thought about that and I am a little reluctant to do that because it is a fairly large percentage of the buck numbers that are out there. I don't know that we gain a whole lot by doing that.

Larry Fitzgerald – You are just breeding those genes back into the population, that is my concern.

Tom Becker – It's a unit that shows a lot of impacts from drought in the summer range.

Larry Fitzgerald – That is another consideration with the year we might have going into next winter. Those deer may not survive.

Tom Becker – They may not be there next year. Some of the stuff we have seen with the collared deer, they are not in the best of shape but they are not the worst in the state. The Vernon tends to be a little bit worse than the Oquirrh Stansbury which is where we are collaring deer as far as that

goes. Their fat indexes going into winter were probably the lowest it has been. When I look back into '92 and '93 some of that data I was getting off the check station when we were doing check stations there was nil. There was hardly any fat on them at all. We are right in that ball park right now so if we have a winter we might lose a fair number of them. We will start from scratch like we did before. We've come a long way in the last 10 years and all the models are showing that it is increasing. We are putting on a few hundred a year. I think we put 400 on this last year according to the model but the model gets better every year we start using it. I think we are coming up but if we have a bad winter then we may start all over again.

Greg McPhie – My question goes back to the Wasatch elk numbers. The point was made that the late hunt could have affected that average age class in the harvest. It seems like a valid point. Is that one of your determining factors on the increase and do you think that is a legitimate concern or point?

Justin Shannon – Regardless of when we allow hunters out there whether it is late or early if they are killing on average 6.7 year old bulls on a unit we should be managing for five and a half to six we feel like we have avenues to increase because even if we continue that moving forward and that quality of bull is being harvested then it is exceeding that objective. It is certainly something we consider.

George Holmes – Do you keep any data on the time of harvest and the age and I guess it goes along with Greg's question. Does it tend that older bulls are harvested on the later hunts?

Kent Hersey – Roy is correct we did harvest on average 7.3 on the late hunt and it was 6.8 for the early hunt. That being said the majority of the tags are on the early hunt and not the late and they are weighted by how many permits are out there so it's not influencing that much.

George Holmes – So the difference was 7.3 and 6.8 but was 6.8 the average?

Kent Hersey – That was the overall average as well after we factor in the archery and muzzleloader hunts as well. The Wasatch actually has more archery tags with 30 percent versus 25 which is the standard. The muzzleloader is 20 versus 15. The archery average age was 6.9 which is one of the highest in the state.

Gary Nielsen – So it isn't just the late hunt that is increasing the age index.

Kent Hersey – All hunts were.

Roy Hampton – It is not mandatory that they turn the teeth in, right? So my point asking that is if anyone of us killed a four point we wouldn't be interested in knowing what the age was. If you kill a six point you want to know the age of that bull. I have brought this a million times. I would like to see it mandatory that if you are going to hunt you need to turn your teeth in. If that's how we are managing our bulls by age objective why wouldn't you want all the teeth? I guarantee you aren't getting those four year old bulls and that is why we are getting such a high number. This isn't a personal thing. I have hunted this unit three years. I have been very fortunate to hunt this unit and I will probably never hunt it again in my life but for the guys that are going to hunt it I want to see some quality left. That is my main objective here.

Gary Nielsen – If you have been lucky enough to draw three tags you'll probably get another one.

Roy Hampton – I don't know if this is the place to bring up the age objective. I know the board is going to go over the management plan so maybe that is the place to bring that up but that is why your numbers are so high.

Gary Nielsen – I was on the elk group before when we did the elk plan and we proposed that very thing and they have a really hard time getting people to cooperate and they asked what would you do if they didn't turn their teeth in and some said make them ineligible the next year to apply. It will come up again especially if we are going to base the numbers on the tooth data.

Roy Hampton – One other thing, on that elk committee we made it mandatory reporting and in that report you take tine length and beam length on one side. Is that something we can get from

you? Because that would be interesting to see if you are getting a lot of short main beams and those are the younger bulls that you are not getting your teeth off of.

Justin Shannon – We can certainly sit down and walk through that with you. That is one of the things we looked at with this. You have people that don't turn in a tooth but they do give that information on the reporting. We have gone back and looked at it and looked for differences on points and tine lengths.

Roy Hampton – You are not seeing an extreme difference.

Justin Shannon – It is not a noticeable difference. When we are talking about having hunters mandatory you submit a tooth there are some issues with that. Do you use the carrot or the stick? We have gone the route of the carrot just because with the stick what do you do if you have a hunter who says they mailed in the teeth but we just didn't get them? So we are penalizing a guy for that. There are some real challenges with it that are social that we can discuss.

Roy Hampton – But your CWMUs are required to do all their teeth right?

Justin Shannon – They do all their teeth.

David Hardy – I did the Wasatch bull hunt three years ago and I never even seen a bull. I just come here for the fun of learning what this is. I never even seen a bull and I hunted my tar off. I'm not trying to be disrespectful. I don't know what these guys are saying but I am confused with their numbers. We hunted day and night. We were supposed to get this big tag and it took me 15 years to draw. My dad put me in forever. I don't know where these numbers are coming from. I have never heard the tooth thing before but I think you should make it mandatory. I never even commented back on it. I got fined and you didn't let me put in for the next year and it didn't even bother me because I didn't see anything anyway. I didn't want to put in again. My dad and my brother hunt big time and it didn't even matter to me. If I put in for 15 years and I came out with nothing it was the most disappointing thing. I didn't even want to hunt anymore. It would be really cool if you guys would make it mandatory for a tooth or something. If you want to hunt you can turn in a tooth. I am not a big hunter in any sort of way. I think it would be more fair to the public like these guys are saying to get big elk and deer you can't just say you get fined. I think it would be necessary to say if you want to hunt you have to be responsible for what you took and bring in a tooth. I think that would be totally fair and I'm not a big hunter. I think that would make these numbers go super small and I'm just saying my opinion. I don't want to piss anybody off. I'm sure that would make some people really mad but it would make these numbers so people would have more of a realistic number. If you want to hunt why can't you bring in a tooth?

Gary Nielsen – What is your last name?

David Hardy – I don't think so. I don't want to get in trouble.

Gary Nielsen – It's a public record.

David Hardy – When they say they got these big elk on the Wasatch, we went there and hunted. I went with my dad and my brother and they are really good hunters and we hunted and hunted and hunted and you drew a tag and didn't get anything either, right? We put in for 15 years. I remember waiting every year for this big glorious hunt and on our any bull tags we had better luck than we did with the Wasatch tag. We did everything correct. He was mad I didn't turn the tag in but it took so many years and paid a bunch of money and I never seen a bull up there and I saw so many hunters it was incredible. I don't know where they are getting their seven point bull elk.

Gary Nielsen – I don't know. I know there are varying abilities in hunter and stuff and elk are where you find them. That has always been true.

David Hardy – But why don't they make it mandatory if you shoot an elk or deer to bring in a tooth in.

Gary Nielsen – It looks to me like it is heading that direction so I'll watch for it as well.

Jeremy Allen – Is the Vernon hunt you were talking about where the elk go up into Wyoming?

Justin Shannon – No, that is the North Slope unit.

Jeremy Allen – I was just wondering if we work with Wyoming on that?

Justin Shannon – Our biologists that work with units that border other states always coordinate with those biologists but this is one where historically we had this hunt and it got taken away. As we redid the statewide deer plan we talked about creating more hunting opportunities, particularly limited entry hunting opportunities for Utahans and this is was one where we could do that. We can take advantage of deer that are migrating and we can create more opportunity for our hunters.

Gary Nielsen – I was glad to see them reinstate that because all the states that border us have a late hunt and get those guys when they come across.

### **RAC Discussion**

Gary Nielsen – I had quite a few guys that hunted the desert that were concerned about the fact that they were leaving the desert numbers the same. They had been seeing less and less and less deer and these are families that have hunted out there for years. I said look at the data and they said the data shows only one year and I said they don't change it until they have data that verifies there is a need. I got quite a bit of discussion about that. You guys got a lot of the same emails that feel like the deer herd is just finally starting to recover and so maybe let's not increase tags right away and just let it go for a little while and build the herds back up.

Karl Hirst – If there is no more discussion how about if I make a few small recommendations and then we follow it up with a large one on some of these units that we have talked about? Then at least they will get a vote on a specific area.

Gary Nielsen – Sure.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to keep the Wasatch bull elk permits for all seasons at the 2014 numbers**

**Seconded by Greg McPhie**

**In Favor: 8**

**Opposed: 2**

**Motion passed 8 to 2**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to keep the West Desert, Vernon limited entry deer permits at 2014 levels for all the hunts**

**Seconded by Richard Hansen**

**In Favor: 3**

**Opposed: 7**

**Motion failed 3 to 7**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the balance of the recommendations as presented**

**Seconded by George Holmes**

**In Favor: all**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

Justin Shannon – The motion on the Wasatch only dealt with the early and the late if I heard it correctly and I think what you meant was the entire permit recommendation is that correct.

Karl Hirst – I did, yes. All of the permits on that stay at 2014.

Justin Shannon – I just wanted to make sure.

### **7) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 (Action)**

- **Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Larry Fitzgerald – This was explained to me and it does make sense but the reason why you are lowering some of the permit numbers is because with less hunters out there the success rate may be higher. Is that correct?

Justin Shannon – That is a good point. I probably should have focused on that a little more. What we saw as we were climbing with our public draw permits our success rates on some of these units just continued to decline and we were killing the same number of elk with more hunters. So in an effort to not flood these public land areas with more public draws permits it was just a way to say let's get creative and think outside the box. If you already have deer and elk hunters that are going to these units let's let them get some of our harvest as well. You are spot on. Adding more hunters doesn't always equate to killing more elk. In some situations it can completely push these elk out of areas we want them to be in.

### **Questions from the Public**

John Bair – Casual observer – On the Wasatch with our control permits that has been a very very hot topic. Do we know or have a good idea of how many cows we killed on the Wasatch and where we are trying to pressure certain areas and take pressure off of certain areas do you feel like those control permits are still the most effective way to do that when we really don't have any control about where that pressure is?

George Holmes – What type of pressure are you talking about?

John Bair – I'm talking about hunting pressure. Shoot the cows and chase them off private ground out onto the public.

Justin Shannon – That is a really good question, on the Wasatch what we are finding is because we have to manage to a population objective we have to make recommendations that get harvest but what we are seeing is our elk are growing more and more on private lands and very difficult areas to access and then the areas that they were historically in are declining. We are seeing this shift. Candidly I don't know if we have all the tools from a management perspective that we need to manage that population as effective as we can. With antlerless elk control permits there are pros and cons. The pro is we are not adding more hunters, in fact over the last two years if this recommendation passes we will have taken about 2,400 public draw hunters off of that unit but we are adding antlerless elk control hunters which already have a tag in their pocket so you can get the same harvest in instances without throwing more hunters as was discussed earlier. But one of the cons is you can't funnel them into an area and say here is your definitive boundary; this is where you are going to be at. The alternative is we go back to what we did a couple years ago where we had a lot of late season hunts and tried to hit some of these areas. The complaints we heard at that time were it is really hard to grow elk in Diamond Fork and other parts of the unit where we want elk if you keep having these late hunts and throwing permits at it. There are pros and cons to both approaches.

John Bair – The reason I am asking you kind of hit on if we have control permits you are basically having a cow hunt wherever the general season deer guys go which is public land where we kind of want the elk to come out on. It seems to me if we have elk growing on private not on public and we want them on public off the private yet we are putting all our pressure on the public. Aren't we kind of dealing backwards?

Justin Shannon – We are and that is a fair assessment of that but it is for a short duration and what I mean by that is when you do antlerless elk control permits essentially what you are doing is you are hitting them really hard for the month of October. But one of the advantages I think is overlooked is it allows us not to call hunts in most of November, December and January so we are giving these elk a place to come on public land where we aren't hunting them anymore and

we don't have many other places in the state where we stop hunting cow elk November 5<sup>th</sup> after the late season muzzleloader hunt. Again it is a pro and con. Are antlerless elk control permits perfect? No, there are some flaws. Is having the public draw permits throughout the year like we had them before perfect? No, there are issues with that as well. I really think as the statewide plan comes up and we work with the committee on this we try to get more tools for the Division and for private landowners to get harvest where we need harvest and I'm not sure we're there right now.

John Bair – Do we know how many cows we killed with control permits?

Kent Heresy – 647.

George Holmes – Is that on that particular area or all over?

Justin Shannon – That would be the entire Wasatch unit.

Richard Hansen – Obviously some of these elk are going onto private land because they don't have pressure on them. My question is on these private lands are you paying depredation payments to landowners?

Justin Shannon – In some areas yes we are.

Richard Hansen – Its fair enough if we pay them but I wonder if there isn't some way you could get some leverage that part of that depredation payment is contingent upon them allowing a certain number of hunters on that property to pressure those elk and kill some of them and push them off.

Larry Fitzgerald – On the depredation payments is that mostly on farm ground? Do you know of any depredation payments on rangeland?

Justin Shannon – No.

Richard Hansen – I can't imagine that many elk being on irrigated ground though. Not hundreds and hundreds.

Larry Fitzgerald – When that damage occurs is during the planting season. In the spring they will come in on the new growth on the fields and that is not during the hunt and usually it is the small farmer guy. It's not the guy with thousands of acres. It's the small farms that get the brunt of this whole situation.

George Holmes – That may happen to border CMWUs.

Justin Shannon – One thing I am excited about is I'm not sure if the whole RAC or the public is aware that we put together a Wasatch elk committee for the very reasons that John is talking about where we are growing elk on private and the elk on public aren't there anymore. That committee came up with some really good suggestions for the statewide plan to look at. Some of these things I felt like were really good ideas and I am eager to discuss with the statewide committee and try to come back with recommendations as early as this November if we can change our rule or get that plan finalized and get the buy in for it. Admittedly we have got to find ways to target the right elk because we are over objective. We have to kill elk by law but we've got to work on getting the right elk. One thing we have done in addition to this is started a giant elk collaring study. I think we collared 130 or so elk with GPS collars so we know their daily movements where they're at. That is one of the things we have struggled to understand is we know where these elk are at on the winter range when we find them so we say there are 8,000 elk but the hunters come and say they are not where we historically have seen them in October and they are right. We've got some knowledge gaps we are trying to fill.

Dave Woodhouse – As we talk about this public to private ground with the elk herds at 8,000 head we've got a definite void of elk right up here in Hobbie Creek and Diamond Fork, basically highway 40 south and the Strawberry ridge area. We talk about putting pressure on them on private lands but on our CWMU antlerless recommendations right here why are they so light on the elk numbers for their antlerless tags but we are going to put possibly 8,000 hunters on the Wasatch?

Justin Shannon – I'm not trying to skirt your question but I think it is probably best to answer that in the next presentation. There are challenges. CWMUs in many cases if they are only 10,000 acres they get a little bit of pressure and elk will leave them so you can't overdo it as well. I know there has been a lot of conversations about can't we just force CWMUs to have that continual pressure as well. There are a lot of things we need to look at and I'm not sure that is the silver bullet but it's something we can try.

Dave Woodhouse – If we are trying to move these elk out of those areas and back to the public lands which from my experience I know a lot of the cattlemen and the riders that don't see any elk up in Diamond Fork. The hunters definitely aren't seeing them in the numbers they were. Why don't we take a year off from the public antlerless control hunt south of highway 40 and try to move those elk back into that area. Take the pressure off of them for a year.

Justin Shannon – I think in some ways we have taken the pressure off because if you remember we had late season hunts all down here that went into January in some cases and essentially as I was talking to John earlier with the antlerless elk control you do pound them because we have to get our harvest but on the flip side you are essentially saying no pressure most of November, December, January on the south end. Are you saying don't do antlerless elk control permits south of highway 40?

Dave Woodhouse – Correct, for a year or two and let's see what happens with the elk.

Justin Shannon – Would you prefer calling for hunts down here because we have to get the harvest and last year we barely got it with the entire unit.

Dave Woodhouse – Your late hunts that we pretty much eliminated now even when we had them the success rate was at eight percent. It was so miniscule it wasn't doing any good.

Justin Shannon – But it was keeping pressure.

Dave Woodhouse – But it was pressuring elk that weren't there. It was putting people up on this end of the unit where the elk aren't. I am saying let's put the pressure over around the CWMUs and those areas. I would rather see you hold out 500 depredation permits for this part of the unit. If we have trouble in the winter with elk coming down we will release those tags and shoot them.

Justin Shannon – We do that anyway. We are trying to target elk that are in the wrong areas with our depredation permits. We don't want to grow elk on the backs of private landowners so if we have those issues we are going to do that regardless.

George Holmes – Those are not counted in these numbers, is that correct?

Justin Shannon – What we have are public draw permits which is what the RACs are approving tonight.

George Holmes – I'm just talking about the depredation.

Justin Shannon – The Division just issues those.

Dave Woodhouse – And that is fine. Most people are fine with that because nobody wants to see somebody's farm get ruined. I know a lot of those guys in the south part of the county.

George Holmes – I think one of your problems has been with the winters we've had the last three or four years they are not there at the time they can be taken.

Dave Woodhouse – But if the tags were there we could turn them loose in the spring if they come down.

George Holmes – I don't think you are allowed to have a depredation permit after January 31<sup>st</sup>.

Justin Shannon – That is correct. We can't allow public hunt after January 31<sup>st</sup>. That is where it gets tough is when we have a lot of elk and our tools are limited.

Dave Woodhouse – If that was a big problem late in the year that rule would have been adjusted.

Justin Shannon – This is a tough one Dave because I admit our recommendation isn't perfect.

There are some flaws with it but what we are trying to do is also be sensitive to what we heard a year and a half ago when they were saying do away with these hunts and we really haven't given that a chance to fully work either. I really hope we can get something like a private lands only permit or something like that over the summer with the elk committee to really come with better recommendations than what we have.

Wayne Shelton – I would like to talk about the Wasatch, West. In 2012 and 2013 you had 1,450 antlerless permits. I want it reduced further. Last year it dropped to 340 and Justin is proposing to drop it just 20 more to 320. Again what Dave has said and what I've observed last year I was out there on the opening on the Wasatch, West before daylight until ten o'clock and never saw a cow, never saw a bull. I heard two bull elk screaming over in Strawberry Valley and that was it. I ride it all the time with my horse. In the years past we used to see elk all the time and enjoy the cows and the bulls and they aren't there now because there have been too many antlerless elk harvested. My proposal is to have it reduced even lower to allow the elk to come back up.

Roy Hampton – On your control tags how are you getting that number of how many cows you killed?

Justin Shannon – We do random surveys.

Roy Hampton – So it's not mandatory on that?

Justin Shannon – No, and they don't submit teeth.

### **Comments from the Public**

Paul Davis – I'm kind of representing Paul Phillips. Paul Phillips was on the committee that Justin talked about for the Wasatch unit. He couldn't make it. He wrote a letter and asked me to read it but I'll just highlight it. For those of you who don't know me I'm a retired game warden. I spent 16 years on this mountain primarily on the Wasatch unit and I can tell you right now this unit is not good. This is the lowest number of elk I have ever seen on this unit. I think most sportsmen will agree that the Division says there are more than are there. When this meeting first started the Division said there were 10,000 head on the unit. When the meetings ended they said there were 8,300 so there was a discrepancy of 1,700. As a sportsmen and someone who has worked this unit there is no way there are 8,300 head of elk on this unit right now. I like these guys I'm not going to call them liars or anything but what Paul was talking about was in 2009 we put 2,300 cow elk tags out there and out of the 2,300 about 1,500 cow elk were harvested. Last year in 2014 we put 6,600 hunters out there and we killed approximately 1,660 elk. So we tripled the number of hunters to kill 160 elk. As sportsmen we are kind of tired of the shock and awe management style. If you send those guys out all they are going to do as John talked about is push them onto private property. In that committee they did come up with some good ideas and none of them were implemented in any of the recommendations here today which upset quite a few of the guys that were on that committee. So as a sportsmen who spent a lot of time up there, Paul Phillips spends a lot of time up there and I know Larry spends a lot of time and you guys spend time up there. We don't believe there are 8,500 elk and we would like to see this committee do away with the control permits. If I could Paul asked me to leave this letter that he wrote.

George Holmes – Mr. Davis where is the area we are talking about that we believe there is not 8,500 head?

Paul Davis – The whole Wasatch unit from downtown Heber all the way over to Duchesne and down Hobbie Creek up to Wolf Creek Pass.

Ben Lowder – UBA – I have three comments I would like to make tonight on the antlerless permits. First of all we support the Division's recommendations as presented. Secondly, Justin I would like to applaud you in your efforts with the new presentation format that you put together. I think it is great that we see those listed out on a unit basis and I for one really appreciated that so thank you. Finally I would like to address some of the comments and concerns on the Wasatch elk unit here. I sat on that Wasatch elk committee here in the past month and was involved in a lot of that conversation and as Justin eluded to it is a hot topic for sure but I don't believe we have all the tools in place yet to be able to apply the pressure to those private lands to move those elk back to public lands. I do believe that it is possible given the right tools but right now we don't have them. The statewide elk committee is coming up as Justin mentioned this summer and the

committee has sent a handful of strategies that were discussed to that committee to be discussed and can hopefully be put into place to help address those issues. I have been involved in a fair amount of discussion on that and if there is anybody here that has suggestions or advice on various strategies to give landowners incentive to allow access or to put pressure on those private lands to move elk off the private lands and onto the public lands I'm all ears and I would love to have that discussion with anybody who has those ideas. Thank you.

Roy Hampton – I have spent a little time on this unit and there is less elk on this unit than there was in the years that I have hunted it. The issue keeps getting brought up about private ground. In the Wallsburg unit there is quite a bit of private ground on Ockleberry's ground. The elk are not there. I don't know when they are getting pushed there. They are not there now. Maybe three years ago we would see 500 head on that. Last weekend I saw 50 head. There is a decrease in these numbers and I don't know where they are seeing these elk but they are not there in the summer. I'm not just talking on the Wallsburg unit. I'm talking about Diamond Fork all the way down. In the Current Creek unit I'll give you a good example. In 2006 in the Current Creek unit there were 35 bulls in one basin. In 2007 there were 25 bulls. In 2009 there were five bulls.

George Holmes – Sir, how can you know those numbers?

Roy Hampton – I counted them

George Holmes – And you can count them, you see them all?

Roy Hampton – You bet. In 2006 we counted 35 bulls in one morning in the water hollow basin. If you are familiar with that basin it is a big basin. In 2008 we counted 25 bulls. I had a bull tag two years ago and went into that basin to glass and never seen an elk. This unit is going down but these guys keep saying there's elk. It's not personal but as sportsmen we are not seeing them. The control permit I think is a great idea but you need to know what you are killing and I don't think the phone survey gives us an accurate number. That is a different debate. Thank you for your time.

Dave Woodhouse – SFW Utah County – They would ask and I would too that we close the antlerless control elk permits in the Wasatch unit from highway 40 south. The reason being is the lack of elk in that area. I'm not as familiar with some of the other areas as Roy was brining up on the other side. I do know I have seen a lot of elk over there in the past but I haven't been up there for a while. On this side of the unit there is a lack of elk and I can tell you that because I have been in the airplane. My dad and my uncle fly it every fall and winter for the cattlemen's association looking for the cows and they always come back and know where the elk are. The last couple years they come back and say they are not seeing any elk. The elk are not there. The late season hunters are saying the same thing. The early season hunters are saying the same things. The riders with the cattlemen's association come back and they are not seeing elk in the waters. There are still some bulls and some cows, there are still some elk but they are not there in the numbers they were five or ten years ago. Maybe they were high at that point but they are definitely low now. We keep getting told there are 8,000 elk on the unit. We are going to shoot to raise the objective in the next year which will help things but in the meantime we've got a void of elk on this side. The landowners in Hobble Creek are saying the same thing. They are not seeing the elk on their properties. They would like to see some elk. Not so many they are doing damage. We are not asking for that. In talking with the biologists, Covy and some of the others they are coming back with there are a lot of elk on the north end of the unit basically in Wasatch County because of the private land. Those are the answers we are getting. That is where we need to concentrate the elk tags. They say the elk have migrated because of the hunting pressure and now they are in Timber Lakes and Wolf Mountain where people can't hunt them. I personally think most of them were shot but if they did migrate let's put the pressure on them and bring them back to this end. It is something that can be done. It can be voted on. We can do that. It is a simple boundary, highway 40. That is one reason we pick it because it is a clean boundary. I would ask you to address that. Thanks.

Richard Hansen – How confident you are in that population number?

Justin Shannon – Here's the issue. When we survey these areas in January on these winter ranges we are counting the elk. There is no doubt about that. What incentive would we possibly have to fudge those numbers? We like to get beat up in the public? The elk are there. But the concerns these guys have are real. When they are hunting these public land units they are probably not seeing the elk that were there historically. That is why we are trying to do the study. We are trying to get more tools. We are trying to be very transparent and meet with the sportsmen and the landowners and say how do we solve this? That is why the committee and stuff like that are being put together. That is the effort that we are trying to take. We are confident they are there.

Richard Hansen – On these Wasatch units is it a possibility that some of these elk are migrating out of the unit?

Justin Shannon – Potentially and that is why with the collar study we are not just collaring elk on the Wasatch but the neighboring units as well because we want to make sure we get migration into the unit and out of the unit and account for some of that stuff. There really is a knowledge gap between what is being seen during the hunts and what we are observing in our surveys and we are trying to bridge that gap.

Jon Larson – SFW – We accept the Division's plan as recommended but with the exception of what Dave Woodhouse had mentioned on the Wasatch with the antlerless elk permits. Those if anything should drop in my opinion. Secondly as a recommendation just keep laser focused Justin on figuring that public land to private land thing going. I think it was good to have the Wasatch elk committee in play but that obviously didn't do enough so let's keep the focus there.

### **RAC Discussion**

Karl Hirst – We talked about this committee, we talked about some ideas, what will it take for timing to get those tools available to us?

Justin Shannon – I think what it is going to take is looking at it from a statewide perspective with the statewide committee and saying what tools are available because this isn't the only area that we have private lands or difficult access. My guess is this summer and I am hopeful that I can come back to the RACs in November with a rule change and potentially some other types of hunt strategies in conjunction with the statewide elk plan. That is my goal if we can make it all work and get the buy in on it.

Karl Hirst – So just because the committee put those ideas out it may not be legal to or you may not be able to do it without a rule change.

Justin Shannon – On some of the strategies that were proposed it would certainly take a rule change but that's okay. We will just take it through the process and try to make it work.

John Bair – We have heard a lot of talk about the committee and just so we are all on the same page as a board we don't vote on hunt strategies or rule changes until November so we have through the summer to implement and come up with some plans on what was talked about on that committee, vote them in in the November bucks and bulls proclamation and then in this meeting next year when we are dealing with these numbers that's when those new strategies whatever they may be will be in play and will take affect numbers wise. It's not that that we've blown them off or we decided not to do them, it's that we haven't had the meeting yet where they would get put into play and where those rules would be changed so we can use them. Is that right?

Justin Shannon – That is a fair way to say that. I hope the Wasatch elk committee doesn't feel like we blew them off. What it was is a timing issue. They were meeting in

March. Recommendations were due at that same time so we can work through them internally and they were still meeting later into that. Timing wasn't perfect but timing is seldom perfect. I would rather have Covy and Dax and these managers and these biologists get together with this committee and say how do we fix this and it will take some time and discussion but we are very eager to figure this out.

Gary Nielsen – Their recommendations will be forwarded to the committee that will be meeting this summer.

Justin Shannon – Yes, John Fairchild took the minutes of that meeting and he has a list for me as big game coordinator do discuss. I am actually excited for it. I think there were some really positive things that came out of that.

Larry Fitzgerald – They want to relieve the pressure by lowering tag numbers but it's not just the pressure from all the hunts. It's the pressure of all the public and the recreation that is going on in the Strawberry area. If you think back ten years ago and how many people are recreating versus today in that area. Look at how many more four wheel drive vehicles. So if you want to relieve the pressure it's going to be a complete and total shut down of that area if you want those elk to come back to that area. The elk right now this gentleman was talking about Wallsburg, they are not down in Wallsburg right now.

What is the elevation of Wallsburg, 5 to 6,000 feet? Me and my boys went up on Current Creek mountain last weekend. The elk are at 8 to 9,000 feet. We went shed hunting but elk are still packing their horns by the way so don't go yet but the moose have lost their horns. That's where the elk are at right now. They don't need to be down in these lower areas because of the nonexistent winter we have had. We are still waiting for them to migrate from three years ago. That's my opinion of it. If you want the elk to come back shut it down

Gary Nielsen – You've got a good point with the amount of people peeling around on an average weekend or now even weekdays. It used to be weekends were busy now it's busy seven days a week.

Larry Fitzgerald – I don't think anybody has a job anymore.

John Bair – Don't give the Forest Service anymore damn ideas.

Karl Hirst – I just want to make sure I'm reading this correctly looking at the sheet here the 2014 recommendation was 2,000 permits and the 2015 is 1,350 on the Wasatch Mountain, Current Creek.

Justin Shannon – On the Current Creek last year they had 2,000 permits that were passed and we are recommending 1,350.

Karl Hirst – And the one right below it going from 500 to 150 and then 340 down to 320 so on the three big areas on this we are recommending fewer tags.

Justin Shannon – Yeah. That doesn't include the control permits. Essentially this is in addition to the cuts we made on the west last year as well. Because as we were showing and just had a conversation about how adding more hunters isn't always the solution. We would rather use the hunters that are there. I know there was a conversation about doing away with the hunts around Wallsburg and some of that stuff. I would plead that you don't because a lot of those are to deal with private lands issues where elk are coming into agricultural fields and haystacks. We would rather give public hunters opportunity to kill those elk than just issue depredation and mitigation permits. One final thought with all this discussion of cutting off highway 40 and some of that stuff. One thing we did with antlerless elk control permits, just something to marinate on, we wanted those

boundaries to match with our deer and elk boundaries so that way we weren't confusing our hunters where a hunter has a deer tag and he goes outside of the unit or crosses a road and now he is no longer in the elk unit but he is still in his deer unit. That caused a lot of confusion two years ago on this unit which when we included the west the feedback we got from those sportsmen was thank you, I don't have to guess on where this is at. That is more of a social issue but it is something that our staff dealt with quite a bit.

Gary Nielsen – Thank you. I'm going to marinate one that one. Is there any other deliberation or comments from the RAC? I'll entertain a motion.

#### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Larry Fitzgerald to accept as presented**

**Seconded by George Holmes**

**In Favor: All**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

Richard Hansen – I think this is a good way to go right now with the elk committee meeting this summer.

#### **8) 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**

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

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

George Holmes – Can you go back to the first slide? I have looked this over and I do have somewhat of an ability to tell what these animals are thinking.

Scott McFarlane – I would like to hear that.

George Holmes – That animal is thinking I much prefer George Holmes' hay over the second class hay provided by DWR.

Matt Clark – What is the success rate on those? Isn't it mandatory to report? So we ought to have a pretty good idea of success rates on that.

Scott McFarlane – Just off the top of my head it's kind of all over the board but I think the average is a little over 70 percent success. What we do with the CWMUs is the biologists sit down with the operators and they have to design a hunt for the individual CWMU. Not all CWMUs or properties are created equal. It's easier to manage a half a million acre unit and have a bunch of elk to manage than it is on 10,000 acres and that is the minimum for an elk CWMU. Usually more permits on a CWMU does not equate to more harvested elk so we have to design these and when people put in for a CWMU they expect that there is going to be a little but higher success because it's more of a controlled type hunt. What the biologists do is basically set up a plan and in their management plan they have a management objective of how many elk over three years they need to harvest and we haven't ever held the CWMUs to that in the past but we are in the future and there could be corrective action taken against them if they don't meet those management objectives.

Greg McPhie – I know in Wasatch County we have a pretty specific problem where we have a large tract of land that is not a CWMU that holds a lot of animals. I know you try and work with those folks. Do you have that problem a lot of places or is that fairly limited.

Scott McFarlane – That is pretty much common to all the places that have high percentages of private land. I think it was mentioned before that people activity, not necessarily hunting activity, can disperse elk. Naturally on the private lands there is going to be less activity and it is going to be more attractive for the elk to be there at certain times of the year. It's kind of a problem wherever you have large tracts of private land.

Larry Fitzgerald – The CWMUs set their season, correct?

Scott McFarlane – They have a season that is set for them. They have a wider range of season dates for example on elk they can go from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. On deer they have two options. They can go from September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> or if they meet certain criteria they can go from September 11<sup>th</sup> to November 10<sup>th</sup>. So they have a range but basically within that they can set their own dates.

Larry Fitzgerald – My philosophy is I don't think anyone should be told what to do with their own private property but this is a big issue with the elk going onto private lands. Is there a way or could the board put together a certain percentage of these elk that have to be hunted during the regular season hunt to force the elk off private lands, the CWMUs, onto public? Is this an issue that could be brought up this summer and proposed next year?

Scott McFarlane – I'm not sure how to answer that. We give them a pretty wide latitude to hunt their elk at different times.

Larry Fitzgerald – If it was just with a percentage of the tags.

Scott McFarlane – If you look at some of the larger CWMUs they pretty much hunt them every chance. They are hunted almost every week of their whole hunting season. Some of the smaller ones they have the ability to hunt just a small portion of that season and a lot of times their elk leave after they hunt them but they can come back on to.

Larry Fitzgerald – If public thinks all the elk are on private land, I disagree with that. There are a lot of elk on private land but not all. They go to where the pressure is not. If it was stated that 50 percent of those cow elk had to but hunting during the regular season hunt so the public is maybe getting the general idea that the landowner is trying to persuade those elk to leave.

Scott McFarlane – That is definitely a possibility. That is something we could add into a rule. It would have to be put into the rule to be enforceable.

**Questions from the Public**  
**Comments from the Public**  
**RAC Discussion**

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Matt Clark to accept as presented**

**Seconded by Timothy Fehr**

**In Favor: All**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 9) **Mountain Goat Management Plans (Action)**  
- **Dustin Schaible, Bighorn Sheep Biologist**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Gary Nielsen – Are you going to allow the goats off Willard to disperse on their own or are we going to move some of them around?

Dustin Schaible – Currently in the short term we are just going to continue to let them disperse. We still have to manage for about 160 on Willard so we will be doing some transplants off of that unit just to maintain densities on the Willard. Others that move to these other areas in the short term we would just allow them to continue to establish but we may at some point do some transplants to those adjacent areas.

### **Questions from the Public**

#### **Comments from the Public**

Jon Larson – SFW – We accept the Division’s plan as presented and in addition to that I would just say I appreciate the fact that you have been so aggressive on the one unit going to 700. From a sportsman’s perspective it is a once in a lifetime draw that is actually attainable. I was talking with John Bair about that earlier. Secondly and maybe even more importantly is just from a general public perspective and everyone that uses our resources and our back country there is nothing better than seeing a mountain goat and they are rare to see. If you know where to find them you can find them but to increase those numbers that just really elevates those odds and I love it. I think it’s great. Thank you.

### **RAC Discussion**

#### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept as presented**

**Seconded by George Holmes**

**In Favor: All**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

#### **10) Other Business**

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.**

**45 in attendance**

**Next board meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake**

**Next RAC meeting May 6<sup>th</sup> 6:30 at Springville Civic Center**

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal**  
**April 16, 2015**

**5. CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN PERMITS RULE R657-41 AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION approve as the Division proposed**

Passed unanimously

**6. BUCKS, BULLS, OIAL AND ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

**MOTION to approve the recommendations as the Division has proposed except:**

**-leave Vernon like it was last year**

**-Manti raise it only 100 not 500**

**-Beaver Unit, leave as was last year, don't raise**

Motion passed 8-2, 1 abstention

REASON: I'm not comfortable voting since I don't know the area

**7. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

**MOTION to approve as presented**

Passed unanimously

**8. 2015 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**MOTION to accept the Divisions proposal as presented**

Passed unanimously

**9. STATEWIDE MOUNTAIN GOAT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MOTION to accept the proposal as has been recommended**

Passed unanimously

**NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal**  
**April 16, 2015**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe  
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture  
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service  
Brett Prevedel, Public At Large  
Beth Hamann, Non-Consumptive  
Wayne McAllister, RAC Chair  
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor  
Jerry Jorgensen, Elected Official  
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen  
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen  
David Gordon, BLM

**EXCUSED RAC MEMBERS:**

Andrea Merrell, Non-Consumptive  
Joe Batty, Agriculture

**UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Justin Shannon  
Scott McFarlane  
Dustin Schaible  
Dax Mangus  
Clint Sampson  
Amy VandeVoort  
Randall Thacker  
Derrick Ewell  
Dallon Christensen  
Rori Lübbers  
Gayle Allred  
Ron Stewart  
Dan Barnhurst  
Torrey Christophersen

**WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kirk Woodward

**1. WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURE - Wayne McAllister**

Propose moving the Rapid Response and Control Plans - Flaming Gorge & Starvation Reservoirs agenda item as the first item tonight. This is an informational item only.

**MOTION**

**David Gordon motion to approve**

**Beth Hamann: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

The Wildlife Board meeting regarding tonight's meeting will be held April 30, 2015.  
The next RAC meeting will be May 14, with the Wildlife Board meeting June 4, 2015

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

**MOTION:**

**Beth Hamann move to approve agenda and minutes**  
**Rod Morrison second**

**Passed unanimously**

**3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE - Wayne McAllister**

The Prairie Dog Management plan went the way the Division presented it to the Wildlife Board.

**4. REGIONAL UPDATE - Boyde Blackwell**

*Red Fleet Treatment.* The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) will be out shortly. If anyone wants a copy, contact Trina Hedrick and she'll make sure you get the information. We had an open house last week and will have another one once the EA's done, etc. They've pulled together a committee of anglers from around the region and taken a lot of public input to identify species they want to put in once it's been treated. It will take place about October 6. It's a time sensitive thing and October was the best time to get it done with water temperatures, and the time when the water won't be used for drinking.

*The Habitat Section* is gearing up for construction of 14 water guzzlers this year in the Book Cliffs, Daggett County, etc. They are also working on food plots and will be starting a lot of habitat projects July 1.

*Things the Division has done through partners and conservation groups we work with:*

Captured almost 1,500 big game animals this year.

-218 bighorn sheep and some of them were on the Flaming Gorge area and Uinta Mountains

-15 mountain goats transferred

-15 bison on the Book Cliffs, etc

-237 pronghorn captured and moved

-149 elk captured, collared and worked

-604 deer worked on this last year. Many were transplanted from urban areas. Had 211 Bountiful deer that were split between Big Wash in our region and Raft Rivers.

**RAPID RESPONSE AND CONTROL PLANS - FLAMING GORGE & STARVATION  
RESERVOIRS - Trina Hedrick, Aquatics Manager (INFORMATIONAL ONLY)**

10 Objectives (See handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: Did my friend have to go through a cleaning station at Lake Powell? There wasn't anyone at Bullfrog. Why?

Trina Hedrick: They started three technicians three weeks ago.

Boyde Blackwell: If they're not done there, then we expect them to give us a call and we'll make sure it gets done before they go into any other waters after it leaves Lake Powell.

Trina Hedrick: Part of the problem we've had with Lake Powell is they get money for *prevention*. We have had to increase our presence down there. We will be interviewing a biologist for Bullfrog. They have hired an additional 30 technicians just for Lake Powell but that can't cover everyone. We will have technicians at other waters as well.

## **5. CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN PERMITS RULE R657-41 - Justin Shannon Big Game Coordinator**

(See Handout)

-This rule change adds clarity and consistency to DWR and State Parks for mule deer and bighorn sheep permits on Antelope Island.

-It defines "Special Antelope Island State Park Limited Entry Permit"

-Provides a framework to enter into a cooperative agreement between DWR and State Parks

### **Questions from RAC:**

Dan Abeyta: Is there going to be a trend for an increase in permits on Antelope Island?

Justin Shannon: Not necessarily, it just lays the sideboards in case.

### **Question from Public:**

None

### **Comments from Public:**

John Larsen-Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW). We accept the division's plan as presented.

### **Comments by RAC:**

None

Discussion or motion

## **MOTION**

**Randy Dearth motion to approve as Division proposed**

**Beth Hamann: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

## **6. BUCKS, BULLS, OIAL AND ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015 - Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

(See handout)

### **Questions from RAC:**

Dan Abeyta: Could you talk about on the Henry's Mountain on the deer management reduction of five permits.

Justin Shannon: We've been in the mid to high 50s. This last year where it went to 48 we decided to lower a little.

Bret Prevedel: High country buck in Daggett County.

Justin Shannon: No Slope Summit is the north face and those deer are migrating into Wyoming. On the North Slope, the bulk of that is a different area.

Amy VandeVoort: When I recommended the 200 were going to come out of the 3100. This is the first I saw. If we're going to have 200 on North Slope Summit, we probably need to go down to North Slope to 2900.

Justin Shannon: They're gone.

Amy VandeVoort: I can see that, so we can leave it how it is, it's just new to me.

Jerry Jorgensen: So it encompasses some of the same country. Are the hunts going to run together or is the high country hunt earlier?

Justin Shannon: The high country is earlier because there are some mature bucks that are migrating off. Come October many of those deer have migrated out.

Jerry Jorgensen: If you don't get a premium permit you can go back in the general season later?

Justin Shannon : The summit has a smaller boundary.

Amy VandeVoort: The Summit High Uintas is like a limited entry hunt so you can't go back in to the general season.

Justin Shannon: Summit West Daggett Three Corners. The North Slope 8 is valid for all three units. This limited entry Summit which is earlier is only in the Summit subunit which is managed

out of the Northern Region. Recommended because it's felt they migrate into Wyoming. Doesn't even go into Daggett County.

Brett Prevedel: Those bucks aren't getting counted anyway in your buck/doe ratio.

Amy VandeVoort: Right.

Brett Prevedel: So it might not be popular right away.

Justin Shannon: In the Northern region it has been very popular.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

Jesse McKee: I'm interested in the Book Cliff area on the north and south. We have a place down there in Main Canyon. The north side is overhunted compared to the south side. I visited with a bunch of Alameda's hunters who were disappointed in the hunt. A good draw unit is getting pretty pathetic. There are a lot of disappointed hunters. That north side, when you guys split it, maybe overdid it on the north for numbers. How many tags on north vs. south?

Clint Sampson: about a third of the permits on the south. BC North-171, BC South-59.

John Larsen (SFW): We would like to let Justin know you've done a great job. First: Would like to talk about Vernon, Manti, Zion, and Beaver permit numbers, with the emphasis on Vernon and Manti. We recommend buck deer permits stay the same as last year. You have good data and a 3-year trend, but for our general membership who live in this area, we're not seeing the numbers. Secondly: commend for the youth permits going up by 200 permits.

**Comments from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: Can we see slide John was talking about?

Justin Shannon: West Desert, Vernon is in 2012 and 13, Vernon is a migratory population and if you don't classify early, you miss it. We've had that happen in 2012 and 13. This last year, the biologists got out there the right time and we're at the upper end even though the data might not represent that. I respect John's perspective. Moving to general season units, the Central Mountains. Manti/San Rafael does make that case. Managed for 15-17, with a 3-year of 19. Years ago, when going unit by unit, we had well over 10,000 permits issued on Manti and we made cuts so we could anticipate growth and get numbers back. We feel we have. On Beaver, a few years ago 3500 permits were cut to 3000 permits, and the trend has been up every year. It's

not outside of 18-20, we're really excited about the trend and want to give opportunity back. With Zion we've been 24 in an 18-20. The buck to doe ratio is still really high, so I want to provide some opportunity where I can.

Brett Prevedel: Can we look at the Book Cliffs slide?

Justin Shannon:

Book Cliffs, North 33

Book Cliffs South 39

Where fawn numbers have increased, you have more bucks but you may also have younger bucks,. That's the reason numbers have stayed the same.

Dax Mangus: The numbers are coming up. We want to give hunters opportunity, but we want the quality we need to see. Buck to doe is there but they are younger bucks, so let's hold off another year before we look at it again.

Mitch Hacking: Do you have an age objective on this?

Dax Mangus: No. just a buck to doe.

Dan Abeyta: What about hunter satisfaction survey for the north side?

Clint Sampson: On a 1-5 scale for Book Cliffs:

Archery 3.8 satisfaction rating. It's an incredible archery hunt.

Rifle hunt was 3.3 for satisfaction on the north and same on south

ML was 2.9 satisfaction rating.

We have seen a little bit of a dip in satisfaction which is why we're not going to add permits. The average buck killed was a 22" 3 to 4 point. That's not what some people expect but for other people, it's the hunt of a lifetime for them.

Brett Prevedel: On permit numbers, why more numbers?

Clint Sampson: More deer. Seasonal migration that takes place in September. About October 1, one-third migrate south and two-thirds migrate north, and that's why you see the split on the rifle hunt.

Justin Shannon: It show decreases in numbers but the decreases are going to the multi-season hunt. The total permit numbers are the same.

Rod Morrison: What do we need to do to get the quality up? Is cutting permit numbers going to do it? I think there's a severe predator problem.

Clint Sampson: We are trying to increase bear permits and cougars. We have a contract coyote hunter out there who's killed 9 coyotes this spring. With Wildlife Services, they gunned 230 coyotes last year, so we have made a lot of efforts that way. Also habitat efforts, getting more water guzzlers, reseeding, chainings, and bull hog work. All that benefits deer. We have seen fawn production start to increase, but it can do better. And putting the pressure on predators will help too. But there are a lot of young bucks out there. Our buck numbers are there but they're 2.5 year old deer. I had the opportunity to hunt on archery last year and for me personally, it was an amazing hunt. I had opportunities to stalk multiple bucks. I didn't kill the biggest one I saw but I had a lot of fun.

Rod Morrison: I think there's a lot of dissatisfaction on the rifle hunt.

Clint Sampson: The weather didn't cooperate and the bucks can really scatter out if they're not pushed down which made it much more difficult than it usually is.

#### **DISCUSSION AND MOTION:**

Tim Ignacio: On the multi-season. On Tribal permits that we get from you guys, those permits for the multi, the way I look at it is, where do we come in on those multi permits or is our permit good for that?

Dax Mangus: That would be all governed and based on the cooperative agreement. The Tribe, for the north Book Cliffs, it's 1.9 for the whole Book Cliffs. If we issued 15 permits for the unit, but had 50%, the Tribe would get 7 permits. I don't know if that's the percent because I don't have the numbers, but as soon as the permit numbers are finalized we'll let you know. But your proclamation has already been printed.

Randy Dearth: I'd like to do discussion on what John from SFW talked about. I can understand leaving Vernon and Manti.

I'd love to hear John's comment.

John Larsen (SFW): At SER RAC, we had several committee members there. They're becoming urban deer, so some of those numbers are accurate but they're not going to be hunted. Again, on Vernon, where that's a migratory route, I don't know how you even get solid data for that because if you do raise it you could do some damage there.

Boyde Blackwell: Justin could you take that slide to show the RAC the Manti numbers on general season permits?

Justin Shannon: Yes. And Beaver is on the lower end but coming up. The Zion, the last three years is been between 23 1/3 and 24 1/2 the last three years. We did add 100 permits last year and the buck to doe ratio has stayed stable.

Wayne McAllister: What were the total permits last year?

Justin Shannon: Last year there was a reduction in total permits.

Randy Dearth: Book Cliffs 179 and 63 permits total for 2015 limited entry deer permit recommendations.

Justin Shannon: When they put that recommendation together, they wanted to see if it was the right ratio. and if you look at the buck/doe ratio, we were 39 on the north and 40 on the south. There might be some value in keeping the numbers the same.

Mitch Hacking: Sounds like that hunt depends on the weather. Is that right?

Jessy McKee: Yeah, it depends on the weather a lot.

Mitch Hacking: So depending on the weather it's a whole different scenario.

Tim Ignacio: Last year if you went down there in the middle of December/November. December, the deer were starting to come in there.

Jessy McKee: Yeah, they weren't moving to the normal spots.

Tim Ignacio: When we did our head counts in January there were a lot of deer and elk up high.

Jessy McKee: We didn't see them until January-ish.

## **MOTION**

**Randy Dearth motion to approve the recommendations as the Division has proposed except leave Vernon like it was last year,  
Manti raise it only 100 not 500  
Beaver Unit, leave as is, don't raise  
Zion leave as Division has proposed.**

Jerry Jorgensen: Question: There was a hunting unit called the Southwest Desert that you showed had a ratio of 28/100 with only 750 permits. Why didn't you raise those numbers? Is that a hard hunting area or not getting any pressure out there?

Justin Shannon: SW Desert, there's a ton of country with no deer except in pockets in isolated ranges. The hunter success rate is really low, and the hunter satisfaction rate is really low. Some hunters go days without seeing a deer. We recognize the buck/doe ratio is high but if we raise permits we may just frustrate hunters.

Jerry Jorgensen: Could you shift some of the permits?

Justin Shannon: No. We just increased on the SW Desert as well. Trying to find balance and making sure hunters have an enjoyable hunt.

**Rod Morrison: Second**

**For: David Gordon, Rod Morrison, Randy Dearth, Jerry Jorgensen, Brett Prevedel, Beth Hamann**

**Against: Mitch Hacking, Tim Ignacio**

**Abstain: Dan Abeyta (I'm not comfortable voting since I don't know the area)**

Jerry Jorgensen: I'd like a little bit more clarification on Unit 8, which is North Slope Three Corners for deer and the fact that you've proposed a new hunting unit for the high country. I believe the numbers were reduced in Unit 8 significantly and I think I was under the impression that it was because of the high country permits, but the discussion is that they were different units.

Justin Shannon: You have a limited entry hunt in a smaller area. The North Slope which is a larger area and the North Slope Summit. We're providing hunters a hunting opportunity prior to the general deer unit starting. On the North Slope we're managing for 18-20 buck/does. The three-year average is 16, so we're cutting permits to try to get there. If we're over objective we increase permits.

Jerry Jorgensen: So it has nothing to do with the high country unit.

Justin Shannon: They're not available to the general season hunters anyway.

Dax Mangus: The deer we're proposing to hunt earlier, we're looking at as a bonus hunt. The Northern region doesn't even classify in December because the deer are in Wyoming. The bulk

of the permits are in the West Daggett. The ratios are trending up but not there and got the most negative feedback from hunters, that's why we're looking at a decrease in that hunt.

**Motion passed.**

**8-2**

**7. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

(See handout)

NER Units:

Antlerless Elk Permits

N Slope/West Daggett raising permits from 200 to 250

N Slope Three Corners lowering from 50 to 35

S Slope Yellowstone lowering from 1700 to 950

S Slope Diamond Mtn/Vernal lowering from 890 to 800

Book Cliffs raising from 125 to 130

Nine Mile Anthro lowering from 450 to 325

Currant Creek lowering from 2000 to 1350

Avintaquin lowering from 500 to 150

**Questions from RAC:**

Jerry Jorgensen: Could you tell more more about the Manila Phil Pico antlerless, archery muzzleloader and shotgun. Why? Will there be hunting in town?

Amy VandeVoort: We'll be using the same boundary at the end of September. We didn't want the rifle hunt mixed in with elk hunters.

David Gordon: On your South Slope Yellowstone you're saying we're over objective but decreasing numbers to the public.

Randall Thacker: It is a confusing thing and a complicated unit. The majority of the winter range on the unit is Ute Tribal lands. and the majority of those animals in the wintertime winter on the tribe which makes it very difficult .We've instituted the antlerless control permit so someone who had a buck or bull tag can get a control permit and hunt it during that hunt. We're hitting a point of diminishing returns on the other hunts. You're killing the same amount of animals but frustrating hunters. The Tribe used to have antlerless elk hunts. They had 400 total tags for a number of years which helped pressure on Tribe. The last couple years the Tribe has no nonmember hunts, which has turned their land into a refuge for the elk. Some Tribal members have an antlerless hunt.

Tim Ignacio: We had close to 2000 extra elk this year.

Randall Thacker: Right. We're up 2000 elk and over-objective. Even with all the harvest we can throw at them, we've been just able to stay even. We need to have antlerless harvest at the same time so the elk can't stay on the Tribe.

Tim Ignacio: We'll let our members hunt the bulls or spikes after that but on the Board, I'm not going to let them kill a cow after that time.

Randall Thacker: We hope to work with the Tribe to establish a hunt on the Tribe so there's pressure on both sides. But our success rates are dropping off more and more and we're frustrating hunters and not killing any more elk. And we don't want to kill just those that will stay on the forest. We want to get the ones that move back and forth.

Tim Ignacio: Some of the council members are thinking about doing an every other year thing.

Randall Thacker: We'll try to work with the Tribe. The beauty of the control permits is there are hunters who are there anyway earlier in the fall before the elk move onto the Tribe. We're hoping that permit sale increases and the harvest increases.

### **Questions from Public:**

John Larsen (SFW): Show the Beaver unit slide.

Blake Bess (Dedicated Hunter): On cow elk tags, are you considering the control permits in that figure?

Justin Shannon: Public draw permits are what's being proposed and voted on tonight. The control permit is what you can purchase over the counter. If you're already hunting that area, we're trying to add additional harvest. 950 permits and then the control permits on top of that.

Blake Bess: So any of those deer hunters could buy a control permit?

Justin Shannon: Last year we had 900 permits.

Blake Bess: So it could do harm if everyone took an elk.

Randall Thacker: Even though you had a lot of permits, there was only an 18% success rate.

### **Comments from Public:**

John Larsen (SFW): Keep Book cliffs same as 2014.

Justin Shannon: We recognize Book Cliffs is up but we need hunting pressure on some areas. On some cases in the south end, they'll move down quite a ways. With 130 permits it's not to knock the population back it's just to add pressure.

Clint Sampson: We increased permits but tripled the size of the unit. Elk are on deer winter range and we want to move them around and keep pressure around.

**Comments from RAC:**

Rod Morrison: I'm leary about increasing the buck tags. I don't see any landowners saying, "I've got a severe problem." I'd like to see antlerless deer permits stay the same.

Boyde Blackwell: Could you explain antlerless deer permits in Daggett County?

Amy VandeVoort: This would be a new hunt for 50 antlerless deer permits. We're 2000 over objective and need to help get rid of deer on landowners' land . They're really concentrated in there. Migratory deer come in the winter. This is kind of a private lands hunt to target the resident deer. They don't contribute to the hunting population and being 2000 over-objective, 50 does isn't going to hurt it.

Dax Mangus: We had a meeting to today talking about depredation. We have legal obligations to address landowners with crop damage. We can call depredation hunts and Division removal. We look for the best opportunity to give sportsmen to harvest deer and get some meat. Now, Manila area, deer are in agricultural areas. The season is earlier so it will target resident deer vs. calling a special hunt or having Division removal.

Mitch Hacking: The agricultural community talks to the biologists in advance of this meeting. They've already contacted the biologists and that's why these recommendations are being made.

Randy Dearth: Why the additional 75 at Panguitch?

Justin Shannon: We've monitored that range for quite awhile and we're feeding a lot of deer on it. It's a good opportunity to get some harvest. We've done transplants for several years. The bulk of that is range driven. We want healthy robust populations but we don't want to grow them on the backs of landowners and habitat. If landowners are saying, "This is more than we can tolerate," we want to be proactive.

**MOTION**

**Brett Prevedel move to approve as presented**

**Beth Hamann: Second**

**Passed Unanimously**

**8. 2015 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS - Scott McFarlane,  
Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**

(See handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

None

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comment from Public:**

John Larsen (SFW): We would like to see you accept the Division's plan as presented.

**Comments from RAC:**

None

**MOTION:**

**Beth Hamann move to accept the Divisions proposal as presented**

**David Gordon: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

**9. STATEWIDE MOUNTAIN GOAT MANAGEMENT PLAN - Dustin Schaible, Bighorn  
Sheep Biologist**

(See Handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Brett Prevedel: How many goats are on the Tushars?

Dustin Schaible: We've taken 80 In the last few years 136-150 is the total. Have been over 200 in most years.

Wayne McAllister: What about the SE from Ogden Morgan and Henefer. Are they receptive?

Dustin Schaible: We worked with the Forest Service to get their support and largely it's because these goats have left Willard Peak and there was no management plan for them.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

John Larsen (SFW): On behalf of SFW we accept your plan as presented. In addition, I commend Dustin and the Division on the aggressive increase. Two species tough to see are sheep and goats but you've got to know where they are. If you take a group of Boy Scouts out and they see those goats, that's what they talk about. On a back country trip it's a fun thing to see. It elevates what we're doing in backcountry.

**Comments from RAC:**

None

**MOTION:**

**Dan Abeyta move to accept the proposal as has been recommended**

**David Gordon: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

Randy Dearth: Question this weekend viewing on Cottonwood Canyon. Can you travel from there or can you see them from the parking lot?

Ron Stewart: It will be right up above.

Boyde Blackwell: Every four or eight years, we get to take an opportunity to thank folks for the efforts they've put in on the RAC and it takes a lot of time and these folks that are dedicated. to doing this, I want you to know we really appreciate them. We're going to be losing some folks but they have one more meeting.

We have a picture here for Beth Hamann. She's put in two stints, so she's been with us for eight years. She was here when I was still here the first time and she's finally reached her eight years and we want to tell her that the region owes you a debt of gratitude for the efforts you've put in.

Then we've got another guy that's been here just as I was leaving, Rod Morrison. We want to express our gratitude and appreciation for all that he's done for the region. Many of the things he's said have been done statewide. You folks really have taken actions statewide and on behalf of the Division and behalf of the Director, we appreciate it.

Rod Morrison: I didn't need the glasses before and gray hair. Bucks and bulls forever in Utah.

Beth Hamann: You saved me a bear!

**Motion to adjourn.**

**David Gordon:**

**Beth Hamann: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm**

**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah  
April 15, 2015**

*Motion Summary*

**Approval of today's Agenda and Minutes**

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

**Motion by:** Derris Jones

**Seconded By:** Chris Micoz

**Passed unanimously**

**Conservation and Sportsmen Permit Rule R657--41 amendments (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the Conservation and Sportsmen Permit Rule R657--41 amendments as presented with the changing of the words "Annual Wildlife Exposition" to the "Western Hunting Wildlife Conservation Exposition" throughout the rule.

**Motion By:** Charlie Tracy, Amendment and **Seconded By:** Derris Jones

**Passed By:** 5:4 with Darrell Mecham, Derris Jones, Blair Eastman, Charlie Tracy, Kevin Albrecht

**Opposed By:** Chris Micoz, Trisha Hedin, Wayne Hoskisson, Todd Huntington.

**Bucks, Bulls, OIAL and Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls, OIAL Recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exception of keeping the number of permits on the Central Manti unit the same as 2014 and also decreasing the number of permits on the La Sal unit by 200 permits for a total of 1600 La Sal unit permits in 2015.

**Motion by:** Todd Huntington

**Seconded by:** Trisha Hedin

**1 opposing vote by** Derris Jones

**Passed 9:1**

**Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented.

**Motion By:** Charlie Tracy

**Seconded By:** Darrell Mecham

**Passed unanimously**

**2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented.

**Motion By:** Charlie Tracy

**Seconded By:** Blair Eastman

**Passed unanimously**

**Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the Statewide Mountain Goat Management Plan as presented.

**Motion By:** Charlie Tracy

**Seconded By:** Blair Eastman

**Passed 8:2 with 2 opposing votes by: Trisha Hedin and Wayne Hoskisson**

**Noted:** Wayne Hoskisson did receive his information via paperwork by Dustin Schaible as he requested.

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING**  
**Beaver High School, Beaver, UT**  
**April 14, 2015 5:00 p.m.**

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

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

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**2. CONSERVATION AND SPORTSMAN PERMITS RULE R657-41 AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION:** To accept the Conservations and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**3. BUCKS, BULLS AND OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

**MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exception of not increasing the general deer permits on the Vernon, Manti, Zion and Beaver units and to decrease the late Zion deer hunt permits to 3.

**AMENDMENT:** To lower the general deer permit numbers on the La Sal and South Slope Bonanza by 150 permits.

**VOTE:** Carries 6:2 (2 opposed)

**AMENDMENT:** To increase the Bison Hunter's choice permits on the Henry Mountains by 10.

**VOTE:** Carries 7:1 (one abstained)

**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION:** Unanimous

**4. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015**

**MOTION:** To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exceptions of increasing the antlerless elk permits on the Southwest Desert unit to 600 permits, increasing the antlerless elk permits for the Monroe/Mt Dutton/ Plateau multi unit hunt by 200 permits and if you draw a buck pronghorn permit for the Plateau hunt you can purchase a doe pronghorn permit for the same unit.

**VOTE:** Carries 6:2 (2 opposed)

**5. 2015 CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**MOTION:** To accept the 2015 CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**6. MOUNTAIN GOAT UNIT MANAGEMENT PLANS**

**MOTION:** To accept the Mountain Goat unit management plans as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING  
Beaver City Center, Beaver, UT  
April 14, 2015 5:00 p.m.**

<b>RAC Members Present</b>	<b>DWR Personnel Present</b>	<b>Wildlife Board Present</b>	<b>RAC Members Not Present</b>
Sean Kelly Mike Worthen Mack Morrell Dave Black (chairman) Rusty Aiken Mike Staheli Layne Torgerson Dale Bagley Brian Johnson	Kevin Bunnell Stephanie Rainey Vance Mumford Jim Lamb Mark Ekins Brandon White Lynn Chamberlain Dustin Schaible Jason Nicholes Justin Shannon Kent Hersey Scott McFarlane Josh Pollock Riley Peck	Steve Dalton Jake Albrecht	Sam Carpenter (excused) Harry Barber Cordell Pearson Clair Woodbury

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m. There were approximately 34 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: Okay we'd like to get started if we could. We'd like to welcome you out to the RAC meeting tonight. My name's David Black; I'm the chairman of the Southern RAC, from St. George. Um, I'd also like to recognize two of the Wildlife Board members, we have Jake Albrecht who's the chairman of the Wildlife Board is here, and Steve Dalton; raise your hands. Thank you. I appreciate your attendance tonight. First order of business I'd like to introduce the RAC. We could start down with Dale, on my left.

Dale Bagley: Dale Bagley. I represent an elected official; from Marysvale.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson from Richfield. I'm a sportsman's representative.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli from Deseret. I'm non-consumptive.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City, agriculture.

Kevin Bunnell: My name is Kevin Bunnell. I'm the regional supervisor with the Division of Wildlife and my role on this RAC is to just act as kind of the secretary for the chairman.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell from Bicknell, agriculture.

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

Sean Kelly: Sean Kelly from Fillmore; representing the Forest Service.

Dave Black: Thank you. Normally right now I'd talk about the RAC procedures but I think I'll hold off for just a minute to see if we get some more people attending and we'll go over that.

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

Dave Black: The first order of business is we need a nomination to approve the agenda and the minutes for tonight.

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman I'd make a motion that we approve the meeting agenda and the minutes from the last meeting.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion. Do we have a second? Okay a second from Rusty. All those in favor? Okay that's unanimous.

**Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the agenda and previous minutes as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: The next item on the agenda will go to the regional update from Kevin.

**Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:  
-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Do you want me to do a quick Wildlife Board update too Dave? So just quickly, you know the last RAC meeting we had was, we only had the single agenda item relative to the Utah Prairie Dog Plan. That passed the board without any changes. We did have the Fish and Wildlife Service there and a little bit of dialog back and forth but in general that process is going well. My staff in Cedar City is in the process of implementing that plan. The Rule portion of it that governs what the public can do takes affect May 8<sup>th</sup>, and so we're working towards making sure that we have all the information out for that and the process seems to be going as well as it can be. It's going to be a learning process and we're trying to adjust as we go as we work through that. As far as a regional update, and I'll be brief just because I know we have a lengthy agenda. From our aquatics section, the ice is off just about everywhere. Richard Hepworth our aquatics manager drove past Navajo Lake this morning and he thought that with this wind that even Navajo would be clear by the end of today, leaving probably only some of the Boulder Lakes in the region that still have ice on them. Everywhere else is, the ice has left. We do have some emergency regulation changes at three reservoirs in the region. At Gunlock reservoir because there's going to be a treatment going on there later this fall; we've loosened the limits on fish at Gunlock. And then also at upper and lower Enterprise just because we're anticipating that those two reservoirs will be drained almost down to nothing given the water situation that we have. And so we've increased the limits on those reservoirs to give fisherman the opportunity to take advantage of those fish while we still have them because we'll probably lose most of the fish populations in those reservoirs. We're also in the process of writing a management plan for Lake Powell that incorporates the changes that will be coming to Lake Powell with Quagga mussels being in there now and that process as well on the way. From our habitat section, just make note that the road closures on most of our WMAs will, those roads will be open as of May 1<sup>st</sup>. And our habitat section is very aggressive here in the Southern Region. We're anticipating an additional 10,000 plus acres of restoration treatments coming this next fall and they're in the process of getting all of the funding put together and all the planning to make that happen. Our law enforcement section, this is the time of year where they plug in and provide a lot of help to our management sections. They've been helping with sage grouse lek counts and things like that recently, as well as starting to work the reservoirs and fisherman. Our wildlife section has been heavily involved with getting sage grouse lek counts done. We've been in the process of revising our deer unit plans. You'll see those at the next RAC meeting in May. We've had several public meetings around the region to make sure we have the proper input to write those. And then just lastly we had a really good opener for the limited entry turkey hunt this last weekend. And then upcoming we'll have the over the counter hunts. For the youth will be May 1<sup>st</sup> through the 3<sup>rd</sup>. That's, turkey populations are really doing well. If you have any youth that you have an opportunity to take out, those three days are just for the youth. It would be a great opportunity to get somebody their first turkey. And then the general portion of that season will start May 4<sup>th</sup>. And again, our turkey populations are doing well and there should be a lot of success with turkey hunting this spring. And with that I'll be glad to take any questions and turn the time back to Dave.

Dave Black: Okay, I don't see any questions there so let's just talk about the meeting order real quick. I'm sure this is not your first RAC meeting but as we go through each action item we'll have a presentation by a DWR representative. During the presentation we'd ask you to be respectful and allow

them to complete the presentation and then right after that will be the opportunity to ask questions. First we'll have questions from the RAC and then we'll have questions from the public. And we want to limit this to questions only. And then following the questions we'll have comments. And in order for you to come up and make a comment we'd ask you to come to the mic down here in front, state your name, and you'll need to fill out one of the yellow comment cards and indicate which action that you want to talk on. And those comment cards will come up front. And since it's going to be a full agenda today we're going to limit the time for an individual to three minutes. If you're representing a group you can have five minutes. And we have a little timer up here so as we're running out of time if you see me waive my hand then that, we want to get you to wrap up your comments. So we appreciate that. And then following the public comments then the RAC would have an opportunity for their comments and then we'd take a motion and voting on each of those action items. So with that we'll get started on the first action item, which is item number 5, Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule, R657-47 amendments; and Justin Shannon will present.

**Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 (action) 8:49 to 11:00 of 3:31:03**  
**-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**  
(see attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

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

**Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Any question from the public? Lee.

Lee Tracy: That requirement to protect the species, is that species specific or would a general wildlife group qualify?

Dave Black: Lee, we all know you but you need to state your name for the recording.

Lee Tracy: Oh sorry. Lee Tracy, Enoch, Utah.

Justin Shannon: Do we have another mic or is this it? Okay. Essentially the conservation group would have to promote in the protection and preservation for one of the conservation species and if they are broad enough, like well we protect and promote all big game that certainly would qualify something along those lines.

Dave Black: Any other questions? I don't have any comment cards on this item.

**Comments from the Public:**

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC?

None

Dave Black: Okay, I'm ready to entertain a motion.

Rusty Aiken: Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to accept the permit Rule 657-41 as presented.

Dave Black: Okay we have a motion and a second. Any comment? All those in favor? Okay, it passes unanimous.

**Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments as presented. Motion seconded by Mike Staheli. Motion carries unanimously.**

Dave Black: Item number 6 on the agenda is Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations, once in a lifetime for 2015, and Justin will present this one with Teresa.

**Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015 (action) 13:24 to 23:02 of 3:31:03**  
**-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator and**  
**-Teresa Griffin, Wildlife Program Manager**  
(see attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Thank you Justin. Before I open this up for questions to the RAC I just wanted to take a second to introduce two more people and recognize them. We have Darrin Bushman who's a county commissioner with Piute County with us tonight, and also Dennis Blackburn from Wayne County. We appreciate your attendance. Oh do we have one more? Who's that? Will Talbot from Piute County, who's also a county commissioner. Again, we appreciate your attendance tonight and look forward to some comments from you as well. Do we have any questions now from the RAC?

Dale Bagley: On the late season muzzleloader, when we went through that earlier and passed that out of the Southern RAC we passed it kind of with the agreement there would be a very limited number of tag. We were talking like one or two. Is that something that you took into consideration when you came up with these numbers?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, um, I have been asked this a lot, what were the sideboards? The sideboards for these late season muzzleloader hunts was essentially to start small. And so on some units where they have literally thousands of permits, 8 to 10 late season muzzleloader hunts isn't that much. And now there's like the Southwest Desert, we did that; we started very conservative of 3. And so it was really at the discretion of each biologist in those districts but with the intent to start small with these permits.

Dale Bagley: S I guess the biologists feel comfortable with these that it wouldn't have any adverse effect of these numbers here then?

Justin Shannon: No, again, the only reason we chose these units is because they were exceeding 20 bucks per 100 does on those units that were for 18 to 20. And even if you were to harvest 10 more bucks on some of these units I don't think it would change your buck to doe ratio much at all; it's such a minimal number of permits.

Dale Bagley: Okay, thanks.

Dave Black: Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: On the Beaver unit, it looks like you have an increase of, it looks like 150 permits, buck tags. Um, it's below your objective. Is there, do you have a reason for that specific reason?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, one thing that we did with the last statewide plan was, we were asked to look at trend as well. So if you're exceeding your buck to doe ratio you increase, if you're below it you decrease, and if you're trending in a pretty positive direction you can be a little preemptive and recommend an increase. On the Beaver in particular, you know a few years ago we were at 3,500 permits, we cut down and cut down to that 3,000. In talking with the biologist he felt like we could just do a small increase with the trajectory of that buck to doe ratio. So that's the justification behind it Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: What's that?

Justin Shannon: That's the reason why we recommended it, just the trend. .

Rusty Aiken: Tell me about the Chalk Creek again. I know that's an unusual, is it a private property unit? Is that unit 31 and not asking for an increase?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, essentially areas like Chalk Creek where there's just a lot of private land and access is an issue as well where some of your public parcels of land are blocked with access, we felt like if we just added more and more permits to some of those units like the Chalk Creek, or the Nine Mile is another good example, then essentially what you're doing is just decreasing your success rates and frustrating more hunters. So there's kind of an artificial cap on some of them.

Rusty Aiken: What percentage of private land is there, do you know?

Justin Shannon: I'd have to look. I don't know off the top of my head.

Rusty Aiken: So the Zion, I think it's 50 percent, you're at 23 buck to doe stable and you're asking for another 100 tags on that? Is that a private land unit as well? Do you classify that if it's 50 percent private?

Justin Shannon: Um, I, certainly there's private land. Teresa do you want to take a stab at that or Jason? Yeah, 50 percent private land.

Rusty Aiken: So you have consideration on the Zion as you do the Chalk Creek or doesn't it hit in that?

Justin Shannon: Well the Chalk Creek, if you look at that one, I mean there, where are we at there?

We're at 6,800 permits and so the permits are more than double what we have on the Zion. And so they felt like they've pushed that envelope when they were setting up the unit by unit. But this is one that we can certainly look more at.

Dave Black: Okay, Mike.

Justin Shannon: I'm sorry. Morgan, South Rich is 80 percent private land.

Mike Staheli: I wanted to ask a question. On the trending, now when it's trending decrease one minute you say you decrease the tags and then we look and Central Mountain Nebo, trend is decreasing and you increase the tags. Uh, even where they're stable you're, it looks like to me you ought to lower them if they're not meeting their objective. You've got two right there, LaSal Mountains, decreasing trends, decreasing trends, you leave them the same. I thought we had all these units so we could manage them.

Justin Shannon: Yeah.

Mike Staheli: Why don't we . . . My question is if the trend is decreasing why do we increase the tags?

Justin Shannon: So on the Central Mountains Nebo, if you look at their, you know in 2013 they were over 21 bucks per 100 does. This last year they're 18, so they're still over the 15 to 17 criteria. And with looking at the fawn production that they had this year on it the biologists felt like, even if we did an increase of 100 we'd still be within the sideboards next year.

Mike Staheli: So the trend doesn't always apply then is what you're saying.

Justin Shannon: Well yeah, it can.

Mike Staheli: You correlate it with the buck doe ratio and the trending.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and these biologists, I mean, they're looking at everything, what was the production last year, what kind of winter are we having, what's our survival going to be and looking at some of that. And we wrote it that way in the statewide plan to give a little more flexibility. And part of it was, um, a year or two ago on the Box Elder unit we were at 20 bucks per 100 does and then we went to 16 and then we went down to 11. And the 3-year average was still like 16 bucks per 100 does but everybody could look at that and say, no let's take that into account. We can cut permits and get our in front of it. And so it does go both ways in increases and decreases in permits.

Mike Staheli: Okay, one other question. You manage elk numbers not cows to bull ratio. Why do we do it different with deer? I'm sure that the same number of bull elk can breed the same number of cow elk as bucks can breed does. And we never look at that on elk. Some of these units are really high bull to cow ratio and we still have cow hunts there. What's the difference?

Justin Shannon: It's a good question because the bull to cow ratio is really difficult to ascertain. When you're flying these areas on the Manti and the Fish Lake and some of those, sometimes where you cow and calf groups are going to be your bulls are in separate areas, even in winter. And so to try to pick all that up makes it really difficult. I think our sightability is better on cows than it is on bulls, quite frankly.

And so, and the other thing with age, age allows you to manage for an expectation of quality. So if you have a 7 ½ to 8-year-old unit, naturally your bull to cow ratio will be higher but hunters can look at that and say okay I think that unit's going to have a little bit more quality than a 5 ½ to 6-year-old unit. So it's a way to set that up as well.

Mike Staheli: Okay, one other question; on the Vernon unit, on a limited entry unit, it's trending down but yet we increase tags there. I don't understand that one.

Justin Shannon: The Vernon it's . . .

Mike Staheli: It could be a lot better unit than it is I think.

Justin Shannon: I've heard that. You know some guys came to the central RAC and said, hey our quality isn't there. Our buck to doe ratio this last year was actually really high on the Vernon; it was 33.

Mike Staheli: But not the age class there.

Justin Shannon: The age class, yes. The age class did decline on that unit. And one of the things on that is if you look back 4 years it had a really poor fawn production year. And on the Vernon we're generally killing 4-year old bucks and they just, that crop didn't come 4 years ago and so I think hunters had a tough go at it last year.

Mike Staheli: But you're thinking it's coming now so then you can increase the tags.

Justin Shannon: The last couple of years have been pretty good out there according to the biologists, yeah.

Dave Black: Okay, I'll turn the time to Mack and then following Mack Dale had a question.

Mack Morrell: On your deer, what about these landowner permits for bucks? Is that included in here?

Justin Shannon: No these are public draw permits. So these are what would go through the system that you apply for through our process is that way, not a landowner appreciation permits or the landowner permit program that we have in place. Yeah, landowner permits are in addition to these.

Mack Morrell: Okay.

Dave Black: Dale.

Dale Bagley: On the Plateau Thousand Lake unit, I had some e-mail comments on that one. And it was also controversial as far as the preference point things. But on that unit you've got 200 tags now as a general season. What historically were the tag numbers on that when it was a limited entry? Have you increased them a lot or are we still managing that as a limited entry numbers but put it in the general draw?

Justin Shannon: Let me have Jim take a crack at answering that. I don't know what we had limited entry number wise.

Jim Lamb: Historic buck permits on the Thousand Lakes; sorry I was talking about the Fish Lake fire.

Dale Bagley: No, not yet on that. But, now historically what were your tag numbers before that was turned into general season?

Jim Lamb: About 20 years ago we had about 100, and that had dwindled down to less than 50 before it changed to a general season unit.

Dale Bagley: So now we're up to 200 as a general season.

Jim Lamb: Yes, the first year we had 400 and now we're at 200.

Dave Black: Do we have any other questions? Mike.

Mike Worthen: Yeah, looking at the Monroe and the Dutton, especially the Dutton, where you've got the trend just 3 years ago where the buck to doe ratio is clear down to 13. Then all of a sudden it jumped up to 23 and then 22 and now, or uh, to 22 and 22.7 and now it's going back down but yet we're increasing it by 50. And then the Monroe which is just above there, pretty close to the same trend; we're increasing it by 100. And to me it just appears that we're jumping the gun. It seems to me like the reason the 30 units were put there so you could manage it a lot easier and micromanage. But yet any time we get the least bit of jump we're just giving more tags out because we can't stand to see the deer, give them a chance to increase in there and get established. And to me it just doesn't make sense, especially on those two, but also the Zion and a few others that we've increased where the trend is going down or stable even.

Dave Black: Was there a question there?

Mike Worthen: Well the question is why is the Monroe and the Dutton being increased when they are decreasing in their numbers and their trend? And they weren't seen fit last year to be increased.

Justin Shannon: Sure, on the Mt. Dutton as you look at, in 2012 we were 13.7 and then we were 22.2 last year and 22.7 this year. So that one is increasing. And two of the last three years we've been over that, um, 18 to 20 ratio. And so on that one, you know we can support an increase. And then on the Monroe that unit's managed for 18 to 17 bucks per 100 does and all three of the last years we've exceeded that 15 to 17 buck to doe ratio. So again, that's the justification behind the increases in permits on those units.

Mike Worthen: And I can see that but I guess I just have a question on why once we hit the objective we have to pull it down below the objective by increasing numbers again.

Justin Shannon: I think that it's simply to get it in the sideboards. I mean if you have 15 to 17 and you're above that by design you would want to increase permits to get it back to 15 to 17 because there's a lot of hunters that certainly enjoy quality and that's great . . .

Mike Worthen: And I have had a number of emails from just individual sportsman that don't belong to any group or anything else that complain about this. Said they'd rather see the tags held stable or even decrease to get that quality up there rather than kill all the 2-points that are out there the first two or three

days of the hunt.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. I guess the other side of that is there's people that want to hunt more often. And if we look at it and if we're growing deer and our buck to doe ratios are doing better the draw odds just get worse and worse on these general season units every year and there is a camp that would like to see those permits increase so that they can go more; and that would just be the other side of it.

Mike Worthen: Yeah. But I didn't hear that side.

Brian Johnson: Okay so, I am right here with Mike, I don't understand when the objective is 18 to 20 why we have to jump tag numbers because we're not at 21. And if they're trending the same that just seems to confuse me. I'm dumb. Talk slower next time.

Justin Shannon: You want me to take a stab at it?

Brian Johnson: It just seems kind of, okay, you've already tried to take a stab at it so I'll ask another question here. Because I am dumb. The Pine Valley it's at, is that 22? It's green so it's hard to read. Is that 22 bucks per 100 does?

Justin Shannon: On the Pine Valley?

Brian Johnson: On the Pine Valley. It's green so it's hard for me to see.

Justin Shannon: Um, yeah, 22, yep.

Brian Johnson: 22 bucks per 100 does, and I don't want anybody throwing anything at me because I'm not necessarily for increasing tags so don't shoot me yet, but I don't understand why we're not asking for an increase of tags. I just don't get the plan. I'm dumb.

Justin Shannon: Well on the Pine Valley we were at 24 bucks per 100 does in 2012, then we went to 20.6, and now we're down to 20.1. So again, if you look at that trend that's just kind of where we're headed with it.

Brian Johnson: So if it's dash off to the side of the Pine Valley that says trend, what does that mean? I'm stupid.

Justin Shannon: It just means last year's buck to doe ratio relative to this year's buck to doe ratio.

Brian Johnson: So when it's dashed side to side . . .

Justin Shannon: If it wasn't a change more than one . . .yeah. . .

Brian Johnson: That means it's stable, right?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, yeah.

Brian Johnson: Okay. That says it's stable. So I guess that's the problem I just don't understand your

chart because it says that it's stable. Never mind. And that's what I'm getting at, it's still above objective but we're not increasing tags. Is there, is there, I guess maybe my question is does social pressure come into your suggestions?

Justin Shannon: You know I think we want to say we're as pure biologically as we can be but it certainly does. I mean if you look at last year's buck to doe ratio and it's 20.1 that's about where you want to be. And so to increase by 50 or 100 permits probably doesn't make a ton of sense if you're right there at the upper end of that buck to doe ratio. So that's all it is.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any other questions from the RAC. . I have one question, Justin, um, now we have the 30 individual units and we're looking at those individually, and it's my understanding that this year we're looking at the individual units in the southern region. Can you tell us a little bit more about that process and what we can expect to see out of that and what type of involvement or the opportunity for participation from the public in that process or how does that work?

Justin Shannon: You mean for the unit plans?

Dave Black: Yes.

Justin Shannon: Teresa has been taking the lead on that. Let me let her take a stab at answering that.

Teresa Griffin: So over the last several months we have held six open houses across the region to take public input on those unit plans. The biologists have submitted draft plans, which should be final by the end of the week and presented. It will go through the May RAC.

Dave Black: Okay, so that would be the opportunity that we'd have to comment on that, or the public would.

Teresa Griffin: May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dave Black: But you don't ever foresee a committee being involved in certain regions to have some pre-involvement or is it just . . .

Teresa Griffin: For the sake of time and efficiency, and on our workload also, we're supposed to complete those plans the year following the range trend. So just because of time constraints that's why we had open houses in different, you know, we had six across the region. That's how we tried to gather our public input rather than having committees because they're a lot more time consuming. And they probably get a little different bunch of input from different people that we might not get from a committee.

Dave Black: Okay. Mike.

Mike Worthen: Teresa, what was the average number that attended those open houses because the one I went to in Panguitch there was only about three or four individuals there.

Teresa Griffin: There was a few more than that at the Panguitch one. Uh, some had 20, 25.

Mike Worthen: Because I just question whether the open houses are representative of the public's concerns in those management plans. And I thought that the management plans were going to go through a committee and really get, you know, let the people become involved in that rather than the biologists writing the plans themselves.

Teresa Griffin: And you also need to remember that on the unit plans we still are bound by the side boards of the statewide plan so there's only so much that we can change within the unit plans. What we'd like the most input from people is, you know, if we can focus habitat work in one area or another, I mean some of that input is the best that we can get. But the public will also have an opportunity to make their comments at the RAC meeting, the upcoming RAC meeting.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, any other questions from the RAC? Again, as we turn the time over to the public this is for questions only and then we'll be followed up by your comments. And we do have comment cards up here. We'll call you up but if you have any questions feel free to come up, stand at the mic and state your name and your question.

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

Jason Aiken: Hi I am Jason Aiken, I've got a question on the Paunsaugunt management increase. I know the answer to this but I just wanted to make him say it. There's two tags going to the Paunsaugunt management tag, what is that increase for?

Justin Shannon: Thanks I failed to mention that in the PowerPoint . What he's talking about is, you're talking right here on your management buck tags on the Paunsaugunt? Yeah, we're not adding any more permits to the unit as a whole. Last year the CWMU gave back two of those permits and so instead of doing away with them we just simply added them back to the public draw similar to the landowner association permit on the Henrys.

Dave Black: Thank you, any other questions?

### **Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move into the comment section. I have comment cards from Lee Tracy, followed by Brayden Richmond.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. Our group supports the recommendations that the DWR has made regarding the Buck, Bull and Once in a Lifetime tags. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Lee. Brayden. Followed by Paul Neimeyer.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing the Beaver SFW chapter. First, Paul's going to stand up in a minute and discuss the SFW's recommendations; we do support the SFW's recommendations as a whole. There's one on there that deals specifically with the Beaver area, the Beaver Mountain and the increase of buck tags on there of 150. We understand Beaver is trending up slightly, we don't think it's a significant trend yet. And we've never gone over the buck to doe ration of 18. So we would really like to see those permits not change until we're over that number. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you. Paul followed by Jason Aiken.

Paul Neimeyer: I am Paul Neimeyer representing the Wayne/Sevier SFW chapter. We've only got a couple of recommendations. On the Vernon we'd like to see the deer permits stay as they were in '14, and also on the Manti, and on Zion, and on the Beaver. And other than that we support the DWR proposed Bucks and Bulls proclamation.

Dave Black: Thank you Paul.

Jason Aiken: I am Jason Aiken with the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. And Paul pretty much just took everything I had to say. So I'll kind of back some of that up, on the Vernon the reason we are recommending no increase on that is they're afraid the deer quality is not going to be what it's been in the past and so we're, the SFW is recommending that we should stay with the 2014 numbers. Um, and then for the Manti, during that part of the meeting I forgot, I wasn't paying attention so I don't remember that, I think it was crowding. But then also on the Zion, um, we looked at that one, one of the reasons I don't think we should have any increase on the Zion when we're adding that late limited entry hunt on that unit this year so I don't think we should be throwing more tags on top of more tags on that unit. It's a unit that's heavily covered with private property so it's hard to hunt during the general season so. And I went through and did some math, last year they increased the numbers from 3,000 to 3,100 tags. Even with the 100 more hunters in the field they harvested 160 less deer. So it's kind of one of those things just by increasing tags doesn't necessarily always mean you're going to increase harvest. So on that Zion unit just specifically, uh, we think that we should leave those tags the way that they were on 2014 and then Brayden went over everything on the Beaver unit. So, thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Jason. We have Craig Laub followed by Wade Heaton.

Craig Laub: Craig Laub representing Utah Farm Bureau. Usually John would be here but he's not able to be, John Keeler. Anyway we are glad to see the numbers increasing. We think with the open winter the numbers of, probably the survival rate's pretty high and we think the herds are healthy but also our concern is with the conditions of the habitat that we need to increase the numbers. One concern I did have going over the numbers, the elk in the southern regions most all of them are at or above age deal so we was wondering why there weren't as many spike, or why we didn't have more spike tags there?

Dave Black: Jason can you respond to that question about the spike tags?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, in the statewide elk plan it caps the number of spike permits at 15,000 and so that's the reason. Um, and with that spike hunters can go anywhere on a limited entry unit they wanted to and so, um, there's opportunities to increase. If hunters wanted to come and hunt the southern region there's nothing preventing them I guess. But the reason that we didn't call for increases in spike permits is simply because we're capped.

Dave Black: Okay, thank, you. Wade, followed by Boyd Corry.

Wade Heaton: Sorry, Scott and I were solving problems back there. I just wanted to comment on the Paunsagaunt recommendations. Friends of the Paunsagaunt and the CWMU are pretty excited about where we are at, pretty happy with the recommendations. Our buck to doe ratios or average age has kind

of stayed in a realm where we're all pretty happy. What we're seeing on the ground we're pretty happy with. And uh, and so we've worked with our biologist and the Division and we're pretty comfortable with those numbers, leaving them the way they are, both with the deer, the management, and as well as the elk permits. Uh, so uh, so we uh, uh, recommend that uh, we go ahead and pass that, we approve that. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you Wade. Boyd, followed by Chris Isom.

Boyd Corry: I am Boyd Corry. I guess I'm with Friends of the Paunsagaunt speaking not about the Paunsagaunt. Uh, I really like what the SFW said about not increasing the tags in the Zion unit and those others. Um, just a comment on that Zion unit, I don't know if someday we can shrink them a little but it's a unit where the deer migrate and if you've ever hunted it, I think I saw three archers all sneaking up on one 2-point this year, and that's archery season. Uh, so from a safety point of view it looks like orange paint on the sand dunes during the rifle hunt, and there's a whole bunch of camo walking through the woods on the rifle hunt, down the sand dunes and archery hunt up on the top. So I really recommend don't increase them. Split the season. So something different but don't have so many people all out there with guns and pointy objects.

Dave Black: Thank you. Chris.

Chris Isom: I'm Chris Isom, just a general hunter. I am very appreciative of the suggestions to increase tags. We've taken a big hit over the last 20 years in opportunity. And I'm glad to see the numbers up. I think when tags are up, or when buck to doe ratios are up, you know, let's increase tags a little bit. When they are below let's decrease them. But for now, I live by the Zion unit, I appreciate that increase of 100. I think an increase in Pine Valley is called for, even a 100. That's what I'd like to say. I appreciate it so thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Chris. David Brinkerhoff followed by Dennis Blackburn.

David Brinkerhoff: David Brinkerhoff, Wayne County Grazers and a permittee on the Henry Mountains. My concern is with the buffalo. Our numbers that we counted last year for the calf was 77. We had an 83 percent kill according to Wade. Uh, that would increase the herd size by 13 or 14 more permits. Plus the tags that we're issuing this year is only 77 so it looked like to me from the figures that I can put together here that we're going to increase that herd by 25 to 30 head this year. And that's got me a little bit concerned, especially with the drought conditions that we're experiencing in southern Utah or all over the state right now. I think we need to look at maybe increasing that number or finding a way to monitor what's going on with this drought so that we don't get out of control with our buffalo herd again. I think this collar situation that USU study done helped us a lot, helped us to understand a lot about the migration of the buffalo and the impact that they are causing to certain areas of the range. I'm just a little concerned. Last year we counted or shot that 91 head and our kill was only 83 so we've got to be increasing somewhere with 77 calves and only killing 57. Another concern that I have is with the elk herd that is upon the Henrys. As near as the information that I got I think they killed one elk last year. And I know that they're trying to get rid of them but there's got to be some way to find a way to eliminate those elk that are there, they don't want them there, DWR doesn't want them there, we don't want them there. And then we've got another problem that's coming up, we're starting to count antelope numbers in our deserts and at the foot of the Henrys. I think there's a problem there that we need to address. We need to get on top of it before it gets out of hand on these kind of situations. In my

observation of the things that's been going on elk and buffalo and deer do not mix. When you get an elk herd why you'll find out that your deer leave. From my observation, and I don't know whether there's any science or studies that can back that up but that's my observation. When you get a herd of elk in an area your deer either leave or go to the fields or move away from them. That's probably all I have to say. I thank you for listening to me.

Dave Black: Thank you. Dennis followed by Scott Christensen.

Dennis Blackburn: Dennis Blackburn, Wayne County commissioner. I'm glad to hear you're trying to increase the deer numbers. We used to couldn't sleep for a week before the deer hunt but, uh, anyway but I feel a lot like David that most of the deer have moved to town and they are not out on the mountain like they used to be and I think it is because of the elk numbers and the antelope numbers. I know elk tags sell for a lot more than a deer tag and maybe that has something to do with it. Maybe just a one 7-day deer hunt instead of hunting them from August to January would be something that we ought to try. This year we had 30 or 40 head of elk in Lyman and it wasn't hardly any snow on the mountain. And when these elk come to town and we start hunting them in town it's a big concern because you got all the people that don't want you to hunt seeing what you're doing plus the damage they do to fences and the other things that come with it. One other concern that I have is the antelope numbers. When they first planted antelope on Parker Mountain the objective was 300, then it was 800, and then they finally come up with an antelope plan. I think when they counted them there were 5,200. Now I believe the antelope plan for Parker Mountain is 1,500. The last I heard you were up to 2,000 and wanting to raise it to that. I think we need to stay with 1,500. But Wayne County is a unique place. When you get to Kaneshville headed towards the east that's where half of the county is, about there divided, from there on over is the other half of the county. These last few years you've been stocking these antelope down there; did you have a plan for that down there? What's the objective for them down there? They are in areas that I don't know if you could hunt them if you sold the permit. That's just some of my concerns, thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Dennis, we appreciate that. Scott.

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, Loa, Utah, Wayne County. I'm not native there so I'm trying to learn the jargon. I've only been there 15 years. My question is a little bit, maybe redundant, but I'd like to kind of ask the same question that Brian asked. I need a better understanding, and I'd like to do it here so maybe I can refer back, how we get stuff changed or do things different because every time we talk it's well that should have happened six months ago, or that should have happened in the mule deer committee. I attended three different town halls; all three had the consensus to raise buck to doe ratios in certain regions, primarily the Fishlake, Boulder, Thousand Lake, but we were told that no you can't do that it doesn't fall under the mule deer management plan. In those same meetings it was told to us that basically those were held because of the survey. And I got a hold of the survey and I went through it and there was a lot of other information in the survey that we don't do anything about, or even talk about, 60 percent plus were dissatisfied with the number of bucks they saw on the units. The survey is all over the place. We can pull any kind of, I mean I could make a great speech about why we're doing everything contrary to the survey and I can see the Division's side too. So my question is, how, and this is more for Justin, if we want to have things changed next year what process, how do we do that? Because obviously we were too late to do anything about it this year.

Justin Shannon: So, what the purpose of the statewide plan was essentially to provide sideboards on

what the unit plans can do. And when we put the committee together, when we did the deer plan in 2008 the Division did that survey with no input from the committee. It was just as professional and scientifically rigorous as it can be. And this year we decided to go a different route and essentially say okay, I know I'm not a social scientist and so I want the buy in from the committee. Let's put our heads together and write a survey together that we can all own and agree on. And so that was the issue behind the survey. As far as how things get changed, the statewide plan does put some sideboards, in the statewide plan we define what a general season unit is; it's either managed for 15 to 17 bucks per 100 does or 18 to 20. We define what a limited entry unit is. We define what a premium limited entry unit is and a lot of those types of things. And so as far as when does that get changed, probably the next time the statewide plan is up for revision. As far as unit plans which are going to be coming through the next round of RACs, if you want to have input on that I would work with Teresa and the biologist. But with that said you have to stay within the sideboards of the statewide plan. Does that answer that question fair enough?

Scott Christensen: So basically, yeah, and I keep hearing that but even in our meeting, and I asked you Justin, can we change the 60 to 40? Well we'd have to look at the sideboards and we don't know. Um, the only thing that was hard and fast was the 18 to 20. We could raise, for example Boulder and Fishlake. . . I can't remember the two that they are but from the 15 to 17. . . but there are things if we hit the, if we exceed the 18 by 20 is it a mandate in the sideboard that we have to go all rifle tags? Can we increase opportunity? And when can we talk about that? When can we sit down, to not take away opportunity but maybe just change the opportunity so we can keep a higher buck to doe ratio for our quality deer hunt?

Justin Shannon: Sorry about that, that's a good question. So one of the strategies in the statewide plan says that our permits are going to be 60 percent rifle, 20 percent archery, 20 percent muzzleloader. And as a result, but there's a caveat in there that says some of those ratios may be adjusted to meet a minimum buck to doe ratio essentially. And so one of the open houses, if I can speak to this for a minute, we kept talking about well how come we have to increase permits when we exceed 20 bucks per 100 does? And the reason was is to, because those are the sideboards, 18 to 20, and if you're above you increase, if you're below you cut. And some of the conversations that we had at the open house was, is it possible to increase permits but not necessarily throw them all into the rifle where a lot of the crowding takes place? And I think we talked Panguitch Lake in particular and some of these, if I remember right, some of these units that have more crowding. And I think it's actually a good idea. I think it's something that we should explore and look into so that way as we increase permits we're not just stacking more rifle hunters on top of rifle hunters in areas like Morgan and some of those areas that have high private land units, but we can still increase permits and provide a little more opportunity. So I like the idea personally.

Dave Black: Scott I am going to cut you off.

Scott Christensen (off mic): Do it in a month for the following year? It's not going to happen.

Dave Black: Well since I know you I can pick on you a little bit. I'll try to get you trained. We had the question section and most of those would have been more appropriate in the question section. But they are very good comments and I'd encourage real heavily to bring those same comments in May when we talk, is that when it is? When we talk about the individual unit plans because we want to hear those same comments again and we can address them. But don't give up. There are others that have very similar

concerns and comments and some of those people are up here as well. And don't give up and please come in May and let's discuss it again. So sorry to cut you off now but we'll do it again. The next comment card is Gene Boardman followed by Verland Kind. We all like Gene. We're glad to see you here tonight Gene.

Gene Boardman: Thank you. Gene Boardman from Hinkley, Utah. I would like to comment first about this age objective thing. I think that we've, I don't think that it's the best management plan that we can possibly come up with. I think that if you look at it there's a lot of bucks that never become 4x4 26-inch spread. There are a lot of bulls that can go to old age and will never score more than 320 points. But the age objective thing always assumes that if they live long enough they are going to be 30 plus inch spread bucks and they're going to be 400-point bulls. And it just isn't so. And so I think that we're losing some opportunity on hunting opportunities because we're busy worrying about this age objective and I don't think it's the best management plan. Mike I hope you heard three or four and I'll add my voice to it, if we want hunting opportunity, not necessarily bigger bucks. And I think we're going along pretty good today and I think I agree with most of the recommendations. I just ask the RAC board, don't after we all get through talking decide to raise the age objective on some of our units because it cuts down on hunting opportunity. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thanks for the idea Gene. Followed by Verland King and then Gib Yardley is the last comment card that I have.

Verland King: I'm Verland King. I'm representing Henry Mountain Grazers. Are you guys familiar with the information we've gotten from the USU study? Have you guys seen anything from that? There's been some newspaper articles and stuff like that. I'm also a member of the Bison Committee and we discussed it at length in our meeting. We're relying on the model, this big model in the sky, and we're giving it a chance as Henry Mountain Grazers to see what it will do. From the study that's been done we've seen some good things happen. We've seen sightability drop from 95 percent to around 90. The main research on that hasn't been printed out yet and we're waiting on that. And also the mortality rate parts and numbers that we're waiting on and that's in the mix getting that figured out. There's some things that came out that we already knew but now we got it documented so that makes it better I guess. You can't believe an old cowboy. We found out that the bison in the summer go on the north mountain, in the winter they go right down on David Brinkerhoff's winter range, pretty much every one of them. We also found out that that winter range is hard to get to so for convenience sake USU couldn't study it or didn't study the damage done there so there's certain things to this study that you've got to take with a grain of salt. The one thing they found out that we, there are rabbits on the Henry Mountains and they graze quite a bit. They're not commercial rabbits, they're wildlife rabbits so when we're studying how much forage is taken by buffalo, deer, we've got to figure the rabbits in there too. I have concern about the hunt numbers that we're not taking off the recruitment. We also in the bison plan there's a comment about drought years that we will approach the wildlife board to issue more bison permits. Hopefully we'll get some rain this summer, if not you can bet the BLM is going to approach the permittees to decrease their numbers this winter and when they do that we're going to come full force and ask the DWR to increase bison permits. Normally this falls about a year or two after the problem but we'll need it done right away. And that's pretty much all I have for this part. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Gib.

Gib Yardley: I want to hold my comments until after you've discussed the cow elk.

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move it to that point. Thank you.

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

Dave Black: Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I think I need to correct it, from Verland's comments, isn't there a trigger in place on the bison plan that was put in place several years ago when we were in a drought and we kind of did an emergency cow hunt or something down there if I remember right, if my memory serves me right, like 4 or 5 years ago?

Justin Shannon: It does. We did do that. We looked at the, we took our recommendations through the public process like this and it passed and then later that July we were looking at the conditions. Do you guys remember what year that was, was it 2010, '11? Right around there? I can't remember exactly. But essentially what we did is we went to the Wildlife Board in July and said we want to increase, we want to add additional permits to that unit and we did. And even this year with the recommendation that's gone forth, it's not to get us to 325 adults post season, it's to get us to 315 to give us a little bit of buffer because we genuinely don't want to be over on that unit, especially during hard years.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, we'll turn the time to the RAC for any comments. Mack.

Mack Morrell: Yeah, I have several comments on the deer, and the elk, and the antelope. 20 years ago you'd never see a deer in the fields, hardly ever. Now we have resident herds. And I think that's because of two reasons, number 1 the elk have moved the deer out of their winter range and into the fields and the towns. And number 2, is that once they hit the fields then they raise their fawns there so consequently that's going to result in a monumental problem with the deer herd because they're resident herds. They live in the sagebrush right close to the fields. They go in and they go out; in and out. And on the elk herd I think the management plan you're managing for is under optimum conditions on the summer range. Where does the elk winter? About anywhere they want to. Consequently they're taking livestock feed in the spring. And that's hurting the economy of the livestock people. So we need to address the elk herd. I think you need to manage for winter range conditions not summer range. That's a problem with the bison, and the elk. Now the management plan on the pronghorn is for 1,500. We've got 2,000 and that's not counting the ones on the desert by the Henry Mountains. So we need to take a look at that. So we can take a look at it now or else we can wait until the antlerless permits and maybe we better wait until the antlerless permits because I think that we need to take off more elk and antelope. But my suggestion is Justin, what do you want to do with these resident deer herds in town?

Justin Shannon: I don't necessarily disagree with you on that. I think we do have pockets in the state where deer are propagating in towns. We see it in the urban areas; we see it in some of these agricultural fields and different things like that. It's a real issue that you're addressing. I'd probably leave it best up to Teresa to talk about how she would like to approach it here in the Southern Region but there's, we can get aggressive with doe permits and some of these things and we've done that in pockets of the state and been successful in reducing deer in certain areas. So if you have specific areas let's have a conversation about how to address those deer.

Mack Morrell: There's a lot in Wayne County, I don't know about the Piute and Garfield Counties, but

there's a lot, there's a resident deer herd right in Lyman in the cemetery. There's a resident deer herd out at Big Rocks on my property.

Justin Shannon: I will say this, the last couple of years as we've looked at depredation, one thing that Scott McFarland and I, he's our private lands public wildlife coordinator, we've had a lot of conversations about how we don't want to grow our deer and elk herds on the back of private landowners. So if we have these situations let's work together and get it resolved.

Dave Black: Thank you. Brian, do you have a comment?

Brian Johnson: I just to go back to this deer management plan guys. I'm looking at this and it seems like the LaSal Mountains were at 14 bucks per 100 does, we're tending down and they don't cut tags. I mean I'm looking at that guys and I'm just thinking when we present a recommendation here I know they can get long winded and I know that the Board doesn't like to hear them long winded, you guys down there can agree. But I wonder if we need to say, I don't know if we can word it that says, hey if you're not over objective we're not raising tags and if we're not under it, you know. I, I just, this trending thing kind of spooks me a little bit. Especially like the LaSal, it's trending down and we're not cutting tags. And I go to bat, and I defend the DWR a lot and I say, look these guys are not in it just for the money. You know they need money to make stuff run, I get it. I get that you need money to make stuff run but when I see that I think well hell. Come on guys, this, tags equal money. We've got to look at that. So as we're doing this proposal or our recommendation I just don't know how long winded we want to make it and I'm open to discussion to how we want to make it but I really think there should be something in there to get these into the recommendation, into the, if we're not over objective we don't raise, if we're under objective then we cut.

Dave Black: Mike.

Mike Worthen: Yeah, I think we would be remiss if we didn't bring up Sam Carpenters' concern on the late hunts. I remember a few meetings ago when we passed the state mule deer plan; they gave sideboards to the management plan. And in that we had a lengthy discussion on late hunts and I believe, if I remember right, we were told that no one unit would be increased in that late hunt by over, by two or three, that would be it. And yet we've got three, and then the 10 area and some in the 8 area. It seems to me like we've kind of jumped the gun on where we thought as a group; at least I thought we were going on this. And so I just bring that up, a concern that Sam had and he suggested that 3 late hunt permits be allowed on the Zion.

Dave Black: Thank you. Do we have any other comments from the RAC? Dale.

Dale Bagley: I had a lot of comments from people that hunted the Beaver this year. They weren't real thrilled with what they were seeing. I'm not sure about on the Beaver side of things, but on the Marysville side they weren't seeing what they thought they should as far as bucks or does. As far as the 3-year average you're just right under. You're at 17.8; the objective is 18 to 20. So in my mind until we get at least up into the, well we're talking about the sideboard, we probably are a little premature in increasing that Beaver unit. I didn't hunt it but I got a lot of comments of guys saying that they weren't going to hunt that unit again, they were going to switch units; they were that disgruntled with it.

Dave Black: Thank you. Let me summarize a couple of things before you make a motion and then we'll

entertain one. I just want to go down through the comment cards. We had Lee come up, their group supports the plan as presented. The Beaver SFW opposed to raising permits on the Beaver. The Paul and the Wayne, Sevier SFW they want to see the number of tags on the Vernon, the Manti, the Zion and the Beaver stay the same. The Farm Bureau supports the plan as presented. Wade Heaton, he's happy and supports the plan that's in my notes. Uh, Boyd Corry stood up and asked us not to increase the number of tags. Chris Isom supports the increase in tags and would encourage us to leave the plan as is. David Brinkerhoff talked to us about the buffalo herd on the Henrys and also that there's elk on the Henrys which is a concern I know. Dennis Blackburn, and we've heard a lot about deer moving into town and it's becoming more and more popular throughout southern Utah and that's a concern. And wanted us to look at the elk herd and the antelope herd. Scott Christensen had some good comments; hope to hear those again in May. Gene Boardman talked to us about not increasing the age objective and supports opportunity. Verland Kind with the Henry Mountain Grazers concerned about the buffalo herd and encouraged us to raise the tags. I'm sure we've all received emails and talked to a number of people in our areas. The emails that I've received and the people that I've talked to probably at least 95 percent of those would like to see the number of tags stay the same without increases. There's less than 5% that were happy to see the number of tags increase for increased opportunity and that's what I've seen in the comments that I have had. So with that summary then if Rusty's ready to start a motion we'll entertain that motion. Dale.

Dale Bagley: On the Henry's, there were some numbers thrown out as far as what the percentage of harvest was. How many were harvested on the Henry buffalo hunt last year? And then what do you expect the recruitment to be for this year and is that, are these tag numbers enough to cover that recruitment?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, let me ask, could I get some help on the harvest? As far as the permit numbers go right now post season I think the estimate was 374 adults, and so that's already taken in, that's what we have to get down to 325 by this next year. And so with 60 permits I know they're hoping to harvest 47 cows or bulls with those permits. And then in addition to that they take in the natural mortalities as was discussed for some of the collar stuff. So the idea with these permits is to get from 374 adults down to 315. Jake brings us a good point. We also survey that in July to verify the model and so if we fly it and we're over and it's substantial we'll certainly call for more permits. I mean that's always an option as we've talked about the drought conditions and things like that with the July RAC and Board. I'll get back to you; the question was percent success last year? How many did we kill? Our recruitment is already taken into account because it's the 374 adults, and then we'll get an idea of our cow to calf ratio this summer when we classify.

Kent Hersey: So harvest last year looks to be around 64, which is actually more than what we predicted. And we ended up getting down to around 305, 310 this past winter. So I'll have to assume the recruitment is correct, it sounds about right, 77 calves or so. And we're not trying to kill everything. It is, the estimates this year are to get it to around 310, 315. So it is allowing for some growth because we actually went down lower than expected last year due to the increased success on the harvest.

Dave Black: Okay Rusty, are you ready?

Rusty Aiken: Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to accept the recommendation on the Bucks, Bulls and Once in a Lifetime with the exception of the Vernon, no increase, the Manti unit no increase, the

Zion and the Beaver no increase.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion and a second from Layne. Do we have an discussion on the motion? Mike.

Mike Worthen: Rusty would you be willing to add the late tag number on the Zion unit down to 3?

Rusty Aiken: Yes I would do that.

Dave Black: Okay, what about the second? Okay. All right, so that's been modified to include, the original motion then. Okay, any further discussion?

Mike Staheli: Yeah, we have some other units I'd like to see inputted in that. We have the Beaver, which you addressed, and I was glad of that. LaSal, we've talked about. It's below the objective completely. North Slope 16 and the objective's 18. South Slope Bonanza 13.3 . . . I think, and like Brian says, somehow we need to put that threshold in there that says if they're not making objective they should not be increased they probably should be decreased. But I don't know how to word it.

Dave Black: Well I think that we should deal with this with an amendment to the motion first on this discussion. IF you want to make an amendment we'll call for a second and then we'll have a discussion on that amendment.

Mike Staheli: Okay, Rusty, go over those units one more time . . . Vernon, Manti Zion, and what was the other?

Rusty Aiken: And the Beaver.

Mike Staheli: And the Beaver. Okay.

Dave Black: Lets get a motion first and a second and then we can discuss it.

Mike Staheli: Should I amend it or make a motion to amend it?

Dave Black: Make a motion to amend.

Mike Staheli: Okay, I'd like to make a motion to amend Rusty's to include LaSal, North Slope, and South Slope Bonanza which are below objective.

Brian Johnson: So do you want those to go down?

Mike Staheli: Not increase. I'm just going to say not increase.

Brian Johnson: So LaSal isn't increasing.

Mike Staheli: That's right, it isn't.

Brian Johnson: And I'm just trying to understand what your motion is so she can do her job. It would

help . . .

Mike Staheli: You're right; they're not increasing now. We need to decrease those. Yeah, the North Slope decreased . . .

Brian Johnson: So we're good there. So we're good on that one.

Mike Staheli: LaSal has stayed the same. It needs to decrease but how do you know. The biologists, they increased like 200 tags.

Brian Johnson: Would you be willing to let me take a stab at it?

Mike Staheli: Yeah, go ahead, yeah.

Brian Johnson: I'd like to make an amendment to the motion that we lower tag numbers on the LaSal Mountains by 150 tags and that we lower tag numbers on the South Slope Bonanza by 150 tags.

Mike Staheli: I'll withdraw mine then and support that one. Yeah, I'll support that.

Dave Black: So we have a motion and a second to amend. The second was Mike Staheli and the motion was by Brian. So the amendment that we're discussion right now is to lower the tag numbers on the LaSal and the South Slope Bonanza by 150 tags on each. And do we have any discussion on the amendment? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I would just like to make a comment, those, both of those region RACs are going to be taking place in the next two days. I'm just wondering if those issues shouldn't be forwarded on to the RAC chairman over there that they are a concern we have and let the individual regions take note of that and maybe let their biologists be involved in this.

Brian Johnson: I hear what you are saying, and I almost agree with you other than they tell us what to do all the time. So I'm kind of of the opinion that this is a state problem and I think that we ought to make the motion and that way at least the board, the board's going to see it and then they can discuss it and they can do whatever they want with it. But if we make the motion and it gets to the board then they can do what they want with it. If it never makes it to the board it's a little harder for them to bring it up. So that's why I, that's why I say it. That's why I think we should do it here.

Dave Black: Do you have a comment Mack? Let's see what your comment is.

Mack Morrell: No I want to make an amendment to the once in a lifetime to add ten bison permits.

Dave Black: Okay, that will be a second amendment. Let's get through this one first. So thank you. I just wanted to see what your comment was. We're just doing deer. That's right. We're going to vote on the amendment unless there's further discussion. All those in favor of the amendment raise your hand. All those opposed. **The amendment carries 6:2. Sean Kelly and Layne Torgerson opposed (6:2)**

Dave Black: Okay, now the main motion has been amended and we have a desire for one more amendment. Mack.

Mack Morrell: I would like to amend the main motion to increase the bison permits by 10.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second. We have a second on the amendment. And now we're open to discussion. Brian.

Brian Johnson: Mike, Mike seconded it. How would you like to see those tags allocated if they're hunter's choice, cow only, what were your thoughts on that?

Mack Morrell: Hunter's choice.

Brian Johnson: I have a question on a hunter's choice tag what's the percentage of cows versus calves on average that get taken on a hunter's choice on a bison hunt?

Justin Shannon: It is general about 15% of the harvest is female.

Dave Black: Mike, are you okay with the second on that? Okay, any further discussion on the amendment? Sean? Okay. All those in favor? All those opposed? One abstention. Motion carries.

**7:1 abstained (Layne Torgerson) amendment carries.**

Dave Black: Do we have any further discussion or amendments on the main motion? Yes please.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, so we have an amended motion, a motion that's been amended twice. So the motion in front of you now is to accept the recommendations except for no increase for deer tags on the Vernon, the Manti, the Zion, and the Beaver; also, to lower the number of tags on the LaSal and the South Slope Bonanza by 150 tags on each unit; and then to increase the number of bison tags on the Henry Mountain by 10 hunter choice tags. So that's the combined motion at this point. Oh excuse me, and to decrease the number of late tags on the Zion down to 3. Thank you Mike I missed that.

Dave Black: All those in favor? Unanimous

**Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exception of having no permit increase on Vernon, Manti, Zion and Beaver units, a decrease to 3 permits for the late Zion deer hunt, a decrease of 150 permits on both the La Sals and South Slope Bonanza and increase the Bison Hunters Choice permits on the Henry Mountains by 10. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, we're ready for the next agenda item which is the Antlerless Permit Recommendation for 2015 and we have Justin and Teresa listed here.

**Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 (action) 1:39 to1:46:31 of 3:31:03**

**-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**

**-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Program Manager**

(see attachment 1)

Kevin Bunnell: (1:46:31) Justin, let me stop you right there. The antlerless control permit is a new thing

here in the Southern Region. Would you explain what that means like for the Dutton and some of those? Let's take a little bit of time to do that now because there's going to be a lot of questions about it as we go.

Justin Shannon: Sure. Yeah, so the antlerless elk control permit it's been had in many parts of the state for a long time and it's picking up in popularity. Hunters really like it. Essentially what it is is if you have any antlered big game permit or a once in a lifetime permit, we'll take the Wasatch for instance, if you have a Wasatch deer permit you can essentially go buy an antlerless elk control permit over the counter for a reduced price, I think they're \$30.00, and you can essentially hunt deer and antlerless elk at the same time. And the idea behind it is it doesn't, you don't have to add more hunters to the field to harvest your elk. With antlerless elk control you get a lower hunter success because you're hunting several big game species but with that said it's enough harvest to where you can reduce public draw permits and still let the guys that are in the field on that unit have a chance at a cow elk in addition to their buck or bull. Did that help Kevin?

Kevin Bunnell: So in essence like on the Dutton we decreased by 100 permits there but we added antlerless control which means however many number of buck hunters we have they can also get an antlerless elk tag to hunt while they are hunting deer.

Justin Shannon: Correct. Yeah, and the spike hunters would be another good example. Any hunter that's on that unit can essentially get a cow permit. Yeah, limited entry, all of it. If there are more questions I can.

**Justin Shannon continues on with the presentation: 1:48:27 to 1:49:20 of 3:31:03**

Dave Black: Okay, lets go to questions from the RAC. Mike and then Mike.

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

Mike Worthen: Yeah, the spike, as you mentioned the spike works about the same way the spike hunt where you can take a cow and they knew that you were hunting if you have a cow permit. Are you going to go, number one are you going to go to where you can buy that cow permit over the counter or are you still going to have to draw for it?

Justin Shannon: The antlerless elk control permits those are over the counter.

Mike Worthen: Even with bull elk or even with a spike elk too?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, all you have to show is that you have a permit that allows you to be valid on that unit and you can buy an antlerless elk control permit that's good for that unit, yes.

Mike Worthen: Okay, and then the second one, this is the second year, at least down here that we've had, you've been able to hunt a cow during the spike hunt in the hunt that you're hunting. Have we got any feedback on how many an increase on how many elk have been taken, cow, or antlerless elk have been taken during that time period?

Justin Shannon: I am not really sure which unit you're talking about, specific . . .

Mike Worthen: I'm just asking has the harvest on the antlerless elk increased because of that program.

Justin Shannon: Oh I see. For the antlerless elk control permits valid for the summer region?

Kevin Bunnell: No. He's not talking about antlerless control permits. He's talking about how the, if you have a draw tag for a cow you can kill that during your deer hunt or during your elk hunt or during the dates that are on that tag. So how has that changed antlerless elk . . .

Mike Worthen: What impact has that had on the harvest? Has it increased the harvest on the cow trying to meet your objective?

Justin Shannon: I think it would be pretty minor. I mean it certainly helps because if you can kill that cow it gives you more take . . .

Mike Worthen: But you don't any numbers as far as . . .

Justin Shannon: No. I don't have good data. I can look into it and get back with you. I don't have a good answer off the top of my head.

Mike Worthen: Okay.

Justin Shannon: My guess is it's going to be pretty minimal but I don't know.

Dave Black: Okay, Mike.

Mike Staheli: I had a question on the antlerless deer permits. You're hunting these does, is it like on Beaver for instance, is that all of the Beaver unit or is it going to be specific boundaries and timing? That was the other, timing and boundaries is my question on that.

Justin Shannon: Lets get the biologist to answer the Beaver doe permit.

Mike Staheli: Oh all right. So you're going to target those animals that are causing the trouble is what I'm asking.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. Let me go to that recommendation real quick. So for the Southern . . . Where is it at? Okay, for the Beaver those 60 permits. What's that one?

Vance Mumford: I'm Vance Mumford; I handle the depredation portion of the management on the Beaver and the Dutton units around the Circleville area. So we have a really high number of deer that are using agriculture fields around Circleville. And some of these deer are resident deer; born in the hay fields, never leave the hay fields. Some of them are just migratory deer. And we've got a lot of pressure on the fields there. And so it's a small boundary, we've given about a mile or so buffer around the private land in order to facilitate public hunter access. And we really do need to harvest these animals to ease that pressure there. Does that answer your question? Okay. Oh, time and season. What we want to do is start it a little early so we can start it October 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>. What's that? So October 3<sup>rd</sup> to catch the deer so hunters hunting early will have an opportunity to catch deer that are resident there and then we

extended it to the end of the rifle deer hunt to just make sure that we get the harvest that we need there. Same with the Dutton. The road is separating them right by Circleville so exactly the same.

Dave Black: Question, would it make sense to also hunt the does with archery and black power just to put more pressure on them? It seems like if you have a hunt on it kind of helps keep them out of the fields a little bit.

Vance Mumford: Yeah, and so if a person were to draw out on that, say that Circleville hunt and he also has an archery or muzzleloader buck deer tag or a general season elk tag for that unit I believe he can still hunt that, even though it's early, say August or September, during that archery hunt or muzzleloader hunt he can hunt that doe. And so we will see some of that. And so we'll see, you know, some harvest trickling in through all of those primitive weapon hunts.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, Sean let's give you a chance to talk today.

Sean Kelly: I had a question on the Plateau antelope. This is the first year in a while that you've trapped on Parker Mountain. Is that going to continue? Is that included in your management for your recommendations?

Jim Lamb: Yes it is, we will continue to trap there Sean. We weren't able to catch as many as we'd like to this year because we crashed a helicopter there. And so that would have helped to bring our numbers a little closer to our objective this year, but yes, we plan on hunting next year and trapping next year.

Dave Black: Mike.

Mike Worthen: Yes, on the Panguitch Lake, late hunt, or the doe hunt that you're having, does those numbers the increase is that going to be translocated or are the translocated included in that number or? No, for next year? Oh the SFW is done.

Jason Nicholes: You're referring to the increase in the antlerless permits for the Parowan front, is that what you're?

Mike Worthen: Yes.

Jason Nicholes: Those are hunting permits. At this time we don't have plans for a transplant next year but who knows, it may happen. But at this time we don't.

Mike Worthen: okay

Dave Black: Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I have a question for Jim. How many antelope did we trap this winter? I mean how many were taken off of the Parker?

Jim Lamb: We're having an argument 237 or 246, one of the two. We'll arm wrestle later in the parking lot and decide.

Dave Black: Okay, any more questions from the RAC? Okay, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Yeah, on your doe and fawn survival study, do you know what was killing, do you have any way to identify what caused the death of the fawns and what changed to make it spike? Or a gut feel?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, the purpose of the study isn't to just get sight specific causes of mortality on each individual because there's just so many collars and the man hours to go do that. And plus when you monitor it, most of these are still in VHF which means you've got to fly them to detect them. And at that point it's very difficult. It's hard to know. I mean certainly all the causes though, I know when I was in the region we had some that were vehicle collision, we had predation, a lot of those types of things when we'd go out on them. So there's a whole myriad of factors. Yeah . . .

Dave Black: Okay, if there's no further questions we'll open it up to questions from the . . .oh one more, Dale.

Dale Bagley: On your aerial flights for elk, did you do any units this year and with the lack of snow is that going to push the flights further back for the units that were coming up? How is that going to be handled?

Justin Shannon: Well that's a good question. Across the state, I mean we just didn't get the snow conditions to fly. We've learned that when you try to force these flights and you fly on poor snow conditions all you end up with is a bad count and even more confusion than when you started. So we just decided to push everything back and every unit that we were going to fly this last winter will now be flown this upcoming winter.

Dave Black: Okay. Questions from the public?

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

Dave Black: Okay, Gene.

Gene Boardman: On this control cow permit, as I understand it, if I want to hunt a cow on the Dutton I can buy a spike tag and then I don't have to worry about the draw I can get a cow tag for a reduced rate too?

Kevin Bunnell: That's correct.

Gene Boardman: Well okay. Will my hunting party and everybody else's hunting party be out there with two tags and it will be a great time? We can shoot cows and spikes and have just pick them all off of the Dutton.

Dave Black: Good question. Any more questions? Okay, come on up if you have a question. Be sure to state your name and remember to keep it to questions at this time and then we'll open it up to comments here in a minute.

Dave Brinkerhoff: Dave Brinkerhoff. My question is, you trapped 200 and some antelope, where did they go?

Jim Lamb: I don't have an exact list of where they all went. We sent them to four different regions. Our region, the Southern Region didn't take any. Do you have the list? Okay.

Justin Shannon: So some went to Hatch Point, some when to Book Cliffs. Um, I think some went on the Avintaquin or Anthro, and then the West Desert. Those are the four units.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond. I've got a couple of questions, kind of switching gears in the middle too if you don't mind. First question is I'm going down these antlerless permits and looking at them it seems like most of them, you know, are smaller, if you're looking at them as percentages we're looking somewhere between 10 and 20 percent on most units. 20 percent would be pretty aggressive except for the Dutton and Boulder. Dutton you're looking at 1/3 and on Boulder you're looking at greater than 50%. Is there a control that we have on antlerless hunts to say we aren't going to go above a percentage of the overall population?

Justin Shannon: No, there's not a control per say. We don't have any sideboards that say you can't go over a 50% increase or decrease. And one reason we don't is we've had units where they've moved, say off of the Cache onto the Ogden and you had to get pretty aggressive because you're, part of you herd moved over. And so no we don't put any of those sideboards on us like that.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me add to that. Another part of that is success rates vary widely. The Dutton in particular is difficult to get cow harvest and so even though that's a high percentage of the overall population success on the hunt is fairly low.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah and then frankly I don't know that much about the Dutton; I've only been on it once, but what I do know is I had three phone calls when they knew I was coming to this meeting tonight and said, we hunt that Dutton and our elk are gone and they're wanting to kill 800 elk. Will you please say something? I said, yeah I will. So with that input that they aren't seeing elk and we're doing over 50% tags that's where that question came from. But I don't have a lot of first hand knowledge on that unit. The second question I have and I should know the answer to this but I'm going to ask it and I'll probably be reminded of the answer, when was the last time we raised objectives on elk? We've spent millions and millions of dollars in this state doing habitat work and trying to enhance what we have, trying to make the range better. When was the last time we increased tags or objectives on elk?

Justin Shannon: To my knowledge the last time we took a look at the objectives throughout the units was in 2012. And I know the Southern Region put some committees together and re-upped their plans at that time. Did you guys do increases? I'm sorry, what was that, Fish Lake increased? What year was that?

Brayden Richmond: That's interesting, because I didn't realize that. That wasn't a loaded question but if in fact we decreased the objective in the Southern unit, we're spending millions of dollars . . . We haven't decreased? I thought we said we

Teresa Griffin: On one unit we decreased.

Brayden Richmond: Oh okay. I thought you said net decrease.

Teresa Griffin: Yes I was wrong. I forgot about Fish Lake.

Brayden Richmond: Okay. Never mind. Anyways, I still think we might need to reevaluate what we're doing here. If we're spending all this money and we can't get more elk . . . sportsman are spending a lot of money. Sportsman want animals and sportsman are sharing that money in the communities, it's going to the state, it's benefiting a lot of people, and sportsman want animals. I just wonder if we're really looking at that and if there's opportunity to look at that again.

Justin Shannon: Um, there's certainly opportunity to look at that again. What we'll do is this summer we're rewriting the statewide elk plan and shortly after that unit plans will be renewed. And in the statewide plan the population objective is the summation of the units and so as those units get looked at . . .yep, yep, as part of the unit plans. Correct.

Craig Laub: Craig Laub, Utah Farm Bureau. My question is dealing with those cow permits that you can get if you have a spike tag or a deer tag. Is that number of cow tags included in this 14,000 or is there a cap on those or? Because I remember years at Boulder when we did that and the next year there weren't any, I mean we just slaughtered the cows.

Justin Shannon: I apologize. What was the question?

Kevin Bunnell: So he's asking if the control permits are included in the number, the 14,000. And the answer to that Craig, correct me if I'm wrong, that's in addition. The 14,000 is the number of cow permits that will go into the draw. And the units that have antlerless control permits are on top of that but it's limited to the number of people that have another tag for that unit. And Justin can speak more to this, the success rate, that seems like a lot but the success rate on those antlerless control permits is fairly low. So even though it sounds like a lot the increase in the other units that we've tried it hasn't been. . . It increases some but not greatly. Justin do you want to, I mean it's like 10% or 7%.

Justin Shannon: The success rate? It's about 22% statewide.

Kevin Bunnell: On the antlerless control permits?

Justin Shannon: Yes.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, 22%.

Craig Laub: I tend to disagree with you a little bit because the last two or three years how ever it's been since we've been able to, if we draw a cow tag we can shoot that cow while we're hunting spikes at Boulder. We all, every one of us come out of there with a cow. Whether we come out of there with a spike or not, every one of us would have a cow come out of there with a cow. So I disagree. I think the numbers are higher.

Justin Shannon: It's similar.

Dave Black: More questions from the public? Go ahead. State your name please.

David Isom: My name is David Isom and I am from Hurricane. And I have a question on the deer herd status of the antlerless permit for and your recommendations for Zion. For your objectives your plan is 9,000 and over the last three years that population has gone from 10,500 to 15,000. And my question is why is there no antlerless permits, deer permits in Zion? One, and the second question is on your buck to doe ratios in Zion the objective is 18 to 20 and the past three-year average is 23.9. And so your buck ratios, if your ratios of buck to doe ratios is up that high your buck population is up as part of that 15,000 deer, why are we not issuing more buck permits and even issuing any antlerless permits? There's none. I don't understand that.

Dave Black: Let them respond to that question first and then you can go ahead.

Jason Nicholes: The DWR did recommend an increase in buck permits tonight but the RAC chose not to do that. And so that answers that question. As for the population objective that population objective of 9,000 was a number that was that the DWR came up with back in 1995 or so. Increases or improvements in our modeling process and our data, we've seen some large increases. We've had great production and we've had good survival on that unit so we have increased. In this management plan process I do anticipate recommending an increase in the population objective for the Zion unit. Range conditions are doing pretty well on the Zion unit. There are pockets that we do see a little bit of damage. But there are places where we see damage when the population is down around 6,000. I mean it's just localized areas. There's a lot of habitat still out there.

Dave: Okay, go ahead. State your name please.

Jesse Hatch: I am Jesse Hatch. I'd just like to simply ask why control permits on the Dutton or on any of these cow elk units? And another question is when was the last time we had a good accurate count on elk on these units?

Josh Pollock: With the Dutton, the last time they flew it was 2013. They counted roughly 1,300 elk. With that projection it put us about 2,100 elk in 2013. So that was the last time that it was flown. Our overall harvest on the Dutton for cow elk is in 30% range and so we decreased the permits a little bit this year in hopes that we could increase some harvest with the antlerless elk control permits this year by doing that. So that's why we decided to do that. The Dutton is the only one that's doing that.

Jesse Hatch: What number did you guys use as the cross over rate? As far as elk that, where the Dutton is a winter unit and most elk go to the Dutton to winter, for their winter range, I mean what do you guys use to find out how many elk cross over from different units, from the Monroe, the Beaver, the Boulder, Paunsagaunt?

Josh Pollock: Basically when we flew that we just flew those units. We had 2 helicopters and we flew the Boulder and the Dutton at the same time. So if there was an elk that was standing on the Dutton it was counted as a Dutton elk; same with the Monroe and the Boulder; so that's, the numbers that we had counted the day that those elk were flown.

Dave Black: Thank you, any more questions?

Dennis Blackner: Dennis Blackner. I just have one questions, do you have a statewide antelope plan? Can I get a copy of it?

Mason LeFevre: Mason LeFevre. You can take my comment card out too because it was more of a question. I was curious if the new hunt on the Beaver had a new boundary, and if so if it went further off I-15 than the old one because the old one it seemed like the cows were out of the boundary after the first week.

Riley Peck: Yeah, that old boundary that we had was specifically to address depredation issues in that area. And with the lack of snowfall we did have a fairly poor success rate on that. The new boundary is a unit wide boundary and will take place during the spike elk hunt to help with cow numbers and killing cow elk. But the other hunt is still that same boundary and is in effect to help with the depredation. So that boundary is the same, the new one is unit wide.

Verland King: My name's Verland King. My question is, this Boulder Plateau, the last couple of years you've changed the boundaries that's broken up east and west, same with the Plateau Fishlake, Thousand Lake. I found, when I finally drew out that I wasn't real happy with those boundaries. I'd like to know if you think they're a success or what you've found with the boundary change.

Jim Lamb: Yeah, those multiple boundaries on Dutton, Monroe, Boulder and Fishlake are designed to kill elk where they stand and we do our very best to put an appropriate number of permits in place so that we can kill the elk that we think we need to to reduce that population or to hold that population at objective. Um, I can't always guess the weather and so some of those hunts aren't as good as they should be; however, this last year the hunts were very well, most of them were in the 30% range. The hunt that covered the four units, I don't know what you want to call it, the mega hunt, that was much higher; that was up in the 80% success.

Dave Black: Okay. We'll go to the comments section.

### **Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: And we have Gene Boardman first and followed by Stanton Gleave.

Gene Boardman: I recall a few years ago, and I have been coming to these meetings pretty regular, that there was some program like you're talking about for the Dutton on this control thing on the Fishlake. And the next year everybody was screaming like a gut shot panther about all the cows being gone from there. I think that's going to be the situation here. I think that it's interesting but maybe it will, I'm not sure what the objective is, to cut 100 cows out of the draw and then put this unlimited thing on the cows the other way. But I know what my plan is for me and my family as I understand it, we'll put in for cow tags, if we don't get cow tags we'll buy spike tags and cow tags. And I'm afraid that a bunch of other people will and I think there's going to be people that weren't planning on hunting on the Dutton when they see that opportunity they'll merge there too. And I'm just worried that it might turn out like Fishlake did when everybody was screaming about no cows.

Dave Black: Stanton followed by Lee Tracy. It's good to see you Stanton. It's been about a year since we saw you last and glad to have you here tonight.

Stanton Gleave: I am Stanton Gleave, Kingston, Utah. I am representing the Piute County Ranchers; I'm the president of the association there. We formed this association to start protecting our rights and I'll

tell you what, the elk have overrun us in the last few years. Just the other day Keith Anderton went out to one of his spring ranges and had the Beaver ranger with him here, and she told him there was no way he was going to turn out on that, he'd completely depleted that range. He told her he hadn't had a cow out there in five years. And that's like Mack says, this winter, these elk where they're wintering is really a problem. And I know a lot of you would like to see them elk stay where they're at but you're not feeding them and you're not taking the lickin on them like us ranchers are taking. Myself I've just been in a battle for a year and a half with my ranger over there, if he's still there Jason (unintelligible) over the same thing, lack of feed. Those elk, Manning Meadow on the Monroe Mountain, the elk take it, that's private property. So you've got a pretty good deal going here and as far as Mt Dutton goes, I run sheep on Mt Dutton. I know Mt Dutton like the back of my hand, and they're right, those elk pull in there to winter. And last year like some of you say they weren't there, so that's what you need to do on that hunt you need to hunt all those mountains at the same way, you need to hunt all five of them together. And the reason they wasn't on Mt Dutton that's open country and you shoot em up once there and the next day they're back over on the Monroe Mountain or on the Boulder Mountain. And so what you've got is a pretty good deal but you need to, those elk numbers do need to be controlled. And what we are, we're not against wildlife, that's for sure, in fact there's nothing I'd rather do than hunt deer. And those deer around Circleville, I run sheep just above Circleville and I've give up on running them up in there above Circleville because the coyotes eat everything I take in there and those deer are no different. They're not going to go back in those hills with those coyotes right there; they're going to live right in those fields where they got a little protection. And even worse than the coyotes is the mountain lion. And that's an animal you don't see what they kill because they bury or pack off everything they kill. And they're all over that mountain right there. What needs to be done is you need to control those predators and then the deer would move back up into the mountains there. Some of them deer that's raised in the fields won't but the . . . When I was a kid, well even into the '60s when I was growing and the '70s those deer lived on the mountains, they didn't live in the fields. On the spring of there year there would be few there but they pretty well went to the mountain so . . . What I'm suggesting you do is control those predators, or control those elk and put us a herd of deer back so we're all happy. I don't think there's anyone in here that wouldn't just as soon shoot a big buck deer as them elk and those deer don't do the damage like those elk. Wherever those elk are at they're doing damage to some rancher. Sorenson outfit right over on the other side of the Beaver here they just took a 50% cut on a 300 cow unit there. And that cost them a lot of money. At the same time they own about all of Johns Valley and there they are feeding 150 head of elk year round in their fields a lot of times. Those kind of problems need to be addressed and they need to be serious. One other thing, those sage hen, there's going to come a problem that's going to affect us all. That's no different. In our younger days there were sage hens everywhere but ranchers controlled the predators. I want to say one more thing, if ranchers sat, sit all ranchers on that board right there you'd have a different herd of wildlife than what you've got. You ought to, and I want to commend you on one more thing tonight. I seen you vote the first time tonight with Mack there. Well you ought to pay a lot of attention to what he says because if you'll vote that way you'll soon find yourself in a lot better shape on this wildlife. If you don't vote that way I'm afraid she's going to come just like this year right here, if we don't get some storm you're going to see one heck of a wreck before summer's over on all those grazing allotments. And I hope it don't get to that but I'll tell you what, those elk numbers, you can't go from no elk in 1970 to thousands and not have some conflicts; and they need to get back in line. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Stanton. Lee Tracy followed by Verland King.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. Again United Wildlife Cooperative supports the

recommendations as presented by the DWR. Thanks. We'll have Verland King followed by Wade Heaton.

Verland King: Verland King Wayne County Grazers Association. I'm the president and I'd like to echo everything that Stanton said. We're all in it together as ranchers and grazers. This year we had that herd of elk into Lyman. It was an open year, there was hardly any snow; there was no reason for them to come into those fields in Lyman. And when we tried to take care of it there was a lot of heartburn among a lot of people there that didn't want them harvested and didn't want them taken care of. If we would have had snow this year there would be a lot more elk in Lyman, Fremont, Hearts Valley, Teasdale, Grover. They're just, the elk, there's a problem there and whether they're pushing the deer into the valleys. . .The problem is the winter range. And you can talk about how much money you've spent to increase the habitat, it doesn't always depend on how much money you spend. Down on the Henry Mountains the bison, they went out of Tarantula and they put in a well. In our bison meeting we asked them how many buffalo had been watering there and they said three. They spend, I don't know how much money they spent there but they had three buffalo water there and they said be careful when you go out there to relieve yourself because there's a trail camera behind every bush. All three of those buffalo were killed during the hunt. So even though a lot of this money has been spent on habitat a lot of times it's not winter range habitat and if it is the water source is important and if you don't have water and you don't have snow for the wildlife to water on in the winter it doesn't, those habitat projects haven't done any good. I just want to echo what Stanton said. That's what we're all dealing with as ranchers and farmers with the wildlife problems that we're getting now. We talk about the Fishlake and that hunt, oh it was traumatic to the public but it saved a lot of pain and suffering of the elk from the years that followed after that with the big snows and the way the climate worked out. And the reason those hunts were instigated was because there was an over population; there was too many elk there. It was a management program. The public didn't think it was right but it needed to be done. And if we don't manage these elk and this wildlife you're going to be in the same situation; you're going to have to do some of these management programs that aren't real popular with the public. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. We have Wade followed by Craig Laub.

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton representing Friends of the Paunsaugunt. We just wanted to voice support for the Division's recommendation for the Paunsaugunt antlerless hunts, the cow hunts. The Division, especially Josh Pollock, our biologist and Teresa need to be commended. They've been pretty proactive in keeping track of that elk herd and the wishes, the difficulties we have there. There's a pretty significant increase this year on cow hunts; there's actually an additional hunt been added, good things, very good things. Anyway, just want to support that. Thanks.

Dave Black: We have Craig followed by David Isom.

Craig Laub: Craig Laub, Utah Farm Bureau. We would like to see more cows killed. We are 11,000 over statewide over objective. I was looking here, like the Southwest Desert, that country is in terrible shape between the mustangs and the weather and we're not taking any more cows there. And some of these others we, you know, we need to get, particularly with the habitat conditions we need to get our elk numbers down.

Dave Black: David followed by Jason Kling.

David Isom: David Isom again from Hurricane. Just following up on the questions that I had, and I didn't realize it until we started looking at the antlerless permit recommendations that that Zion unit in 3 years increased 42% from 10,500 to 15,000 and yet you're not wanting to allow an additional 100 permits or you cut 10 permits after season to 3. And I just don't understand that. When you've got that kind of increase in the population of the deer herd and the ratio of bucks to does is stable at 23%, 24%, it doesn't make sense to me. And so my recommendation is that you allow some antlerless permits in the Zion unit as well as those additional buck tags, the 100 that the Division is recommending. It doesn't make sense to me when you've got that kind of increase. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you David. Jason followed by Jesse Hatch.

Jason Kling: (read letter – attachment #2)

I'm Jason Kling I'm the Richfield District ranger with the Fishlake National Forest. So our forest, acting forest supervisor Kurt Robins couldn't be here today but he's put together a one-page letter and has asked that I read this to the RAC. So this letter is in reference to comments provided by the Forest Service to the 2015 Buck, Bulls, Once in a Lifetime and Antlerless Permit Recommendations. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the upcoming Southern RAC discussion and values their relationship with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. The Forest Service is committed to assisting the Division and managing for sustainable populations of big game by providing quality habitat that is well distributed across the national forest landscapes. We recognize the necessity for the Division to manage for population numbers that are in balance with habitat conditions and support this effort. We would like to make the following suggestions for consideration in this meeting. And the first one is: The Fishlake National Forest, the Richfield District is in the process of preparing and environmental impact statement to manage a 50,000 plus acre landscape scale treatment to increase the distribution quality and quantity of aspen habitat on Monroe Mountain. We recommend the Division consider short-term aggressive antlerless management to help decrease potential impacts to aspen regeneration on Monroe Mountain. This will help insure the success of this large landscape scale level aspen management project which will help reestablish aspen in the conifer dominated landscapes. Regenerating aspen across the landscape will help provide the necessary diversity of cover and forage that will sustain increased numbers of wildlife throughout time. Our second recommendation that the forest has is as you are aware southern Utah is experiencing drought conditions. These drought conditions are likely to have impacts on many species of wildlife and domestic livestock. We recommend the drought conditions on Monroe Mountain and the potential impacts to livestock operators be considered prior to making any final antlerless in our hunting season recommendations to the Wildlife Board. This will help balance total ungulate use with these drought related conditions. So in closing we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the 2015 Antlerless Permit Recommendations and look forward to working with the state in the future. The Forest Service looks forward to further efforts to manage the diverse landscapes that occur on the national forest lands and the joint monitoring opportunities in the future. If you have questions you can contact Ron Rodriguez, Kurt Robins or any of the District Rangers on the forest. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. We have Jesse Followed by Gib Yardley.

Jesse Hatch: I would just like to say that I disagree with the cow elk control permits on the Mt. Dutton. Historically Mt. Dutton unit has been a natural winter range for a lot of neighboring units, the Boulder, Monroe, Beaver, most of your Paunsagaunt elk winter on Mt. Dutton. They're counted during the winter months when they're there so the counts are very high on Mt. Dutton when they do their counts. Most of the elk are not on Mt. Dutton, they don't summer there, they don't live there. And by killing the Dutton

you're killing these other units. I just, like I say that it has a ripple effect if you kill that many cows on the Dutton and you do a control tag it's going to have a ripple effect on these other units. In 2001 I believe you guys did the same thing and it really killed the number of elk; we didn't have very many elk and then we stopped hunting cows for a while. It's going to do the same thing if you do it again. People flock to it. People kill the cows. To buy a spike tag, thirty dollars more to buy a cow tag and they'll hunt them and they'll kill them. I mean your ranchers here, they'll probably get a lot of their family, they'll go up there and they'll kill as many cows as they can and so will everybody else. And we won't have very many left. All these projects and conservation programs that we do will be for nothing if we keep hunting elk the way we are right now. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Jesse. Gib followed by Will Talbot.

Gib Yardley: We are facing the worst drought here that we have ever faced, right here in this valley we've got less water coming out of that Beaver mountain for these irrigation ditches than I have ever seen in my entire lifetime. We've got a lot of these ditches that come off of the mountain that should be running 5 or 6 second feet of water; there's not a half a second foot there. This drought is a lot more serious than a lot of people think. And you people need to give that some consideration in the number of elk that you're taking off of these ranges. Our home ranch is in Beaver where we live but we summer at Acey Creek and up on the Cedar Mountain towards Brian Head and then we winter 25 miles west of here out on the west desert. We've got 1,000 acres on the west desert that we reseeded. It cost us thousands of dollars and reseeded it and fenced it and developed the water that we own. Those elk have come in on that land that we developed and have just taken the whole thing. I couldn't even turn any cows up there last year. They're all over that country out there and they're all over the, they're getting more of them every place. And every year you take the same amount off it seems like. Well this year you're confronted with this drought. You better increase the numbers you're taking off or we won't have any ranges left. Of course out on the west desert we can't blame it all on the elk but this piece I'm telling our about was but we've got those wild horses out there and boy they're just devastation of the range. The rest of you that live where you don't have em can count your blessings that way. So I think that you ought to increase or this drought is so bad and confronting us. I think that you ought to increase the cows you take every place and the bulls also. And get these numbers down. We're going to have, if we don't get a storm we'll have to pull a lot of these cattle off these ranges and it's not fair for us to have to come off and leave all the elk there. And these elk get up on these high mountain ranges, my son last year saw about 80 head right up on Midway the latter part of April. And our cows don't get up in that country until way into the first of July. Now, and I'm just like Stanton. You may need to listen to Mack Morrell. He's worked hard on this board and I've noticed that year after year you disregard what he says and you better listen to him or our ranges are going to be destroyed. Now while I'm here I want to tell you something else, you sportsman need to stick with us cowmen on resisting them putting elk, or I mean wolves in this country. I think that the Fish and Game is transplanting a lot of this wildlife. Now they just killed a wolf up here on the Beaver Mountain. It was collared last year up at Cody, Wyoming. I wondered if it's one that was hauled here. And there are some others they tell me on this mountain. And I know that a few years ago we didn't have any bear on this mountain. This Beaver Mountain is full of bears. The Fish and Game has brought those bear in here. And I think, and I don't like to see them take all these antelope off the Parker, and they've got a heck of a problem up there. I imagine they had 5,200 head, increase the hunters up there and let them kill more of them. Don't take them off and cause a problem for some of the rest of us. I don't want to see them out on our west deserts. We've already got them out there. And I think there's a herd of these antelope up around Panguitch Lake, south of Panguitch Lake and east, you're not taking, they've increased so much the last few years we need to take

more of those antelope off of that country. But I want you to really resist and think about this wolf thing because there's some of these environmental idiots, and that's what they are, wanting to have more wolves. The pioneers knew what they were doing getting rid of those wolves and then they bring them back in on top of us. Yellowstone Park had the largest herd of elk in the world before they put those elk in there. They had over 20,000 head right in Yellowstone, today they've got 6,000 and 75 percent of those calves are killed by those (unintelligible) wolves. And now they want to make about half of Arizona and New Mexico a range for the Mexican wolves. And they'll be right up here on us if they get them down there so we've got to fight that as sportsman and as stockman. So don't forget that. And uh, I just think that you need to take off more cows and more bulls on these elk and hold the numbers down especially this drought year. So on the West Desert and on the Panguitch Lake unit, I recommend twice as many numbers as they've got on this paper here. Thank you very much and appreciate your help.

Dave Black: Thank you Gib. Will, and that's the last comment card that I have.

Will Talbot: Will Talbot, Piute County commissioner. Hey a few concern I have is, one I thought he said we're 11,000 over objective. Was that a true statement on the elk? Statewide. You know I want to echo what these guys said, we're entering a drought situation, a horrible situation from what it looks like. Another thing is the aspen regeneration that I'm involved in on the Monroe Mountain. There's a pasture that involves one of my allotments. There has not been cattle in that allotment in 4 years. That allotment, that pasture in that allotment looks worse than any pasture on the whole mountain. That's been grazed by totally elk. With the aspen regeneration, with the numbers that are on Monroe Mountain it will not work. The livestockmen will be the ones that are going to take the hit so there has to be a reduction. We've increased the elk on Monroe. You've taken the spike hunt. You haven't increased no cow tags for this coming year. You know we're being overrun. And everybody wants to mention Grass Valley and say, oh we've done a lot of work, you know what, Grass Valley is finished by October because them elk are down. What restoration has been done, it's gone, and them elk are to the Dutton. So my concern is them elk numbers have to come down. (Unintelligible) to see a million dollar project go into Monroe Mountain and it failed because the elk are already there. The aspen damage is being done as we speak right now. It's not when the cattle come up. You want to look at Mary O'Brian's website, 67% of the aspen has been grazed before cattle reach the mountain on the first of June. So you know I think you have a real problem on Monroe Mountain. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you. Do I have any more comment cards on this item? One more, two more. Okay we have Jason Aiken and Brayden Richmond.

Jason Aiken: I am Jason Aiken, representing Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. SFW supports the Division's recommendations on the antlerless permits. Thank you.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing myself on this one, I need to represent myself in case I say something stupid. But I'm going to ramble for a minute; it doesn't appear that we have times tonight. Come on man, there's no way there's three minutes on a couple of those guys. All right, we'll get to it. Actually it's interesting sitting here, and we do this every year at this meeting and it sounds like we're divided between sportsman and ranchers. And I think that's a poor path to continue down. I think we've got a lot more similarities than we have differences. Sportsmen have spent, as I said a minute ago, millions of dollars and we want to hunt more animals. But we aren't as far divided from the ranchers as sometimes it comes across. I think we all are intelligent enough to understand that we need to kill elk at times. We need to have cow hunts. I don't think you'll find anyone in this room that argues

that. And there's a time and a place for it. I also think that there's a lot of range that can handle more elk. And we need to work together on those things. Let's kill them in this area instead of these huge management plans, let's kill them where they are problems and expand them where we can. And I'll leave that alone on the elk. On the deer, I think everyone's passionate about the deer. I'm sorry but I missed the name but the one cattleman there he said his passion is hunting deer. I think everybody wants more deer. Having said that it's hard to watch these doe hunts. Once again we recognize there's a place for it but it sure is hard to watch. I believe it was this meeting, probably about 5 years ago, where I stood up and proposed the idea due to some great research from other people brought to me, but I stood up and proposed the idea of transplanting deer. I was told I was crazy. I was told I was an idiot, from the microphone right there. And that's a fact that that was said into the microphone. I was talked to an hour afterwards how I had no idea what I was talking about because it would never work. It did work. I've had great success with it. Maybe it's time to think of another out of the box solution to help these deer. We're going to kill 250 more deer on the Parowan front this year. I recognize the habitat is gone. We need to kill 500 deer on that; 250 is not aggressive enough. But nobody wants to see deer die. We also can't continue to spend money to transplant them by helicopter. So let's come up with some more ideas. You know we're all smart people and we all want the same thing. And we're seeing some of these urban transplants work up north with nets, still expensive, the deer are still surviving much better than we thought they would; maybe that's an option to do. But I think, you know, we have a lot of experience, sportsman and ranchers together, a couple of great comments by the ranchers of kill the predators, I think we can all agree on that expect for the houndsman. The wolves I think 100 % of us can agree on the wolves. And I think if we work together to solve some of these other solutions we can come up with some pretty good ideas as long as we don't limit ourselves. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, that the end of the comment cards. I just have one question, I realize the condition on the Monroe with the aspen regeneration is a serious concern and we've had a presentation in the past, within this last year. It seemed like we voted on something. How does, what have we done to address that? I mean do we need to do more or have we done what we agreed to do, or what do we need to do to help them with the aspen?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, I can address that. As part of the DIS that Jason alluded to, we've committed to helping with the aspen regeneration. What we haven't committed to is preemptive removal of elk. We've committed to doing it post treatment, after the fires have taken place. That's the main treatment method that's going to take place there. And the reason that we've, we've resisted preemptive elk removals are a lot of times these fires are planned and they don't happen for years. And, you know, I think Jason would, he'll back me up on that. Once those treatments take place we've committed to being, to making sure that elk aren't the reason that those projects don't accomplish the objectives that they're laid out to be. And we'll stand up to that commitment but we're not going to do it preemptively. Just because there's too much uncertainty in when and how the projects take place. Vance, anything you'd like to add to that?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, and that's exactly right. And I'd like to add, we kind of changed a little bit how we managed the Monroe, Boulder, Fishlake, Dutton complex. And so knowing that a lot of elk leave say Monroe Mountain and go to Mt Dutton to winter we did start to offer significantly more cow tags in order to control the population as a whole. So we've actually harvested a lot of cow elk in the last two years, much more than we normally have. And as a side benefit of that, that's just for population control as a whole but that will help the aspen situation and then of course we'll address the aspen situation as they arise with the treatments and I think we'll try to be as flexible and active as we can with that.

## **RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Okay, before we do the comments then I'd just like to summarize some of the comments that we've heard from the public. We've heard concerns about the antlerless control permits on the Dutton and other areas, which don't seem to have a control. We heard from the Piute County Grazers Association in that the elk numbers need to be controlled, and support antlerless control permits. We also heard that we need to control the predators and be more aggressive so the deer will move back into the mountains. Utah Wildlife Cooperative supports the recommendations as presented. Wayne County Grazers supports increased antlerless elk permits. Friends of the Paunsagaunt supports antlerless on the Paunsagaunt. The Utah Farm Bureau would like us to increase the number of antlerless elk permits. We've heard from individuals that would like us to add antlerless deer permits to the Zion unit. We went through the letter the Fishlake and we just barely discussed that. We've heard disagreements with allowing antlerless control permits on the Dutton. We've heard a number of concerns about the drought conditions in Utah this coming year. And we've heard comments about stop transplanting antelope off the Parker and to kill those instead. Decrease antelope around Panguitch Lake. Concerned about the impacts of the drought and elk together. We need to reduce elk on the Monroe in conjunction with the aspen regeneration projects. SFW supports the DWR's recommendations on antlerless permits. We need to build an alliance between sportsman and ranchers. And I just say amen to that. We need to be all together. Everyone wants more deer. It's hard to see doe hunts and we need to consider more deer transplants and new methods; and helicopters are too expensive. So that's kind of a summary of our comment card. And we will turn comments over to the RAC at this time. We better hear from Mack because we all look to him.

Mack Morrell: For years I have preached Monroe, Dutton, Fishlake, and Boulder are all one unit. You can't tell the elk where to go. The only way you can tell them is to put pressure on them and they'll move. And if you're not seeing elk on the Dutton then they're either on the Monroe, Fishlake, or Boulder. And that's why they instituted a hunt that you could do either, you could hunt all those mountains for cow elk. And Jim, what was it 80% success? Yeah. And on each individual mountain it was like 30%. So you go where the elk is. I would like to see the control permits on the antelope. If you have a buck antelope you can also kill a doe. And I would like to see the permits on the desert for the antelope. I know it is tough to get, I know they tried to hunt them a year ago and they didn't do very good. They're pretty hard to find. But one thing I do know, Wayne County Commissioner DeRay Fillmore told me a year ago that 87% of the gross revenue in Wayne County comes from agriculture. Now I don't know what it is in Piute, Garfield, or Kane or whatever, or Sevier. I can tell you what it does in Wayne County. And the second most after agriculture was tourism. Wildlife was not even mentioned as bringing money into the county. And yet we are inundated by wildlife on private land and on our range. So I think we need to do something about that. Two years ago this RAC voted to increase elk on the Fishlake. I was against that. Stan, Commissioner Stan Wood and Verland King and myself went to the Big Game Board, successful. So where are we today, too many elk. So I think we need to take a look at, particularly Fishlake, Monroe, and Boulder and we need to just increase the permits. I mean it's hurting the ranchers, okay? I mentioned earlier my spring range, two years ago there was 900 elk out there in January. When I went out the first of May there was nothing for my cows to eat. Elk, the deer used to be in flat tops and big hollow country now the elk's moved in there to winter and the deer is in town or in the fields. And according to my biologist the resident deer, the only way to get rid of them is either transplant or kill them. And who wants to kill an old doe? But what do you do? She's taking some revenue from you. Especially when there's 40 or 50 of them and they're there constantly, year round. So we need to address the RAC, we need to address the drought situation, the problem on

the winter range, on our numbers. Anyway that's all I've got to say.

Kevin Bunnell: Let me make one comment on the drought conditions. Our plan is to do the same as we did last year. We committed that we will be monitoring drought conditions across the region, as we did last year. And if conditions require it we'll come back in July and August and maybe even September, and increase the number of antlerless tags if we're seeing that there's damage happening on the range. We did that last year; we were saved by the monsoon moisture that came in August. That may happen again this year, it may not, but we will monitor that and if conditions warrant it we'll come back with additional recommendations later in the year. And we'll just take that as it comes.

Mack Morrell: Yeah but Kevin, sometimes that's too late. We, if we go out there in May and June and the Forest Service you've got to move the range because we do our own range monitoring, we've got to leave 50% of the habitat. If we move from on patch or the other and we have to come home in September instead of the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, by the time you're recommendation comes in it's too late; we're gone..

Kevin Bunnell: I understand that Mack. Our ability to adjust number, adjust population numbers on the fly is limited because of the tools that we have. I mean we're not, we don't have them all in fences and where we'd know where they all are and can go gather them up and take them places. So our, we have different tools but we'll use the tools that we have to adjust, you know, to do what we can. And you know the tool that we have is hunting.

Dave Black: Mike, do you have a comment?

Mike Staheli: Kevin answered it.

Brian Johnson: Mack, it's just hard to kill them in July. I mean I know that's what you're asking us to do but it's hard to go whack a cow in July. It's a law.

Mack Morrell: I am not telling you to kill them in July. We should have had this done a year ago. That's why we need, I've always said you've got to kill more cow elk all the time. And even if these additional permits, if you have a hunting you can either hunt deer, or if you have a spike permit you can spend some money, 30 bucks, and get a cow elk permit. Even at that the population of these from Dutton, Fishlake, and Boulder, and Monroe hasn't changed very much if any.

Dave Black: Any comments down at this end of the table? Anybody else down here? Okay, I'm ready to entertain a motion. Okay, Mack.

Mack Morrell: I would make a motion that we recommend the Division's antlerless permit recommendations with the exception of: increasing the Southwest Desert from 425 to 600, and increase the complex of Monroe, Dutton, Fishlake and Boulder an additional 250 permits, and also on the pronghorn if you have a buck permit you can also kill a doe on the Plateau, Parker-Plateau and also include that on the desert. There's not a hunt on the desert but I'd like to see one.

Brian Johnson: I'm dumb, where's the desert? I thought the whole state was a drought; please explain where the desert is.

Mack Morrell: It is on the Eastern part of Wayne County and Garfield County, from Lake Powell through Henry Mountains up into Hanksville, up into Notim.

Dave Black: Okay, is that your motion?

Mack Morrell: That's correct.

Dave Black: Do we have a second on the motion? Okay, we have a motion and a second. Do we have discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: I have a question. I apologize for my ignorance. When you said the Monroe, Mt Dutton, Fishlake, Boulder, you're talking about increasing the tag 250, 250 is that on the hunt that you can go anywhere? Is that what you're talking about? Or are you saying divide 250 elk between those 4 units?

Mack Morrell: On the hunt that you can go any place. That doesn't show on here.

Brian Johnson: And that was the hunt that had 80% success rate. And that's not shown. Where's that at?

Justin Shannon: In the antlerless hunt table there's a hunt called Monroe Mt Dutton Plateau which encompasses those three units, and there's currently 150 permits and the season dates are November 16<sup>th</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>. That's the hunt you're referring to?

Kevin Bunnell: So it's accounted for separately.

Brian Johnson: How many tags are currently there?

Kevin Bunnell: 150. Let me see if I've got the motion right here. So the motion is to accept the antlerless permit recommendations except increase the Southwest Desert antlerless elk permits to 600, and add 200 tags to the multiple unit cow elk, the one we just talked about, and add antlerless control permits for doe antelope on the Parker. Is that?

Mack Morrell: Yeah.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, let me just clarify something if I could on, just do everybody knows where the antlerless elk permit on the Southwest Desert came from. It's at 475 right now Jason, is that right? 425 and that's the number if you remember last year at the Wildlife Board meeting, I think we had recommended 350 last year. The Wildlife Board increased it by 75 up to 425 and so we just carried that already increased number of 425 forward this year. And so there is an argument to be made that the 425 is already an increase at the level that it's at. Is that a fair summation of that Jason? Okay. That being said so the recommendation is to increase that further up to 600. Did I miss anything else Mack?

Mack Morrell: No, I, just to add that the Southwest Desert population objective is 975, population estimate is 1,300 now. So that's why I want to take that extra off.

Dave Black: Okay, so we have a motion and a second; do we have discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: Oh yeah, you know we have discussion. On this additional 200 tags on this

Beaver/Dutton, what do you, to the biologists, what do you think that's going to do? Do you think that's, I mean, what affect is that going to have on this herd?

Vance Mumford: So you know last year was the first year we tried that, very successful hunt, hunters loved it, you know 89% success rate. What we found is the majority of that harvest took place on the Monroe unit. It's very accessible; it's near the population centers. If we boost it 200 extra tags we're going to kill the elk on Monroe. So I would suggest Mack that I would rather see those tags, extra tags, if we're going to do that divided among the units and probably get a better harvest where we need it would be my suggestion.

Mack Morrell: I think the reason that they were killed mostly on the Monroe was the fact that that's where they migrated to for the winter for the lack of snow.

Brian Johnson: What time was the hunt taking place?

Mack Morrell: It comes from November 15<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>, right?

Vance Mumford: Yeah, it was all winter long. And he's probably right. Yeah, we had less migration from the Monroe possibly to the Dutton, and that could happen. But we do have some elk herds that are real vulnerable on Monroe, just right in everybody's back yard that really get hunted really hard.

Mack Morrell: Also there's the aspen regeneration problem on Monroe you might take consideration too.

Dave Black: Any further discussion? Okay, we're ready, oh Sean.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, I just had a real quick question, Jason, what's the harvest success on that Southwest Desert cow hunt?

Jason Nicholes: Last year on the Southwest Desert the harvest on that antlerless hunt was 71%. I would add that last year with the bull hunts, the limited entry to spike, the antlerless hunts, the antlerless that were harvested on the spike archery hunt we harvested over 600 elk off the Southwest Desert last year. And we're on track to do that with, again with the recommendation that's been made by the Division of Wildlife.

Dave Black: Okay, we're ready for a vote. All those in favor? Do you have a count? Six. All those opposed? Two. Motion carries. 6:2 (Brian Johnson, Sean Kelly opposed) Motion carries.

**Mack Morrell made the motion to accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented with the exceptions of increasing the antlerless elk permits on the Southwest Desert unit to 600 permits, increasing the antlerless elk permits for the Monroe/Mt Dutton/ Plateau multi unit hunt by 200 permits and if you draw a buck pronghorn permit for the Plateau hunt you can purchase a doe pronghorn permit for the same unit. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carries 6:2 (Brian Johnson and Sean Kelly opposed)**

Dave Black: Do we need to take a break? These next two will be short. We'll continue on. We are on

item number 8, the 2015 CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations.

Kevin Bunnell: Scott, let me just add a point of clarification that just occurred to me. Mack, just so there's not a surprise, the antlerless, adding control permits for doe on the Parker, that's part of the motion. It probably won't be able to happen this year and the reason is we don't have that as a permit that's been through the legislature and have a fee for it. So, but by doing that that may get us started down that path but I don't want you to be disappointed because it's something that legally we can't do right now.

Mack Morrell: Okay, I understand. Jim assures me that they're going to trap a bunch this year though.

**2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (action) 3:09:45 to 3:15:11 of 3:31:03**  
**-Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/ Public Wildlife Coordinator**  
(see attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions form the RAC?

Rusty Aiken: Scott, what's the reasoning for the 5 doe tags in Mt. Carmel?

Scott McFarlane: Who has that CWMU? I will let the region address that.

Rusty Aiken: Josh, the question was the 5 Mt Carmel doe tags on the CWMU, was that a specific reason or that?

Scott McFarlane: I hope I am right on this CWMU. Let me check real quick here. What it was is it was a request last year in their application. They applied on a new 3-year application. They requested 5 antlerless permits on Mt. Carmel.

Kevin Bunnell: Rusty, we will get an answer and get it back to you.

Dave Black: Any further questions?

**Questions from the Public:**

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the audience?

None

**Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: We don't have any comment cards.

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? We're ready to entertain a motion? Sean, good boy Sean.

Sean Kelly: Mr. Chairman I move that we accept the Division's 2015 CWMU antlerless recommendations as written.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second. Layne. Okay, any comments? All those in favor? Unanimous.

**Sean Kelly made the motion to accept the 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Dave Black: Okay, we'll move on to our next item, which is number 9, and it's the Mountain Goat Unit Management Plan. And it looks like Dustin Schaible will be presenting.

**Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans (action) 3:18:18 to 3:26:25 of 3:31:03**  
**-Dustin Schaible, Bighorn Sheep biologist**  
(see attachment 1)

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

Dave Black: Okay, thank you Dustin. Do I have any questions from the RAC? Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Dustin, do you know the estimated populations on these units? The current estimated populations on the units?

Dustin Schaible: I do.

Rusty Aiken: What's the LaSal?

Dustin Schaible: The LaSal, um, we brought in um, 20 the first year, two years ago, and we lost 4. One fell off a ledge, one mortality was related to the capture and two were unknown. And then this last year we brought an additional 15 and we lost one of those to the capture. And so in between from the first 20 that we brought over they documented two kids and so I think we're right around 30 to 34, something like that, goats over there.

Rusty Aiken: How about on the Tushers?

Dustin Schaible: On the Tushers, um, do you remember off the top of your head? 130? Statewide we're about 1,800 to 2,000.

Dave Black: Any further questions?

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

Dave Black: Do we have questions in the audience?

None

**Comments from the Public:**

Dave Black: We don't have any comment cards.

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Dave Black: Any comments from the RAC? We're ready for a motion.

Dale Bagley: I'll make a motion that we support Mountain Goat Unit Management plan as presented.

Dave Black: Okay, have a motion and a second by Rusty. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous.

**Dale Bagley made the motion to accept Mountain Goat Unit Management plans as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Other Business**

**-Dave Black, Chairman**

Dave Black: The very last item on other business, I just wanted to comment that we had the opportunity to meet with the aquatics division a few weeks ago. The RACs were invited, the Wildlife Board was invited, it was very worthwhile. I want to thank you for that. If you didn't go you should take that opportunity the next time it comes up. And then also on the agenda that we have today where it says next meeting it doesn't mention that we will be discussing the individual deer management units. So we want to make sure that everybody try to be there for that. And that's going to be an important. . .

Lynn Chamberlain: Can I give you an update on the location?

Kevin Bunnell: I was just going to ask. Do you have a location for that now Lynn?

Lynn Chamberlain: I was actually just able to confirm that tonight. We tried to get St George, all of the high schools in Washington County are having their awards night that night so all of the auditoriums are tied up and they didn't want us there.. Hurricane high school is happy to have us there. If it's okay we'll go to Hurricane and use one of their little auditoriums, which should be fine for us. So if that's okay with you I'll, Hurricane is a better town anyway.

Dave Black: Yeah, that's fine. Send us an address. Okay, that's all the business I have. We'll call this meeting adjourned.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.**



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Fishlake National Forest  
Supervisor's Office

115 East 900 North  
Richfield, UT 84701  
435-896-9233  
FAX: 435-896-9347

#2  
**File Code:** 2610  
**Date:** April 14, 2015

Dave Black  
Southern Region RAC Chair  
2074 Princeton Circle  
St. George, UT 84790

Dear Mr. Black:

This letter is in reference to comments provided by the Forest Service to the 2015 Bucks, Bulls, Once in a Lifetime, and Antlerless Permit Recommendations. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the upcoming Southern RAC discussion and values our relationship with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division). The Forest Service is committed to assisting the Division in managing for sustainable populations of big game by providing quality habitat that is well distributed across the National Forest landscapes. We recognize the necessity for the Division to manage for population numbers that are in balance with habitat conditions and support this effort. We would like to make the following suggestions for consideration in the upcoming RAC meeting:

- The Fishlake National Forest is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to manage a 50,000-acre plus landscape to increase the distribution, quality, and quantity of aspen habitat. We recommend the Division consider short-term aggressive antlerless management to help decrease potential impacts to aspen regeneration on Monroe Mountain. This will help ensure the success of this large landscape level aspen management project, which will help reestablish aspen in the conifer dominated landscapes. Regenerating aspen across this landscape will help provide the necessary diversity of cover and forage that will sustain increased numbers of wildlife through time.
- As you are aware, Southern Utah is experiencing drought conditions (approximately 50% of normal precipitation levels) compared to the Northern part of Utah. These drought conditions are likely to have impacts to many species of wildlife and domestic livestock. We recommend that drought conditions on Monroe Mountain and the potential impacts to livestock operators be considered prior to making any final antlerless and/or hunting season recommendations to the Utah Wildlife Board. This will help balance total ungulate use with these drought related conditions.



In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the 2015 Antlerless Permit Recommendations and look forward to working with the State in the future. The Forest Service looks forward to further efforts to manage the diverse landscapes that occur on National Forest lands and to joint monitoring opportunities in the future. If you have questions please contact Ron Rodriguez at 435-865-3732, or me at 435-896-1001.

Sincerely,

*Diane Freeman*

*for*

KURT ROBINS  
Acting Forest Supervisor

cc: Ron Rodriguez, Jason Kling, Kurt Robins, Kathleen Johnson, Del Barnhurst



## Conservation and Sportsman Permit Rule (657-41)



## Rule Change Need

- ▶ This rule change adds clarity and consistency to DWR and State Parks for mule deer and bighorn sheep permits on Antelope Island
- ▶ Defines "Special Antelope Island State Park Limited Entry Permit"
  - Mule deer - premium limited entry permit
  - Bighorn sheep – once-in-a-lifetime permit
  - Permits and season dates approved by the Wildlife Board and held in a general drawing
- ▶ Provides a framework to enter into a cooperative agreement between DWR and State Parks

## Cooperative Agreement

- ▶ Purpose is to establish:
  - Season dates and number of mule deer and bighorn sheep permits to be issued on Antelope Island (split evenly between public and conservation permits)
  - Hunting procedures and regulations
  - Protocols for issuing permits and conducting hunts for antlerless deer if needed
  - Procedures and conditions for transferring revenue derived from conservation permits on Antelope Island
- ▶ DWR and Parks will coordinate annually regarding Limited Entry permits valid on Antelope Island

## Conservation Organization Requirements

- ▶ Conservation organizations must:
  - Be a nonprofit chartered organization (501C-3)
  - Promote the protection and preservation of one or more conservation permit species
- ▶ No organizations in the conservation permit program are affected by this change



Thank You

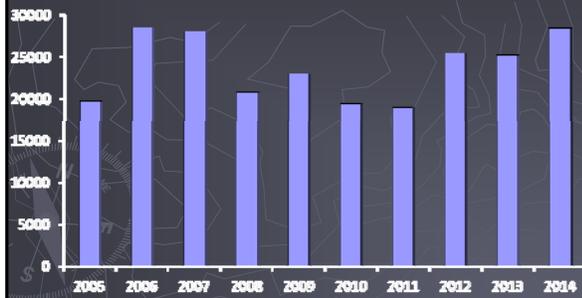
### 2015 Bucks, Bulls, and Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations



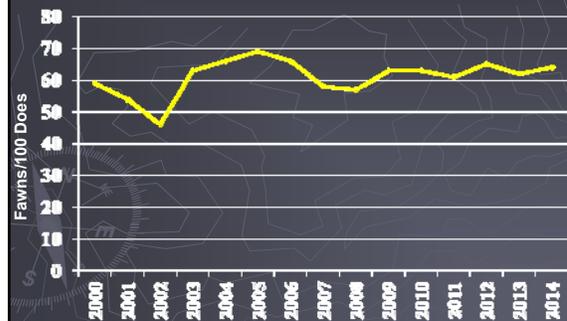
### 2015 Deer Permits



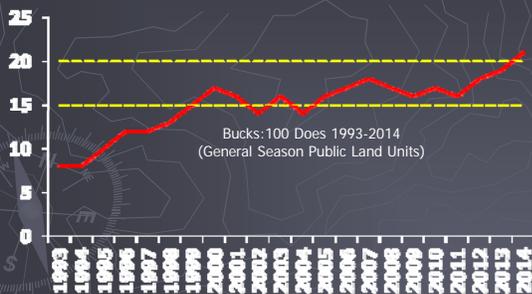
### General Season Buck Harvest 2005-2014



### Fawn Production Trends 2000-2014



### Buck:Doe Ratio Trends 1993-2014



### 2015 General Season Deer Permit Recommendation Summary

	2014 Permits	2015 Rec. Permits
Archery	16,960	17,410
Rifle	50,880	52,230
Muzzleloader	16,960	17,410
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>84,800</b>	<b>87,060</b>

An increase of 2,260 permits

Decrease on 1 Unit

No change on 17 Units

Increase on 12 Units

### Recommended General Season Permits - NR

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2014 Tags	2015 Rec.
Chalk Creek/E Canyon/Morgan-S Rich	18-20	32	↑	6800	6800
Kamas	18-20	24	—	3200	3200
Ogden	18-20	19	↓	2500	2500
Box Elder	15-17	15	↑	3800	3800
Cache	15-17	16	↑	6600	6600

### Recommended General Season Permits - CR

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2014 Tags	2015 Rec.
Central Mtns, Nebo	15-17	18	↓	4000	4100
Oquirrh-Stansbury	15-17	17	↓	2500	2500
Wasatch Mtns, West	15-17	18	↑	7900	8200
West Desert, Tintic	15-17	—	—	900	900
West Desert, West	15-17	—	—	600	600

### Recommended General Season Permits - SR

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2014 Tags	2015 Rec.
Beaver	18-20	18	↑	3000	3100
Fillmore, Oak Creek	18-20	23	↑	450	450
Fillmore, Pahvant	18-20	20	↓	1550	1500
Mt Dutton	18-20	20	—	650	700
Pine Valley	18-20	23	—	3900	3900
Plateau, Fishlake	18-20	19	↑	1300	1300
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	18-20	23	↑	200	200
Southwest Desert	18-20	20	↓	750	750
Zion	18-20	24	—	3100	3200
Monroe	15-17	21	↓	1400	1500
Panguitch Lake	15-17	18	—	3200	3200
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	15-17	20	↑	2000	2200

### Recommended General Season Permits - SER

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2014 Tags	2015 Rec.
Nine Mile	18-20	25	↑	1300	1300
Central Mtns, Manti/San Rafael	15-17	19	↑	8800	9300
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	15-17	14	↓	1800	1800
San Juan, Abajo Mtns	15-17	17	↑	2500	2500

### Recommended General Season Permits - NER

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2014 Tags	2015 Rec.
North Slope	18-20	16	↑	3250	3100
South Slope, Yellowstone	18-20	20	↑	1500	1500
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	18-20	20	↑	4000	4400
South Slope, Bonanza/Vernal	15-17	13	↑	1350	1350

### Premium Limited Entry Deer Units 2012-2014

#### % Bucks in the Harvest 5 Years and Older

Unit	Objective	2012	2013	2014	Avg.
Henry Mountains	40% ≥ 5	64%	89%	63%	72%
Paunsaugunt	40% ≥ 5	62%	63%	50%	58%

This objective is used to set Premium LE buck permits

#### Post Season Buck to Doe Ratio

Unit	Objective	2012	2013	2014	Avg.
Henry Mountains	40-55	52	55	48	52
Paunsaugunt	40-55	44	42	46	44

This objective is used to set management buck permits

### 2015 Premium Limited Entry Buck Deer Permit Recommendations

	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
<b>Henry Mtns.</b>						
Archery	9	1	10	9	1	10
Any Weapon	25	3	28	24	3	27
Muzzleloader	9	1	10	9	1	10
Multi-Season				2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Paunsaugunt</b>						
Archery	24	3	27	24	3	27
Any Weapon	73	8	81	69	8	77
Muzzleloader	24	3	27	24	3	27
Multi-Season				4	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>135</b>

### 2015 Premium Limited Entry Management Buck Deer Permit Recommendations

Unit	Objective	2012	2013	2014	Avg.
<b>Henry Mountains</b>	40-55	52	55	48	<b>52</b>
<b>Paunsaugunt</b>	40-55	44	42	46	<b>44</b>

	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
<b>Henry Mountains</b>	31	4	<b>35</b>	27	3	<b>30</b>
<b>Paunsaugunt</b>	13	1	<b>14</b>	14	2	<b>16</b>

### Limited Entry Deer Units 2012-2014 Post-Season Buck to Doe Ratio

Units	Objective	2012	2013	2014	Avg.
Book Cliffs, North	25-35	27	33	39	<b>33</b>
Book Cliffs, South	25-35	37	41	40	<b>39</b>
Fillmore, Oak Creek	25-35	21	22	24	<b>23</b>
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	25-35	22	24	19	<b>22</b>
San Juan, Elk Ridge	25-35	24	24	36	<b>28</b>
South Slope, Diamond Mtn	25-35	37	36	36	<b>36</b>
West Desert, Vernon	25-35	20	21	33	<b>25</b>

### 2015 Limited Entry Deer Permit Recommendations

Unit	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
Book Cliffs	390	44	<b>434</b>	391	43	<b>434</b>
BC (North - AW)	171	19	<b>190</b>	161	18	<b>179</b>
BC (South - AW)	59	7	<b>66</b>	57	6	<b>63</b>
Cache, Crawford	15	2	<b>17</b>	15	2	<b>17</b>
Fillmore, Oak Cr.	30	4	<b>34</b>	30	4	<b>34</b>
La Sal, Dolores Tri	18	1	<b>19</b>	18	1	<b>19</b>
N Slope, Summit				180	20	<b>200</b>
SJ, Elk Ridge	46	5	<b>51</b>	46	5	<b>51</b>
SS, Diamond Mtn	66	9	<b>75</b>	68	8	<b>76</b>
W Desert, Vernon	162	19	<b>181</b>	171	20	<b>191</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>1,022</b>

### 2015 Limited Entry Late Season Muzzleloader Deer Permit Recommendations

Unit	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Res	NonRes	Total	Res	NonRes	Total
Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan S-Rich				9	1	<b>10</b>
Kamas				4	1	<b>5</b>
Nine Mile				9	1	<b>10</b>
Pine Valley				7	1	<b>8</b>
SW Desert				2	1	<b>3</b>
Zion				9	1	<b>10</b>
<b>Total</b>				<b>40</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>46</b>

### 2015 Limited Entry Deer Permit Recommendations

Limited Entry	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
Archery	144	17	161	146	17	163
Any Weapon	424	48	472	589	65	<b>654</b>
Muzzleloader	159	19	178	161	19	180
Multi-Season				23	2	<b>25</b>
Late Muzz				40	6	<b>46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>811</b>	<b>959</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1,068</b>

157 permits (13%) increase



## 2015 General Season and Limited Entry Elk Permit Recommendations



## 2015 General Season Elk Permits

	2014 Permits	2015 Rec. Permits
<b>General Season</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Spike</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>15,000</b>
<b>Any Bull</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>14,300</b>
<b>Youth Any Bull</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Late Season Youth Any Bull</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>

- Statewide success rate on the 2014 spike elk hunt was 13%
- We recommend adding 200 youth any bull permits to increase youth hunting opportunity

## 2015 Limited Entry Elk Permit Recommendations

Limited Entry	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
Archery	680	76	756	707	77	784
Any Weapon	1,375	155	1,530	1,420	159	1,579
Muzzleloader	423	50	473	440	49	489
Multi-season	79	4	83	82	4	86
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,557</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>2,842</b>	<b>2,649</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>2,938</b>

An increase of 9% total Limited Entry permits (7% increase)

## 2015 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (7.5-8.0)

Unit Name	Average Age (2012-2014)	Age Trend	2014 Draw Permits	2015 Rec. Permits
Beaver, East	7.1	↑	32	32
Book Cliffs, Little Creek	7.4	↑	48	45
Fillmore, Pahvant	7.3	↑	60	57
Monroe	6.7	↑	27	27
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	7.6	↑	82	82
San Juan	7.6	↑	57	57
<b>Total</b>			<b>306</b>	<b>300</b>

6 permit reduction (2% reduction)

## 2015 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (6.5-7.0)

Unit Name	Average Age (2012-2014)	Age Trend	2014 Draw Permits	2015 Rec. Permits
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	7.4	↑	132	139
Central Mtns, Nebo	5.9	↓	75	69
S Slope, Diamond Mtn.	6.3	↑	47	47
SW Desert, Indian Peaks	7.3	—	147	159
<b>Total</b>			<b>401</b>	<b>415</b>

3 permit increase (2% increase)

## 2015 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (5.5-6.0)

Unit Name	Average Age (2012-2014)	Age Trend	2014 Draw Permits	2015 Rec. Permits
Box Elder, Pilot Mt.	5.5	—	3	4
Central Mtns, Manti	6.2	—	453	453
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	—	—	5	5
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	6.4	↓	105	111
Mt Dutton	5.8	—	99	100
N Slope, 3 Corners	5.1	↓	40	40
Nine Mile, Anthro	5.6	↓	23	23
Oquirrh-Stansbury	6.1	↑	39	39
Panguitch Lake	5.8	—	79	80
Plateau, Fishlake	6.1	↓	192	191
Wasatch Mountains	5.7	—	703	753
W Desert, Deep Creek	6.8	↓	40	40
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,781</b>	<b>1,896</b>

65 permit increase (4% increase)

### 2015 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (4.5-5.0)

Unit Name	Average Age (2012-2014)	Age Trend	2014 Draw Permits	2015 Rec. Permits
Box Elder, Grouse Creek	5.8	—	14	16
Cache, Meadowville	5.1	↓	75	83
Cache, North	4.1	↓	53	47
Cache, South	5.7	↓	145	163
Paunsaugunt	5.8	↓	67	73
<b>Total</b>			354	382

28 permit increase (8% increase)

### 2015 Pronghorn Permit Recommendations



### 2015 Pronghorn Permit Recommendations

Weapon Type	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
Archery	138	13	151	142	15	157
Muzzleloader	36	4	40	78	9	87
Any Weapon	529	61	590	502	58	560
<b>Total</b>	696	78	774	722	82	804

28 permit increase (3% increase)

### 2015 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations



### 2015 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations

Species	2014 Permits			2015 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
Moose	59	8	67	59	6	65
Bison	82	9	91	72	8	80
Desert Bighorn	37	3	40	38	3	41
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn	34	4	38	33	4	37
Mountain Goat	97	11	108	96	11	107

Thank You

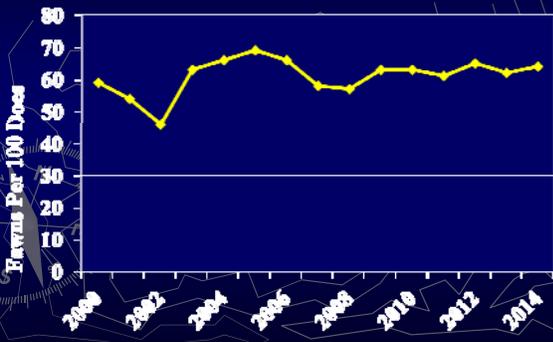
# 2015 Antlerless Recommendations



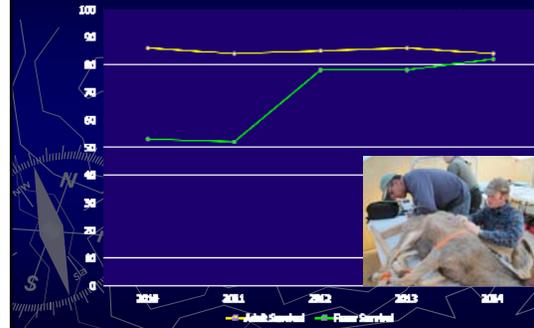
# Deer



## Fawn Production Trends 2000-2014



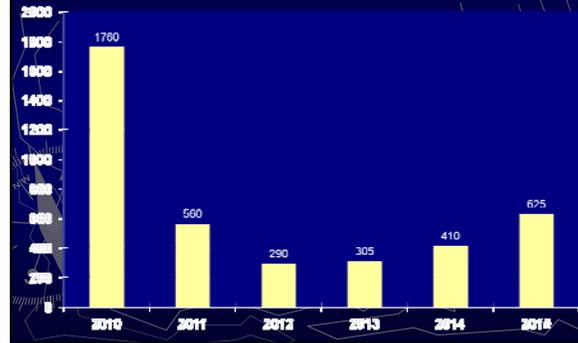
## Statewide Survival Rates



## Deer Statewide Population Trends



## 2010-2015 Antlerless Deer Permits (Public Draw)



## New Hunts & Boundary Changes

- ▶ New hunts are proposed to reduce deer damage on private lands
- ▶ **NER:**
  - North Slope, Manila-Phil Pico (boundary change)
- ▶ **SR:**
  - Beaver, Circleville North (new boundary)
  - Mt Dutton, Circleville South (new boundary)
  - Panguitch, Panguitch Valley

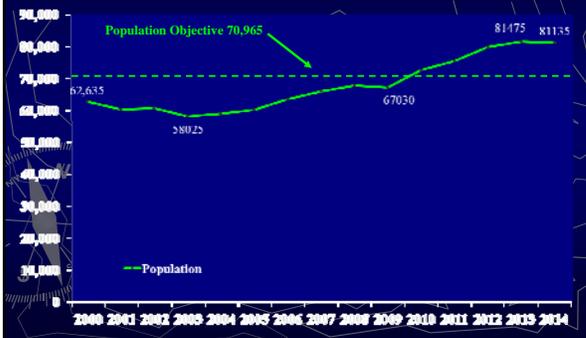
## Antlerless Deer Permit Recommendations (Public Draw)

Unit	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
Box Elder	60	60
North Slope	0	50
Beaver	0	60
Monroe	150	150
Mt Dutton	0	30
Panguitch Lake	150	225
Pine Valley	50	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>625</b>

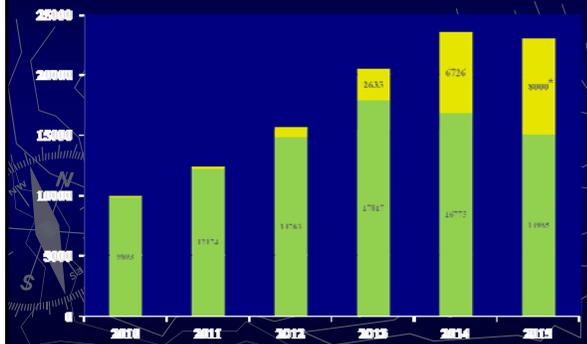
## Elk



## Elk Statewide Population Trends



## 2010-2015 Antlerless Elk Permits (Public Draw and Control)



## Antlerless Elk Control Permits

- ▶ We recommend offering antlerless elk control permits to hunters who have any antlered or once-in-a-lifetime big game permit on the following units:
- ▶ 4 units where the objective is 0 elk
  - --Henry Mtns                      --North San Rafael
  - --San Juan any bull unit      --Vernon (New)
- ▶ 11 units where antlerless elk harvest is difficult to obtain.
  - --Chalk Creek                   --East Canyon           --Morgan South Rich
  - --Range Creek                 --SS Yellowstone       --Ogden
  - --Avintaquin                  --Currant Creek         --Wasatch West
  - --Mt Dutton (New)          --Pine Valley (New)

NR Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
Box Elder	675	700	60	60
Cache	2,300	2,300	385	495
Ogden	800	2,100	500	600
Morgan-South Rich	3,500	4,100	325	330
East Canyon	1,000	3,100	550	580
Chalk Creek	2,400	4,300	700	700
Kamas	850	1,000	345	360
North Slope, Summit	300	875	130	160
	11,825	18,475	2,995	3,285

New Hunts/Boundary Changes

- 1) Cache, Cache Valley Northeast Benches (new hunt & boundary, target depredeating elk)

CR Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
Central Mtns, Nebo	1,450	1,400	150	50
Wasatch Mtns, West	2,600	3,400	340	320
Oquirrh-Stansbury	900	850	50	50
West Desert	350	250	20	10
	5,300	5,900	560	430

New Hunts/Boundary Changes

- None



NER Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
N Slope, W Daggett	1,300	1,800	200	250
N Slope, 3 Corners	500	600	50	35
S Slope, Yellowstone	5,500	7,500	1,700	950
S Slope, Diamond Mtn/Vernal	2,500	2,300	890	800
Book Cliffs	7,500	5,500	125	130
Nine Mile, Anthro	700	950	450	325
Currant Creek	1,200	3,000	2,000	1,350
Avintaquin	1,600	1,900	500	150
	20,800	23,550	5,915	3,990

New Hunts/Boundary Changes

- 1) Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek East (extending boundary of McCook Ridge)
- 2) North Slope, West Daggett (boundary clarification)
- 3) North Slope, Manila-Phil Pico (new hunt and boundary clarification)

SER Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
Nine Mile, Range Creek	1,600	1,400	200	100
San Rafael	0	20	10	5
La Sal Mtns	2,500	2,350	210	210
San Juan	1,300	1,200	280	280
Henry Mtns	0	25	10	5
Central Mtns, Manti	12,000	12,500	2,780	2,805
	17,400	17,495	3,490	3,405

New Hunts/Boundary Changes

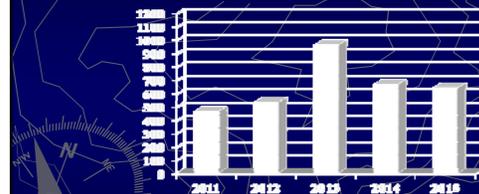
- None

SR Units	Population Objective	Population Estimate	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
SW Desert	975	1,300	425	425
Fillmore	1,600	1,350	130	65
Beaver	1,050	1,100	145	235
Monroe	1,800	1,250	160	160
Mt Dutton	1,500	1,900	800	700
Fish Lake, 1,000 Lakes	5,600	5,400	800	800
Boulder	1,500	1,700	950	950
Kaiparowits	25	25	0	0
Paunsaugunt	140	175	90	125
Panguitch Lake	1,100	1,100	140	240
Zion	300	340	150	150
Pine Valley	50	75	25	25
	15,640	15,715	3,815	3,875

New Hunts/Boundary Changes

- 1) Beaver 2) Panguitch Lake 3) Paunsaugunt (new hunts)

## Doe Pronghorn Permits



2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
467	537	962	669	644

## Doe Pronghorn Permit Recommendations

Unit	2014 Permits	2015 Rec Permits
Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	190	165
Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt, John's Valley	40	40
North Slope, Lucerne Point	14	14
North Slope, Summit	5	5
Plateau	400	400
Southwest Desert, Milford Flat	20	20
	669	644

No new hunts or boundary changes are being proposed

## Antlerless Moose Permits



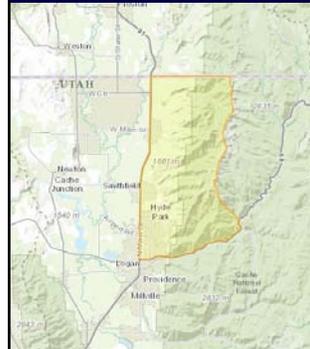
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0	0	0	0	0

No new hunts or boundary changes are being proposed

Thank you



## Cache, Cache Valley NE Benches



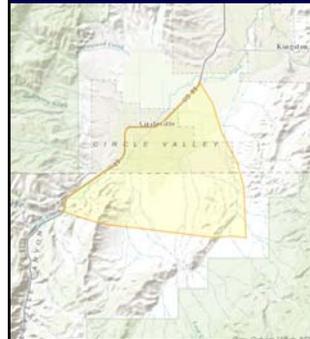
**Cache, Cache Valley NE Benches:** Box Elder and Cache counties—Boundary begins at the Utah-Idaho state line and US-91; south on US-91 to US-89 (400 North) in Logan; east on US-89 to Wood Camp Hollow drainage bottom; northwest along this drainage bottom to the Logan-Bear River drainage divide and USFS Trail 049; west on this trail to USFS Trail 005; north on this trail to the drainage divide between the Logan River and the Bear River in Cache Valley; north along this divide to the Utah-Idaho state line; west on this state line to US-91. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Logan. Boundary questions? Call Ogden office, 801-476-2740.

## Beaver, Circleville North



**Mt Dutton, Circleville south:** Piute County—Boundary begins at the Junction of US-89 and the Birch Creek road (approx. 1 mile south of Circleville); southwest on US-89 to a point 2-miles southwest of the Birch creek road; east from this point cross-county 6 miles; north from this point cross-county 5 miles to US-89 (south of Junction); southwest on US-89 to the Birch Creek road. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Beaver. Boundary Questions? Call Cedar City office, 435-865-6100.

## Mt Dutton, Circleville South



Boundary begins at US-89 and I-70 near Sevier; south on US-89 to SR-12; east on SR-12 to the Burr Trail at Boulder; east on the Burr Trail to the Nolom road; north on the Nolom road to SR-24; east on SR-24 to the Calneville Wash road; north along the Calneville Wash road to the Cathedral Valley road; west on the Cathedral Valley road to Rock Springs Bench and the Last Chance Desert road; north on the Last Chance Desert road to the Blue Flats road; north and east on the Blue Flats road to the Willow Springs road; north on the Willow Springs road towards Windy Peak and the Windy Peak road; west on the Windy Peak road to SR-72; north on SR-72 to I-70; west and south on I-70 to US-89 near Sevier. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. EXCLUDES ALL NATIONAL PARKS. EXCLUDES ALL CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Beaver, Loa, Richfield, Salina Escalante, Panguitch. Boundary questions? Call the Cedar City office, 435-865-6100

## Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek East



**Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek east:** Grand and Uintah counties—Boundary begins at the confluence of Bitter Creek and the White River; east along the White River to the Colorado state line; south on this state line the Book Cliffs summit (north-south drainage divide); west along this summit and drainage divide to Sweet Water canyon (San Arroyo Ridge radio towers); north along the Sweet Water canyon bottom to Sweet Water Creek; north along this creek to Bitter Creek; north along Bitter Creek to the White River. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Seep Ridge, Vernal, Westwater. Boundary questions? Call the Vernal office, 435-781-9453, or the Price office, 435-613-3700.

## North Slope, Manila-Phil Pico



▶ **North Slope, Manila-Phil Pico:** Daggett and Summit counties—Boundary begins at the Burnt Fork drainage bottom and the Utah-Wyoming state line; east along this state line to the Flaming Gorge Reservoir main channel western shoreline (on the east side of Lucerne Point); west around Lucerne Point to the Utah-Wyoming state line (includes Lucerne Point); west along the state line to the western shore of Flaming Gorge Reservoir; south along this shoreline to Sheep Creek; west along this creek to SR-44; north on SR-44 to the USFS boundary; west on this boundary to Burnt Fork drainage bottom; north along this drainage bottom to the Utah-Wyoming state line. This hunt is comprised of all or largely private property. Hunters should acquire written permission from the landowner before applying for this hunt. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Dutch John, Kings Peak. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 435-781-9453.

## Panguitch Lake, Panguitch Valley



**Panguitch Lake, Panguitch Valley:** Garfield County—Boundary begins at US-89 and Casto Canyon Road; east on Casto Canyon Road to the USFS boundary; north on this boundary to the Sanford Creek road; west along this road to US-89; south on US-89 to the Chokeycherry Creek road; west on this road to the USFS boundary; south on this boundary to Panguitch Creek; east and south along the South Ditch Canal to SR-143; south on SRS-143 to the DD Hollow road; east on this road to the BLM boundary; east on this boundary to US-89; south on US-89 to SR-12 and Casto Canyon road. NOTE: all areas within Panguitch city limits are closed by city ordinance to the discharge of firearms. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Panguitch. Boundary Questions? Call Cedar City office, 435-865-6100.

## North Slope, West Daggett



▶ **North Slope, West Daggett:** Daggett and Summit counties—Boundary begins at the Burnt Fork drainage bottom and the Utah-Wyoming state line; east along this state line to the Flaming Gorge Reservoir main channel western shoreline (on the east side of Lucerne Point); west around Lucerne Point to the Utah-Wyoming state line (includes Lucerne Point); west along the state line to the western shore of Flaming Gorge Reservoir; southeast along this shoreline to Cart Creek; south along this creek to US-191; south on US-191 to the Uintah-Daggett County line (summit of the Uinta Mountains); west on this county line to the Burnt Fork drainage bottom; north along this drainage bottom to the Utah-Wyoming state line. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Dutch John, Kings Peak. Boundary questions? Call Vernal office, 435-781-9453.

## 2015 CWMU ANTLERLESS VOUCHER/PERMIT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS



## 2015 CWMU Voucher/Permit Review

- 127 CWMUs statewide
- 70 CWMUs have antlerless permits
- 15 CWMU CORs previously approved
- 2 CWMUs request changes to previously approved numbers
- 55 CWMUs require Wildlife Board approval for new three year CORs
- Summary - 70 CWMUs are requesting 319/1250(vouchers/permits) or 1569 total.

Antlerless vouchers/permit allocation to the CWMU is determined by the allocation the CWMU received during the bucks and bulls process.

### Buck/Bull Permit Options

### Antlerless Permit Options

	Prv.	Pub.		Prv.	Pub.
	90%	10%	←	0%	100%
deer & elk	85%	15%		25%	75%
	80%	20%		40%	60%
	75%	25%	←	50%	50%
pronghorn & moose	60%	40%	←	40%	60%

## Recommendations By Region



## Northern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Junction Valley	Deer-antlerless	0	7-2 doe	Change	Approve
Cedar Canyon	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Renewal	Approve
Chimney Rock	Elk - antlerless	0	10	New	Approve
Coldwater Ranch	Elk - antlerless	0	5	Renewal	Approve
Deseret	Elk - antlerless	0	150	Renewal	Approve
	Pronghorn-doe	48	82		
Double Cone	Elk - antlerless	3	17	Renewal	Approve
Durst Mountain	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Renewal	Approve
E. Fk. Chalk Cr.	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Renewal	Approve
Ensign Ranches	Elk - antlerless	25	75	Renewal	Approve
Folley Ridge	Elk - antlerless	0	5	Renewal	Approve
Guidersleeve	Elk - antlerless	0	8	Renewal	Approve
Hell Canyon	Elk - antlerless	0	28	Renewal	Approve

## Northern Region Cont.

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Lone Tree Taylor Hollow	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Renewal	Approve
Powder Mountain	Elk - antlerless	5	5	New	Approve
SJ Ranch	Elk - antlerless	0	6	Renewal	Approve
Skull Crack	Elk - antlerless	0	15	Renewal	Approve
South Canyon	Elk - antlerless	0	5	Renewal	Approve
State Corner	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Renewal	Approve
Twin Peaks/Goose Creek	Elk - antlerless	0	10	Renewal	Approve
Weber Florence Creek	Elk - antlerless	0	40	Renewal	Approve
Middle Ridge	Pronghorn-doe	4	6	Renewal	Approve
RLF Deep Creek	Pronghorn-doe	1	2	New	Approve
SJ Ranch	Pronghorn-doe	2	3	Renewal	Approve

## Southeast Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Conover-Jensen	Elk - antlerless	0	0	Renewal	Approve
Deer Haven	Elk - antlerless	4	4	Renewal	Approve
Emma Park	Elk - antlerless	5	14	Renewal	Approve
Hiawatha	Elk - antlerless	8	12	Renewal	Approve
Indian Head	Elk - antlerless	4	12	New	Approve
JB Ranch	Elk - antlerless	14	21	Change	Approve
Jump Creek	Elk - antlerless	8	11	New	Approve
Patmos Ridge	Elk - antlerless	2	3	New	Approve
Preston Nutter Ranch	Elk - antlerless	0	15	Renewal	Approve
Roan Cliffs	Elk - antlerless	0	14	Renewal	Approve

## Southeast Region Cont.

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Scofield Canyons	Elk - antlerless	10	14	Renewal	Approve
Scofield East	Elk - antlerless	12	17	Renewal	Approve
Scofield West	Elk - antlerless	10	30	Renewal	Approve
Soldier Summit	Elk - antlerless	6	18	Renewal	Approve
Spring Creek/Dodge	Elk - antlerless	20	30	Renewal	Approve
Summit Point	Elk - antlerless	20	30	Renewal	Approve

## Southern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Mt Carmel	Deer - antlerless	0	5	Renewal	Approve
Alton	Elk - antlerless	3	7	Renewal	Approve
Bar J Ranch	Elk - antlerless	4	6	Renewal	Approve
Boobe Hole	Elk - antlerless	0	10	Renewal	Approve
Missouri Flat	Elk - antlerless	12	18	Renewal	Approve
Old Woman Plateau	Elk - antlerless	0	4	Renewal	Approve
Zane	Pronghorn - Doe	4	5	Renewal	Approve

## Central Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Bear Mountain	Elk - antlerless	5	15	Renewal	Approve
Coyote Little Pole	Elk - antlerless	24	36	Renewal	Approve
Crab Creek	Elk - antlerless	1	4	New	Approve
Heaston East	Elk - antlerless	12	38	Renewal	Approve
Three C	Elk - antlerless	12	18	Renewal	Approve
Wallsburg	Elk - antlerless	2	8	Renewal	Approve

## Northeast Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Little Red Creek	Elk - antlerless	8	22	Renewal	Approve
Moon Ranch	Elk - antlerless	5	15	Renewal	Approve
Sand Creek	Elk - antlerless	4	11	New	Approve

## 2015 OVERVIEW - RECOMMENDED CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMITS

79.7% of antlerless permits for CWMUs are public permits.

SPECIES	PRIVATE PERMITS	PUBLIC PERMITS
Deer (2 doe)	0	7
Deer (1 doe)	0	5
Elk	255	1125
Pronghorn	64	106
<b>TOTAL PERMITS</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>1250</b>



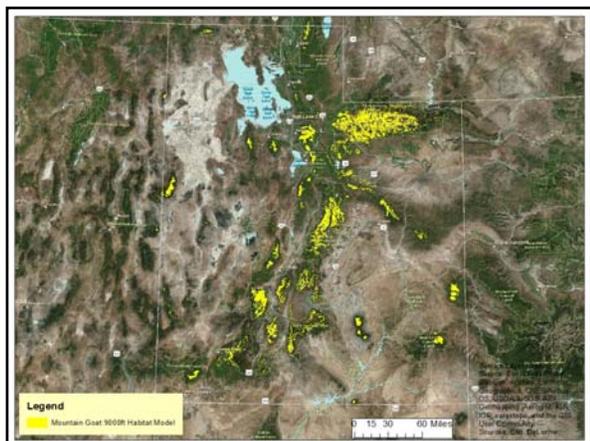


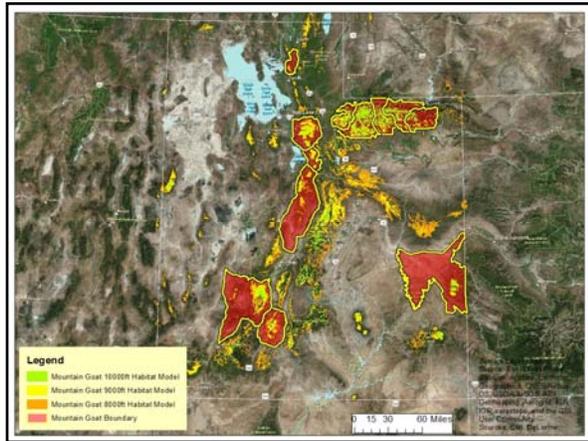
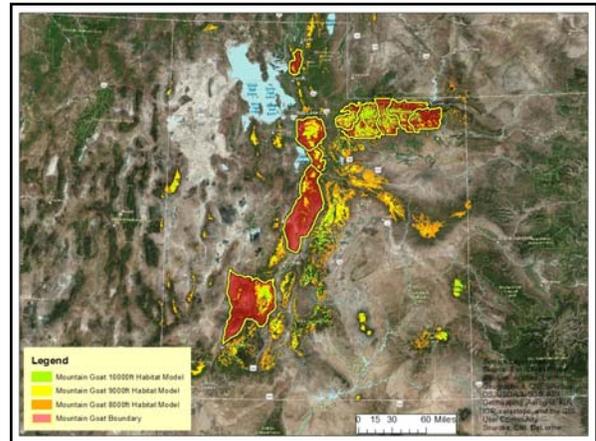
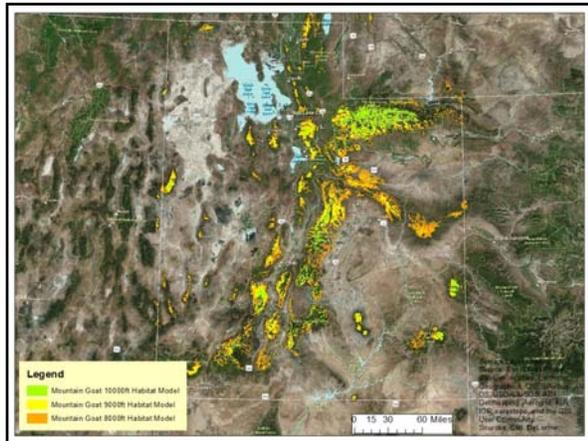
### Purpose and Outline

- 2013 - 2018 Statewide Management Plan
  - Develop and/or revise all unit plans
- Present recommended management direction of all current mountain goat management units
  - Statewide habitat modeling
  - Unit plan format
  - Overview and changes from previous plans

### Habitat Model

- Methodology developed by Gross et al. (2002) was used to predict habitat
- Slope  $\geq 30$  degrees with a 258 m buffer
- Accurately modeled 87% of mountain goat use
- No elevation component to the model
  - Ran model using elevation cutoffs of 8k, 9k, and 10k feet
- Most Utah populations modeled best using either the 8000 or 9000 feet models
- Population objectives influenced by available habitat (modeled acreage)
  - Goal of 6.0 mountain goats / square mile





### Unit Plan Format

- Boundary Description
- Land Ownership
- History and Current Status
- Issues and Concerns
- Objectives and Strategies
  - Population
  - Habitat
  - Recreation

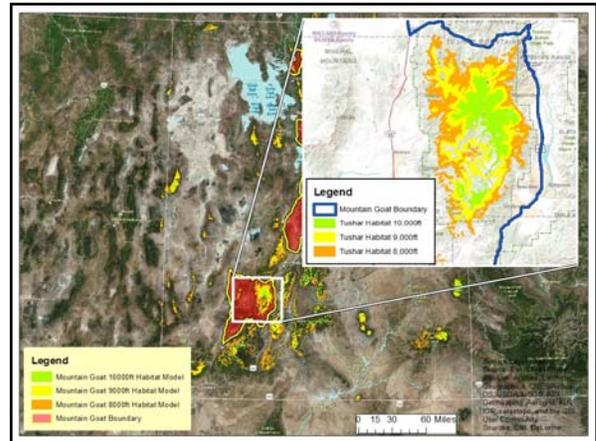
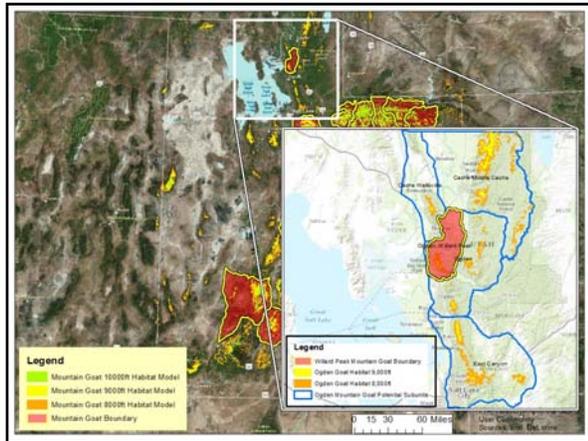


### Population Objective Recommended Changes

- Cache / Ogden / East Canyon
  - Expansion of the Willard Peak Unit to manage dispersing mountain goats
  - Change population objective from 160 on Willard Peak to 700 total across adjacent ranges
    - Goal is to still maintain no more than 6.0 goats/sq mile in suitable habitat
- Tushar Mountains (Beaver)
  - Increase population objective from 150 to 175
  - Include language for increased coordination with USFS on transplants and nanny hunts

### Summary of Recommended Population Objective Changes

Unit	Top Landowner	Old Plan Objective	New Plan Objective	Amount of Change
Cache/Ogden/East Canyon	USFS	160	700	540
Central - Nebo	USFS	200	200	0
La Sal Mountains	USFS	200	200	0
Mt Dutton	USFS	125	125	0
Tushar Mountains	USFS	150	175	25
Uinta Mountains	USFS	1500	1500	0
Wasatch - Box Elder/Timp/Lone Peak	USFS	600	600	0
Wasatch - Provo Peak	USFS	200	200	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,135</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>565</b>



### Summary of Mountain Goat Densities in Utah Under New Unit Plans

Unit	Habitat Model	New Population Objective	Square Miles of Goat Habitat	Goats per Square Mile
Box Elder Peak/Lone Peak/Mt Timpanogos*	8,000	600	155.31	3.86
Cache / Ogden / East Canyon*	8,000	700	341.01	2.05
La Sal Mountains	9,000	200	62.18	3.22
Mt Dutton	9,000	125	73.82	1.69
Mt Nebo	9,000	200	71.71	2.79
Provo Peak*	8,000	200	51.11	3.91
Tushar Mountains	9,000	175	154.75	1.13
Uinta Mountains	9,000	1500	820.10	1.83

- ### Habitat Objectives
- Support habitat improvement projects
  - Support regulated livestock grazing in approved allotments
  - Support USFS and UDWR coordination on vegetation monitoring efforts
    - Currently monitoring goat habitat preferences using GPS radio telemetry
      - La Sals
      - Mt Dutton
      - Mt Nebo
      - Proposed throughout Wasatch
- 

- ### Recreation Objectives
- Consistent with Statewide Management Plan
  - Consumptive Uses:
    - Any goat permits to harvest 5-15% of counted population
    - Use nanny hunts and transplants to regulate population
    - Sub-units and multiple seasons to maximize hunter opportunities
    - Maintain high hunter success(>90%)
  - Non-Consumptive
    - Install interpretive signs
    - Expand viewing events

- ### Summary
- Three main sections in each plan
    - Population
    - Habitat
    - Recreation
  - Changes to 2 population objectives
    - Cache / Ogden / East Canyon
    - Tushar Mountains
  - All plans supportive of habitat monitoring and improvement projects
  - All plans consistent with Statewide Management Plan on recreational objectives

