

# Utah Wildlife Board Work Session

December 2-3, 2009, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

## AGENDA

### Wednesday, December 2, 2009, 2:00pm – 6:00pm

1. Approval of Agenda  
– Rick Woodard, Chairman

**ACTION**

Items of Discussion – NOTE: The Wildlife Board will not be taking action on any of the following items. This meeting is discussion only. The meeting is open to the public however no public comment will be accepted.

- Summer WAFWA – Jim Karpowitz - 15 min.
- E-mail protocol and laptop computers – Jim Karpowitz – 15 min.
- Board Agenda and Action Log Items – Jim Karpowitz – 15 min.
- Budget Presentation – Greg Sheehan – 20 min.
- Multi-year guidebooks – Alan Clark – 15 min.
- Condor Project Update – Jimmy Parrish - 15 min.
- Hunter Orange Changes – Mike Fowlks – 15 min.
- Species Management Plans – Alan Clark – 15 min.
- 2011 Big Game Process and Schedule – Rick Larson/Greg Sheehan - 30 min.
- Review of Thursday Agenda Items 5-12 – Alan Clark – 30 min.
  - Report on 5-day hunt structure
  - Donation of CWMU vouchers
  - County weapons restrictions – Legal update

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

December 2-3, 2009, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Thursday, December 3, 2009 – 9:00 am**

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| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Rick Woodard, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Rick Woodard  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Ernie Perkins, Vice-Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cache Working Group</li><li>• Box Elder Elk Management Unit</li><li>• Archery &amp; Muzzleloader Proficiency Test</li><li>• Landowner Association Permit Review</li><li>• Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality</li></ul> | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Jim Karpowitz, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Bucks, Bulls and OIAL 2011 Hunt Structure<br>- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 6. Moose Management Plan<br>- Kent Hersey, Wildlife Program Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Guidebook and Rule R657-05<br>- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment<br>- Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37<br>- Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. Conservation Permit Audit<br>- Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. Conservation Permit Allocation – 1 yr permits<br>- Alan Clark, Assistant Director   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. Conservation Permit Allocation – 3 yr permits<br>- Alan Clark, Assistant Director   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 13. Other Business<br>– Rick Woodard  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.*

**UTAH WILDIFE BOARD MOTIONS**  
December 3, 2009, 9:00 am DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

- 1) Approval of Agenda (Action)

**MOTION: I move that we accept the agenda as presented.**

Passed unanimously

- 2) Approval of Minutes (Action)

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 1, 2009 Wildlife Board Meeting with the noted corrections.**

Passed unanimously

- 3) Action Log (Action)

The Cache Deer Working and The Box Elder Management Unit

**MOTION: I move that we close the Cache Working Group and Box Elder Elk Management Unit issues on the action log.**

Passed unanimously

Archery & Muzzleloader Proficiency Test

**MOTION: I move that we close the Archery & Muzzleloader Proficiency Test issue on the action log.**

Passed unanimously

Landowner Association Permit Review

**MOTION: I move that we close this action log item, but continue to look for ways to improve the system.**

Passed unanimously

Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality

**MOTION: I move that we continue the Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality on the action log, and continue to monitor this particular issue and have the Division report back annually.**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we take the Unit-by-Unit proposal and make it an action log item. We will send it to the mule deer committee, asking them to make recommendations on how to implement it.**

passed unanimously.

- 4) Moose Management Plan (Action)

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations for the Moose Management Plan as presented.**

Passed unanimously

- 5) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Guidebook & Rule R657-05(Action)

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations on the rule amendment in regards to Salt Lake County and rescind R657-5-13(5)(b)(c).**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we extend the archery only boundary, north to the Davis county line, east of I-15, and excluding the CWMU.**

Passed 4 to 2, with Jake Albrecht and Tom Hatch opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we include the Zion Unit as a new sheep unit for 2010.**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we move to a statewide 5-day any weapon hunt on general season deer, with a 9-day season length for youth.**

Passed 4 to 2, with Bill Fenimore and Ernie Perkins opposed.

**MOTION: I move that any deer units that are under the buck:doe objective go to a three-day season with the same starting dates as the five-day season.**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Division's recommendations and direct the Division to move toward a three-year guidebook starting in 2011.**

Passed 4 to 2, with Keele Johnson and Jake Albrecht opposed.

**MOTION: I move that in 2010 we streamline the RAC and Board process, by combining the big game rule, proclamation and permit allocation with the antlerless into one meeting with notification on the big game draw results available by the end of May.**

Passed unanimously

- 6) Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment (Action)

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation on the Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment.**

Passed unanimously

- 7) CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 (Action)

**MOTION: I move we amend the proposed wording for Rule R657-37, to include “other than tax benefit.”**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we approve the request for the Alton CWMU permits for five additional management buck permits. (4 private and 1 public)**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we accept the proposal and balance of the CWMU and Landowner permits as presented.**

Passed unanimously

**MOTION: I move that we pass R657-37 as amended.**

Passed unanimously

8) Conservation Permit Audit (Action)

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Conservation Permit Audit as presented by the Division.**

Passed unanimously

9) Conservation Permit Allocation – 3 yr permits and 1 yr permits (Action)

**MOTION: I move that we approve the request for the season extension to December 31 on bighorn and desert bighorn conservation area permits, and also direct the Division to propose an amendment that would lengthen the season in rule.**

Passed 5 to 1 with Tom Hatch opposed.

**MOTION: I move we approve the Conservation permit allocation on the one and three year permits as presented by the Division.**

Passed unanimously

**UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING**  
December 2-3, 2009, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Board Members Present**

Rick Woodard – Chair  
Ernie Perkins – Vice Chair  
Jim Karpowitz – Exec Sec  
Keele Johnson  
Tom Hatch  
Jake Albrecht  
Bill Fenimore  
Del Brady

**RAC Chairs Present**

Brad Slater – Northern  
Terry Sanslow – Southeastern  
Steve Flinders – Southern  
Bob Christensen – Northeastern  
Fred Oswald – Central

**Public Present**

Byron Bateman  
Ryan  
Wade Heaton  
Sterling Brown  
David Woodhouse  
Kevin Albrecht  
Lance Roberts  
Ben Lowder  
Jerry Woodland  
Lee Howard  
Joan Gallegos  
Roy Hampton

**Division of Wildlife Resources**

Staci Coons  
Cindee Jensen  
LuAnn Petrovich  
Boyde Blackwell  
Anis Aoude  
Dean Mitchell  
Ron Hodson  
Mike Fowlks  
Charlie Greenwood  
Greg Sheehan  
Alan Clark  
Gary Cook  
Mark Hadley  
Kent Hersey  
Rick Larsen  
Bill Bates  
Anita Candelaria  
Judi Tutorow  
Kevin Bunnell  
Doug Messerly  
Martin Bushman

Chairman Woodard welcomed the audience and introduced the Wildlife Board and RAC Chairs. He then reviewed the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Tom Hatch and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the agenda as presented.**

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

On p. 31 at the end of the first paragraph, “add that Mr. Robb’s request was denied.”  
P. 10, 2<sup>nd</sup> to bottom paragraph, third line, delete “verse” and replace with “manage.”

P. 13, Barnes bullets are triple shock vice triple shot?? P. 14, bottom of page, replace “spluckers” with “cavers.” P. 18, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph, replace “marks” with “targets.” P. 23 re-state the first sentence of the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph. Also, add Todd Black to Public Present roll.

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Ernie Perkins and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 1, 2009 Wildlife Board Meeting with the noted corrections.**

3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**)

Ernie Perkins, Vice-Chair covered these items. There will be five items closed out today. Additionally, on p. 2-3 December 4 Chair bound hunters and surrendering of individual permits are changed completion dates to spring 2010. Finally the next two items will be handled under agenda item 7 and the donation of CWMU vouchers on p. 3 will be under agenda item 9. We should end up with seven items closed out or otherwise handled today. Are there any other items for the action log? There were none.

The Cache Deer Working Group annual update presentation was done by Randy Wood. The group was established in 2006 to address low deer numbers on the Cache Unit. Through that time they have been working at habitat improvements, some rule changes and hunt recommendations. In 2009 they had two meetings with few people attending. The Baxter Ridge Easement is almost final. Bitterbrush planting on Millville Face had low success. Sagebrush on Richmond is having good success. They have about 4,000 seedlings at the nursery that will be ready to go in 2010. They are working on livestock grazing to improve winter range. Antler gathering shifted to an educational program. No antlerless deer tags on the Cache again this year. OHV restrictions did not pass and they will look at it in the future. The DWR is continuing to work on habitat to improve winter range.

The group decided not to set any future meetings at this time and will communicate through e-mail. Ernie Perkins is forming a subcommittee from the group to: Identify potential habitat, easement and acquisition projects, sponsoring some locals meeting for landowners, working with UDOT and DWR to reduce deer mortality from vehicles and looking for funding.

Mr. Wood then went on to discuss the Box Elder Elk Management Plan. Over the last year they reviewed the plan. They looked at current population, where established, and where the elk have been throughout the unit. They seriously considered depredation and land ownership in the area. They will continue to operate under the current plan with no plan recommended presently.

Mr. Fenimore asked about the lack of success on the Millville Face, why?

Mr. Wood said it was a precipitation problem. It is a south-facing slope, and they look to try again in future.

Mr. Perkins said there was a problem with the seed and getting it acclimatized.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Tom Hatch and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we close the Cache Working Group and Box Elder Elk Management Unit issues on the action log.**

Gary Cook – Archery & Muzzleloader Proficiency Test

What are other states doing? Mr. Cook said there are 27 states that are all similar to Utah's. Utah's current program has introductory components in the basic course curriculum. They offer the NBF National Bow hunter Foundation program that is used throughout the country. A few of the states have a mandatory bow hunter education, but most do not include the proficiency testing. They found very limited archery proficiency testing in specific urban units (4 states). Alaska is the only state to have a mandatory muzzleloader curriculum/certification.

Trends in hunter education include a nationwide push to reduce barriers to hunter recruitment. We believe adding proficiency testing to the basic program in Utah may be an additional barrier to hunter recruitment. They are looking to provide alternative educational opportunities with the emphasis of becoming a better hunter. Through the Hunter and Shooter recruitment and retention effort, the Division is looking to come up with various programs and ideas to support this. They believe that mandatory testing with archery and muzzleloader equipment is not the best option to improve hunter proficiency. Volunteer programs will be more effective. This concluded the presentation.

Mr. Johnson expressed concern about wounding, especially with archery. Are people coming through the bow hunter program?

Mr. Cook said it is voluntary at this point and very small. We are looking to do some advanced education clinics that will incorporate more with the local archery groups to work on that issue.

Mr. Johnson said wounding is a serious problem.

Mr. Cook said a mandatory proficiency test, one time, is not as useful as an ongoing educational program through shooting centers and clinics.

Mr. Johnson said he agrees that mandatory would be a mistake.

Mr. Hatch said he has grandchildren in Hawaii where they have brought archery into the schools. Hunters can be recruited.

Director Karpowitz said this is called "archery in the schools." We have it in a few schools in Utah and we are looking to ramp up the effort and take it to more locations.

Chairman Woodard asked who they would direct an archery coach to as a reference to the Alpine District. There is interest in it.

Mr. Johnson said there is an active archery program in Arizona also.

Mr. Albrecht asked about the archery instructors.

Mr. Cook said the current hunter education instructors are the same ones they went to when they started archery/bow hunter education program. We are doing some changes and are going to expand it.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Keele Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we close the Archery & Muzzleloader Proficiency Test issue on the action log.**

#### Landowner Association Permit Review

Boyde Blackwell addressed this action log item. They involved the CWMU Advisory Committee in this. He went over the reasons that the Landowner Association was created. A great deal of revenue is being generated by these permits. In most cases voucher values are above forage value and damages wildlife may cause. They are concerned that these large dollar amounts for permits might override the original goals of the program. He then went over the Landowner Association Program guidelines, including formulas used to arrive at number of vouchers given.

The CWMU Advisory Committee Recommendations:

The committee felt that the current voucher distribution policy is adequate for LOA's and should continue. It seems fair especially considering that the vouchers are good for the entire limited entry unit, not just private lands. Private lands in an LOA can be very small to large, and very scattered throughout a limited entry unit. Habitat improvements can vary substantially and benefit livestock as much as wildlife. Over 90% of the LOA's seem satisfied with the current system.

The question: How can a LOA qualify for more vouchers?

Take more interest as a partner in wildfire management and cooperate in real substantial habitat enhancement projects. This will allow an increase in wildlife populations, which allows for an increase in available permits. As public permits increase so does the proportion of LOA vouchers and examples were shown. Presently, the recommendation is to stay with the same system. It is working fairly and the majority of landowners are satisfied with the system.

Mr. Johnson asked about the formulas to determine permits. Different types of land is impacted differently by wildlife. He gave examples of how Colorado gives permits.

Mr. Blackwell said they give the LOA an allotment of permits and allow them to distribute them as they see fit. We have one LOA that grades the land and permits similarly to what Mr. Johnson described. It is up to the association to provide additional permits to those with the best habitat.

Mr. Johnson went on to describe the need to compensate landowners according to the quality of their land. I think we are going in the right direction, but we could do better, weighing the quality of the habitat.

Director Karpowitz said there is a provision to take into account habitat quality. Also, the fact that the permits are good on the entire unit greatly increases the value of the permit and increasing the compensation to landowners, because we recognize they often have the high quality habitat. In landowner permits in other states, such as Nevada, they are only valid on the landowner's land.

Mr. Johnson said in New Mexico said if they are part of the program, you have access to the entire unit and the public has access to private land. We need to keep the private landowners knowing that they are valued.

Mr. Hatch pointed out that 90% of those involved in the LOA's are happy with the system.

The following motion was made by Keele Johnson, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously. Mr. Hatch recused him because he is a member of a LOA.

**MOTION: I move that we close this action log item, but continue to look for ways to improve the system.**

#### Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality

Anis Aoude presented this information. State Farm Insurance Company estimates that 5,700 deer are road mortalities each year. UDWR/UDOT carcass removal MOU gives certain roadways to each agency. UDOT removes carcasses from 1,850 miles of roads. DWR handles all other roads. He showed a map outlining these responsibilities. There are hot spots in the state where animals cross frequently.

2008 carcass removal data --UDOT removed 2,282 total deer carcasses. They are not collecting on all routes listed in MOU. In 2008, 4,209 total deer were picked up with 2,282 by UDOT and 1,927 by the DWR. Not all the data has been collected or entered in time for this report. We could be missing as many as 30% of deer that do not die right off the road, but walk several yards off and then die.

The population impacts from DVCs (Deer/Vehicle/Collisions) are not fully known – need an accurate estimate of DVC. Additive vs. compensatory mortality brings about the question of whether these road kills are causing the populations to decline. This could be significant since 72% of the carcasses are female which in proportion of what is out there. That is quite substantial. This could impact population growth rates and impact survival throughout the state.

#### DVC Research

We are working with Utah State on assessing the impacts of DVCs and come up with an actual number of deer that are dying. We look to relate the significance of these numbers to deer populations.

Ways to minimize DVCs include overpasses/underpasses with costs of \$500,000-\$3,000,000. It is more costly to retrofit roadways. Fencing is only effective if used in conjunction with overpasses/underpasses and they need escape ramps. Signs with flashers and reduced speeds are also of value. He showed some pictures of overpasses and underpasses.

Director Karpowitz said there are several big fencing projects going on around the state, Parley's Canyon, Spanish Fork Canyon and Salina Canyon. We are hopeful that over time we can reduce the numbers of road kills around the state. UDOT has been very good in recognizing the problem and working with us.

Mr. Aoude said we have to get into the process way ahead of time to get budget consideration and details.

Mr. Johnson said we are probably losing 10,000 deer to road kill. We need to continue to focus on the hot spots as they have been identified.

Mr. Woodard asked if after an animal is down, can anyone take that animal?

Mr. Aoude said no. They have to have a COR to pick them up. People can claim them if they want to but they would have contact the conservation officer.

Mr. Flinders said I-70 is working on a new underpass. They will fence the first 7-8 miles of I-70.

Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau said this issue came up 2-3 times during their annual meeting. He asked if the Division has helped share the cost of such fencing over the years or is it solely UDOT funds. Where does the meat go?

Director Karpowitz said the Division has not put a lot of money into fencing projects, but we have worked closely with UDOT. The public needs to keep elevating the importance of this so the money keeps coming. We have come a long way with UDOT.

Mr. Aoude said we discourage giving carcasses, because a lot of times you do not know how long they have been there. A lot of animals might not be in good condition. Most of the carcasses go to land fills. The budgets that UDOT has to work with are much greater than anything we could contribute.

Mr. Perkins said every year at the Western WAFWA they pick three topics. This would be a great suggestion as a topic to be discussed in the future.

Mr. Sanslow said Southeast RAC did make a motion on this issue to pursue an initiative to increase federal highway funds for wildlife fencing and crossing plus all the tools that will help reduce highway mortality. It passed unanimously.

Mr. Albrecht said he would like to make counties aware, and maybe do some of their side roads, which might help us with this some of this problem also.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we close the Annual Report on Wildlife Mortality on the action log, and continue to monitor this particular issue and have the Division report back annually.**

Mr. Johnson said he appreciates what the Division has done on this. The deer issue is very complicated and every little piece we can address helps. This is something we can actually do something about.

4) DWR Update (**Information**)

Jim Karpowitz, DWR Director presented this update. More than a year ago we were asked by some legislators in Cache County to look at feeding deer on the Millville Face. This is a WMA management plan. The Cache Working Group has made great progress and come up with some creative solutions. Mr. Perkins was the Board representative on this committee. They have put together a plan and the Division looks to implement it.

On legislative initiatives, the Division has two bills, one adding wolves in delisted area to the depredation law and the other is a refund bill that allows the Board to develop rule on licenses. These have both passed their committees.

The Stream access bill will continue to be controversial this year. There has been a lot of public input and discussion. The last meeting on this bill is tomorrow and Rep. Fowlke will decide if it is ready to be run. There has been a lot of work on this bill with input from landowners, anglers, the Division, the Department of Agriculture and a lot of others. There are several other bills going on in the session and he will keep the Board briefed as we get into the session.

We have just completed our entire quagga mussel testing around the state and with the exception of one test which has not been returned, they are all negative. We have transplants that we have completed in the past month, otters in the middle Provo, and sheep from Nevada into Southern region. Next week is the annual antelope round up on Parker Mountain.

Mr. Perkins asked if some of the lakes that had possible quagga mussel last year were negative this year.

Director Karpowitz said yes, Electric Lake, Red Fleet and some others where we had some indication a year ago, tested negative this year. They have found out that is not uncommon around the west to get different readings from year to year, so we will keep monitoring.

5) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL (**Information**)

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator presented this agenda item. (See Powerpoint Presentation) This is a hunt structure that could potentially be in place for 2011. We took this out to the RACs as an informational item to get public input to help shape the

proposal. We will continue to gather input. It is a discussion option that was requested by the Wildlife Board. They wanted to look at ideas/changes that were good for sportsmen and wildlife. We will put together a formal survey in January as well as an informal way to continue to get input. There is a high demand for a limited amount of permits. This big game hunt structure option would maximize opportunity and minimize crowding. New legislative change allows us more flexibility (general rifle deer hunt). Also this option would minimize current overlap between general season and limited entry season hunters.

The major overall changes are that seasons would start on a calendar date instead of a set day of the week, general deer and elk seasons would run concurrently and would be divided into early and late seasons and most general season hunts would happen in the month of October.

On general season deer and elk changes, there would be no change to general archery deer & elk seasons and no change to youth any weapon elk season. They look to combine general any weapon deer and elk seasons, splitting the combined general any weapon season into two distinct seasons (early and late October). They would combine the muzzleloader deer and elk general season (mid Oct). The second muzzleloader any bull season would be offered early to mid November. Mr. Aoude showed an October calendar with the various seasons outlined.

Mr. Aoude went on to cover limited entry deer and limited entry elk changes. (See Powerpoint Presentation) There were no changes recommended to pronghorn seasons and moose season would run from late September to mid October.

He then went over the pros for this proposal which include less overlap between GS and LE hunters, all limited entry elk weapon types hunt in or near the rut, less crowding on GS any weapon hunts due to 2 season options, potential to increase opportunities and for families to hunt together even if they are hunting different species, potential increase in hunter success, potential to increase satisfaction and overall hunting season is shorter, because we have combined some hunts.

The cons include the changing of traditions, law enforcement concerns due to potential party hunting abuses, licensing concerns due to a more complicated drawing, GS elk hunters have to apply for permits and not all nine day hunts will encompass 2 weekends.

In summary, although there are some big changes we still maintain the traditional general deer and elk season. This is a good starting point for discussion, one of many options.

Mr. Aoude then shared some of the public comments that were gathered:

General muzzleloader should be first.

Public is concerned that two 9 day rifle seasons may lead to increased harvest.

The Farm Bureau has some concerns with hunters interfering with livestock.

Archers would like to hunt any bull units during the rut.

How will we allocate the dedicated hunter permits?

A fixed start date may keep youth from participating in the opener.

Additional cost of elk drawing.

No gaps between the hunts.

Mr. Aoude said there are a lot of ways we could do these hunts and incorporate suggestions. This concluded the presentations.

Mr. Albrecht asked about the Thousand Lake Unit.

Mr. Aoude said his recommendation would be for it not to be limited entry because it never reaches the buck/doe it needs for limited entry, and maybe pick another unit in Southern for limited entry.

Mr. Perkins asked about the muzzleloader hunt being first and addressing the Farm Bureau concern.

Mr. Aoude said it would minimize the number of hunters the first of October. We have fewer than 10,000 deer hunters in the muzzleloader category. It would be a lot fewer people out there hunting and it would be a compromise. It would depend on how late we put the other two hunts in October.

Mr. Brady said he is concerned about making a schedule based on the public's needs. We need to keep wildlife in mind. To keep the big game stirred up for 8-9 weeks would be hard on them, especially the deer. We need to leave some buffer zones and some gaps. Everything presented today is very good and with it being informational only it gives us time to work with it and adjust it.

Mr. Aoude said that is a valid concern.

Mr. Johnson said to get the elk and deer out of the rut, we could flip/flop the two hunts. That might be another option.

### **RAC Recommendations**

Southern – Mr. Flinders said they had a lot of comment. Towards the end of public comment they had a presentation on unit-by-unit management. It was hard to tell if the Board was leaning toward the Division's presentation or unit-by-unit. The motion was to go to unit by unit management and it passed 9 to 4 with one abstention.

Southeastern – Mr. Sanslow said they had a lot of comment. They also heard the unit-by-unit management presentation. Their motion was that the Wildlife Board explore the unit-by-unit concept and it passed unanimously.

Central – Mr. Oswald said most of their comment came as e-mails and letters. The public comments were summarized very well by Mr. Aoude in the public comment summary he just presented. They had no motion, just good discussion. They were pleased that this has come up for comment with plenty of time for consideration.

Northeastern – Mr. Christensen said they had lots of comment on the hunt structure. The public comment summary by Mr. Aoude captures most of their comments. They did not have a motion.

Northern – Mr. Slater said they had lots of public comment at the RAC meeting as well as through e-mail. They had input and questions from UBA, Bow Hunters of Utah, a member of the statewide deer committee relative to archery issues and public input on the Combo hunt on the North Slope, specifically, “putting another deer hunt in front of a general season deer hunt.” SFW supports five day hunt for 18 and up and 9 day for youth 17 and younger. There is concern on trying to manage deer for trophy verses opportunity. They are looking to put into play a process for looking at things unit-by-unit and maybe a reduction of permits in Northern region based on the lower deer populations.

### **Public Comment**

Ben Lowder – UBA said they are excited about this proposal. They are happy with the hard starting date. They think this will help with the crowding issue and split rifle hunts distribute more hunters throughout the season. The combined deer and elk hunts across all weapon types is great.

Sterling Brown – Utah Farm Bureau said they have a concern with the potential ramifications this might have on livestock, particularly those grazing on private lands. He asked a few rhetorical questions as to what has changed to have a need to create this. Is it at the expense of the grazing community? Potentially, some grazers could be negatively impacted. Is it at the expense of enhancing the sporting community? They support the deer hunt opener being held on the Saturday closest to October 20. We recognize the need to enhance experience for sportsmen and wildlife, but we need to add the public grazing community to those to be considered.

Dave Woodhouse, SFW said they are excited about the options presented by the Division. With the deer hunt being split, it will help with overcrowding. The overall length of the hunts is shortened and they support that. They commend the Division and Board for looking at this.

Wade Heaton, Friends of Paunsaugunt, a working group that has been together for six years. They support the idea of starting with a specific date for the general hunt, as well as concept of the split seasons. They like the idea of smaller units. This is a great time to shift to smaller unit management strategy.

Chairman Woodard said the following presentation is what was seen in the Southern and Southeastern RACs.

Lance Roberts from Monroe is here representing himself, several people in the audience and a lot of concerned citizens in the Southern and Southeastern regions. He thanked the Board for allowing this presentation. We are not a special interest group. We are concerned for the health of Utah’s mule deer population, particularly in Southern and Southeastern region. The purpose of our presentation is to establish mule deer management for a healthy viable herd. They would like the Wildlife Board to consider changing to smaller mule deer management units areas in Southern and Southeastern regions. He showed maps suggesting boundaries and groupings of units. This request is consistent with the neighboring states. We support the reality that the DWR must

maintain their current revenue and changes must guarantee equal revenue. Buck/doe ratios are directly correlated with fawn/doe ratios.

Since the DWR is addressing changing season dates, this is an ideal time for the Board to consider this. The deer herds in Utah are unhealthy and will continue to decline if appropriate action is not taken. We believe that next to pending DWR budget reductions, the health of the deer herds is one of the most important issues facing our game management in Utah.

Mr. Roberts said that smaller units will provide more management flexibility in dealing with habitat, disease, depredation, buck/doe ratios, landowner needs, highways, harvest anomalies. Since the 60's, rifles and technology have advanced, greater access, websites and magazines, improved camping systems, occupational hunters, economic pressures and DWR complexities.

Smaller units would improve opportunity to partner with other wildlife organizations. They have support from various wildlife organizations, local CWMU, representatives, and local citizens. They would like to establish small management units in southern and southeastern regions.

Kevin Albrecht, representing himself thanked the Board and Division for their efforts. He expressed support for the presentation given by Lance Roberts. We are at a critical time in mule deer management. It is a perfect time for change to smaller units with the proposed seasons date changes. He cannot think of any negative impacts to mule deer if we go with this proposal. Whatever we do, we need to make sure we help the resource. Unit-by-unit will help deer management in Utah.

Jeremy Woodland from Maine cannot believe the Board is allowed to change the season structure every year. He suggests that they set a season structure that would be good for three to five years, which would allow the Division time to collect data, better answer questions and make decisions. He has been attending RAC meetings for about six years and he has noticed a group or sometimes even one person will cause knee jerk reactions to the Board. The first one was when you moved the archery up, the elk season a week and then back and forth on regional licenses. He likes the new hunt structure. The Utah archery season is the worst in the west, too short and too early. We have too many people going to other states to hunt archery.

Chairman Woodard clarified that these recommendations would be for the 2011 hunt structure and we intend to stay with them for three to five years. He asked that the Board look to make any suggestions on this proposal now. It will go back out to the public for another informational meeting before it is voted on in the future.

Director Karpowitz said they need guidance from the Board on modifications they would like to see to the hunt structure. It will go to the public again in the summer and then again as a final action in the fall. They need specifics from the Board, then they will modify it and bring it back. Relative to smaller units, that is not a new idea. They took it out to the public a few years back and as a result received a lot of negative comment so they put it aside. If the Board wants to revisit the unit-by-unit, it might be a good idea to

send it back to the Deer Committee for reconsideration. They need to consider the pros as well as the cons. When you get down to the details, the support starts to wane.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Hatch said the vast majority of sportsmen that he has talked to are in favor of a five-day hunt, especially in Southern and Southeast regions. He would ask with the Board for the Division to do this for the 2011 hunt structure.

Chairman Woodard clarified that general season one and two would be five day?

Mr. Hatch said yes.

Mr. Albrecht said he would like to see the muzzleloader before the two hunts.

Mr. Perkins said we need to get into the five-day verses nine day. He thought it would be better to address it for the 2010 recommendations, then come back and revisit that implication on 2011.

Mr. Hatch said he was responding to the Director's request for direction.

Mr. Fenimore said he would like a broader survey created to get as much input from the public on this new hunt structure. Also the smaller unit concept might be included in this survey. He would also like more detail on the Farm Bureau concerns. What would the impacts be? Also, the five-day verses nine day hunt needs to be addressed with information gathered from public. We have come to understand that five or nine day makes no difference biologically on the deer herds. This seems to be a social concern.

Mr. Perkins said he was very pleased about the response in the RACs considering the magnitude of the change that is being considered. He would like to see the Division tweak this as best they can, and perhaps bring it back to the Board one more time before it goes back out in the summer. The other topic is the small unit. He supports this type of hunting and voted for it the last time the Division proposed it. It went through quite well for a while until it got down to the details of the hunting. When topics like limited number of tags, dedicated hunters and lifetime hunters came up, then it was opposed. He feels it is worth looking at again, but it needs to be done statewide. We cannot afford to create two types of management in the state. It is also independent of the 2011 proposal. He does not want to confuse it with the new hunt schedule proposal. The small unit topic could be considered sooner.

Mr. Johnson said he is concerned about the five-day hunt and harvest. If there is actually less harvest on a nine day hunt, we could accomplish just the opposite of what we want to going with the five day. The goal is to take the pressure off the resource and have less harvest.

Mr. Aoude said five day does not increase or decrease harvest.

Mr. Johnson said so we just take away opportunity.

Mr. Brady said he is interested in the smaller units, five day hunts, and two five day hunts where youth can hunt both. Adults would be limited to one of the hunts. He wants to work with the Farm Bureau in keeping the deer opener away from the first of October. He would like to see a gap between hunts, with each of the weapons sharing a reduction in the number of days hunting. He supports smaller units and would like to send it back to the Deer Committee. He would like to visit this early summer and gather information from the survey. He commended Mr. Aoude for his efforts.

Mr. Aoude said in getting this together in the spring, it would be difficult on those who do the work. We currently have an elk committee working on the elk plan and a lot of those members are also on the deer committee.

Director Karpowitz asked about bringing it to the Board as an informational in August. We are stacking up a lot of change with the proposed season structure. Adding limited entry by unit on top of it is an enormous amount of change. His preference is to do the season structure in 2011 and examine unit by unit for 2012. In the interim, there will be ample opportunity to work on permit numbers. The Board decided on 2011 to give the season structure two full years of public comment. We probably ought to do the same for limited entry by unit. It could be done in one year and if the Board acted in August they could get the programming done in time. In summary, what I am hearing from the Board in regards to the season structure, they would like to reduce rifle hunt length, allow youth to hunt both hunts, and flip flop muzzleloader with the early rifle hunt. These are all very do able. They can bring a couple of options and throw those out to public in a survey.

Chairman Woodard asked Mr. Sheehan to address some of his concerns.

Mr. Sheehan said on unit-by-unit, it has been addressed several times in some detail. When it comes right down to it, there are some hard decisions that have to be made. Programming is do able as far as the draws go, going from five to 28 units is not difficult in itself, it is just more draw choices. Some of the things that were difficult in the past when considering this is, how to handle dedicated hunters in middle of a three year cycle, and lifetime license holders. This could be done by 2011. As far as the hunt schedule change, hold off a year on putting general elk into the draw. We would need time to look at specific rules with the unit by unit, attacking some of the issues before the final details before the November/December time frame. We could bring out draft proposals during summer.

Mr. Perkins said we should hold the decision for five-day hunt until after the five day/nine day discussion. It was a very split vote a year ago. There are a number of considerations that have not been raised yet.

Mr. Albrecht said on the Southern and Southeastern presentation to go unit-by-unit, if it goes back to the deer committee, they need to be directed to go back to smaller units and assign them to act accordingly, including what to do with Dedicated Hunter, archery and things like that. It is the Wildlife Board's job to tell them what we want on this.

Mr. Johnson said we are concerned on the biological management of wildlife. As times have changed it became reasonable to get rid of the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of October for the deer hunt, since the impact on grazers has changed dramatically due to the reduction of the

deer hunters, spreading out of the seasons and the development of an elk season. On general season elk, we need to get it out of the rut. He would like to know what the actual impacts are on the Farm Bureau. He wants to know the facts. Also, he wants the general public to know that the Wildlife Board does not have a definite position on this proposal, they are listening and working through it.

Chairman Woodard asked if the Board had anymore input on the hunt structure. He asked if the Board wanted to give anymore direction to the Division. Five-day deer would give a break between the seasons.

Director Karpowitz said in regard to hunt season structure: Come back with a proposal to reduce rifle deer hunt length, Youth hunt both seasons, late and early, move muzzleloader to early October, smaller units to go back to deer committee and both issues to come back to the Board in August.

Chairman Woodard said Mr. Albrecht wants to make a motion to go unit-by-unit to direct the deer committee.

Mr. Albrecht said his comment is go back to unit-by-unit and that is what he is hearing statewide. When it goes back to the mule deer committee, they need to come back with a solution that would support unit-by-unit.

Director Karpowitz said we can ask them to consider all the pros and cons and bring it back. Since this was not a voting item on the agenda, we should not vote on it today. The Board can make this an action log item. This is exactly what we did in 2008, but we can do it again. It would require modification of several rules, drastic changes to Dedicated Hunter, Lifetime Licenses, and also statewide archery.

Mr. Albrecht said it is time to revisit these programs and it is a good time to do it.

The following motion was made by Jake Albrecht, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we take the Unit-by-Unit proposal and make it an action log item. We will send it to the mule deer committee, asking them to make recommendations on how to implement it.**

6) Moose Management Plan (**Action**)

Mr. Aoude presented the Utah Moose Management Plan. Overall, we have only minor changes. (See Powerpoint Presentation) The dates covered: October 1, 2009 – October 1, 2017. He went over population goals and objectives, habitat goals and objectives and showed a graph on moose population trends from 1957-2007. The Division recommends antlerless harvest to control population and maintain habitat quality. He showed a Utah moose habitat map with most of the population in the northeastern part of state.

Mr. Aoude reviewed the recreation goal and objective. The demand for bull moose hunting is greater than we have moose. They look to maximize hunter opportunity, using subunits to maximize hunting opportunity and distribute hunters. They recommend long

hunting seasons to provide opportunity. Also under recreation they are looking to install interpretive signs in moose areas for public information, produce written guides or brochures to help educate the public and provide viewing opportunity. This completed the presentation.

There were no questions or comments

### **RAC Recommendations**

All RACs voted unanimously to accept the moose management plan.

Mr. Brady asked if a plan on the Manti will be done.

Mr. Aoude said we have tried transplanting moose there, but they have not taken off there. They have left it up to the region.

Mr. Brady said poaching is a major problem and some predation. He would love to see them there if possible.

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Keele Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations for the Moose Management Plan as presented.**

#### 7) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Guidebook & Rule R657-05 (Action)

Mr. Aoude showed a chart reflecting the buck:doe ratio trends for 1998-2008, fawn Production Trends 1998-2008 and a graph on trends in general season buck deer harvest 1993-2008. (See Powerpoint Presentation) The 2010 general deer season dates are archery 8/21-9/17, muzzleloader 9/29-10/7 and any weapon 10/23-10/31

A list of units below objective are recommended for shorter seasons. We are recommending not delaying the opener. He then went over the Statewide Archery deer recommendation for a statewide archery deer hunt and the reasoning behind it. Data gathered during last season indicates no real crowding issues. He showed a map that illustrated the various types of land hunted, public, private, etc. and presented numbers on statewide archery deer per region, public land acres, percent of public archer, dedicated hunters and totals. He also covered youth archery deer permits and other deer recommendations. (See Powerpoint)

Mr. Aoude then presented the 2010 general elk season hunt dates and permit caps. (See Powerpoint Presentation) He went over the archery cow elk harvest and the change on the Nine Mile Range Creek limited entry late rifle elk hunt from 11/7-12/31 to 11/13-1/31 to increase hunter success.

2010 Pronghorn and OIAL recommendations were presented along with new legislation allowance for rule changes. This concluded the presentation. He asked if there were questions from Board.

Mr. Brady asked about the sheep on the Zion's, will it be opened?

Mr. Aoude said the sheep on the Zion were counted after the RAC process had already started, so we could not get it into the recommendation. The Board could open a hunt there if they wished, but it didn't go through the RAC process.

Mr. Brady asked Mr. Bushman, with the count of the 240 sheep on the Zion Unit, can the Board put it in as a fourth unit?

Mr. Bushman said it would be better to run it through the RAC. If there is a reason to do it now, the Board could do it. The statutes that define the RACs is they gather public input to make recommendations to the Wildlife Board. The Board needs to consider these recommendations. If there is time constraint or need, it can be addressed without running it back through the RACs.

Director Karpowitz said in the past when the Board has done that they have consulted with the RAC Chair before they do it.

Mr. Johnson asked if there is biological reason to open this hunt.

Mr. Aoude said there are sufficient numbers to open a hunt on the Zion Unit.

Mr. Albrecht asked about a limited entry hunt north of Highway 24 on the Fish Lake and separates it out in the future.

Ms. Bonzo said it would be included in the boundary under the Plateau. It could be hunted under the Plateau if you drew a permit.

Mr. Albrecht asked if it could be separated some time in the future and limit the number of the hunters that went in there with a muzzleloader or archery tag. This might provide a higher success rate or larger animal.

Ms. Bonzo said that is a possibility. We have never considered it. For this year we have recommended for a muzzleloader hunt and they have the archery season.

Mr. Albrecht said on Monroe Mountain, we have a couple of Billies from the Beaver side. Have we looked at the Monroe to handle a small herd of goats?

Mr. Bonzo said they have not looked at that. The amount of habitat would be limited. We could look into this.

Mr. Brady asked about the spike bull hunt that was initiated last year.

Mr. Aoude said nothing was changed on the spike hunts and we have not received any negative comments on it during the RACs.

### **Questions from Public**

Dave Woodhouse, SFW asked on the counts on big game population and hunter success rates, what is the margin of error?

Mr. Aoude said on the harvest data, we sample enough of the population to get 90% confidence in results.

### **RAC Recommendations**

Southern – Mr. Flinders said they had discussion on Pine Valley, Monroe Unit and units being chronically below the buck/doe ratio. Most discussion was favored by general season deer hunt and ways to promote buck survival and higher buck/doe ratios. Ultimately the motion was to accept everything as presented, except go 5 day general season hunt, but youth allowed the 9 day hunt. It passed 5 to 2.

Southeastern – Mr. Sanslow said the sentiment was for a 5 day hunt in Southeast region. The motion was to keep the SE 5 day and reduce length of all other general seasons by 45%, passed with 1 opposing vote. More discussion and then a motion to accept the remainder as presented. They did have a request to change Nine Mile Range Creek from spike to any bull but, the RAC was not interested in doing that.

Central – Mr. Oswald said good attendance on the RAC and the public. There was lots of discussion on the bucks and bulls. Three motions – MOTION: general deer hunt – start all 5 day hunts on opening day – passed 7 to 3. MOTION: have a 5 day deer hunt statewide, amended to have 5 day for 18 and older and 9 day for those under 18 - failed 6 to 5, tie broken by the Chair. MOTION: To accept the remainder of the proposal - passed 6 to 5, tie broken by the Chair. They had a presentation from Emigration Homeowners Association. MOTION: A DWR representative work with the Emigration Canyon Homeowners Association on an educational component to inform hunters on the regulations on the firing of rifles in that area – passed unanimously.

Northeastern – Mr. Christensen said there was a bit of overlap on this action item and information for a new hunt structure. The main discussion centered around buck/doe ratios, units under 15 bucks, the delayed opener discussion and the shortened season. MOTION: To accept season dates as presented, amended to make all hunts in the region 5 day to get away from two openers – failed for lack of a second. MOTION: To accept as presented - passed 7 to 1.

Northern – Mr. Slater said they had public input and support from UBA and BOU on the presentation. There was concern on archery elk season being earlier. SFW support the 5 day adults, 9 day youth. Discussion and concern on the 5 day hunts. MOTION: To approve proposal as presented – passed 9 to 2.

### **Public Comment**

Dave Woodhouse, SFW said they would like to support 5 day deer hunt statewide, including the 5 day adult and 9 day youth. They have heard feedback overwhelmingly in favor of 5 day hunt. After deer hunt this year, they were disappointed in the lack of deer and the lack of bucks. Kids do not even want to hunt next year. We are going to lose the kids if there are no deer to hunt. Manti Unit is at 54% presently. We've got to find out

the reason the herds are down. People who do 5 day hunts like it and feel they see better bucks. We have to show the hunters they are being heard. Lots of people contacted him this year and they want to know how they can get involved. SFW also recognizes the huntable population of sheep on the Zion Unit and would like to get a few permits there.

Ben Lowder, representing UBA as well as the statewide archery committee. UBA, they fully support the recommendation to go back to statewide archery hunting. They support the recommendation to issue the 1,500 over the counter youth archery deer permits. In regards to comments from the UBA, there has been discussion on reducing season lengths, specifically archery and if there is any biological reason to shorten them. Every time, Mr. Aoude says there is no biological reason to shorten the archery season. They recommend keeping the season lengths as they are currently. Bow hunters take flack from rifle hunters because they get longer seasons, but these are good incentives to get more people into bow hunting.

Mr. Lowder sat on the Statewide Archery Committee. They discussed statewide archery and the committee was well represented. They found that crowding is not limited to southern region. It is more of a hot spot issue, as it is in all regions. The opening weekend of the bow hunt is a popular time to be out in the mountains. Typically it is the last weekend prior to school starting. Over crowding is a perceived issue. If you hunt away from roads, a lot of pressure goes away.

Joan Gallegos is the co-chair of the Emigration Canyon Township. It is not a homeowners association, but an elected body representing the township. Emigration Canyon has 550 houses in the canyon with 150 more to be built. She showed a map of the area. To access places to hunt, they would have to be on private land. Homes are not easily seen from the road. She discussed the map and the areas around the homes and roads. They want to educate people and homeowners need to know information on hunting. This is to protect the homeowners and hunters. If the homeowners understand where hunting is legally allowed, they are not going to be calling the sheriff's office. She understands that the Division is considering repealing the cabin zone. Emigration Township is vehemently against that, 600 feet would be unacceptable. Do not remove cabin zone and include educational information in proclamations to hunters on the boundary information for Emigration Canyon. Mayor Caroon is in favor of their request.

Mr. Hatch asked if the county has repealed their ordinance, how is it that Mayor Caroon is in favor of the request.

Ms. Gallegos said it was brought about from a request from an individual who wanted a shooting range. The Salt Lake County DA's office had to repeal their law to be in line with the state law, 600 feet. It seems that a discharge of firearms has been generally interpreted. Mayor Carron in full support of their initiatives.

Director Karpowitz asked Mr. Bushman to clarify the Division's position.

Mr. Bushman said Salt Lake County had to repeal their ordinance that prohibited the discharge of firearms within one mile of a residence east of I-15 and within ½ mile of a residence west of I-15. An attorney, representing a client out of Emigration Canyon that wanted to put a shooting range in their back yard. They hired a lawyer who questioned

the county's authority. They researched it and determined that they did not have the authority to regulate this. Cities and municipalities are given this authority.

Mr. Hatch asked what about townships.

Mr. Bushman said he does not know how a township differs from cities or towns. Under the Wildlife Code, a municipality cannot enact any ordinance that closes hunting without approval of the Wildlife Board. If you enact a no discharge of firearm ordinance that closes areas effectively to hunting, they are running into the Wildlife Board's authority and that ordinance would have to be approved. The Division has authority to determine how protected wildlife will be taken, tied directly to hunting. That is why they recommended repealing these two provisions, because they are reflections of county ordinance that have been repealed and beyond the Division's authority to promulgate rule.

Director Karpowitz said but if the Emigration Township approaches the Board for a closure within the township, the Board can decide on that.

Mr. Bushman said yes, assuming the township has authority to enact ordinances and enforce them.

Director Karpowitz said so they would need a request from the township for the Board to act on.

Mr. Bushman said the Board would not be closing anything. They would be approving an ordinance by the township to do that. He is not sure whether a township has authority to enact ordinance.

Mr. Hatch said we could enact a rule to mirror a township's regulation if they have the authority necessary.

Mr. Oswald said if the township did not have the authority to do that, Salt Lake County could come to the Board to ask for a closure. The motion the RAC passed had to do with education regardless of what the law is. The motion to ask DWR to do what they could to educate the hunters and public as to what the law is.

Chairman Woodard said if he understands it, their township does not have authority.

Ms. Gallegos said that is how she understands it. She thinks it would be Salt Lake County.

Mr. Bushman said the county has recognized that they do not have authority to regulate the discharge of firearms.

Ms. Gallegos said they are looking to the Division for some type of middle ground on hunting. People do not realize how many homes are in the canyon.

Chairman Woodard said their hands might be tied at this point but we will bring it up when the Board makes decisions.

Ms. Gallegos said she did have a discussion with an assistant DA in the mayor's office. It is their opinion that this interpretation was not the best written and they are revisiting it. Salt Lake County did not have in law the cabin zone (1 mile).

Byron Bateman, SFW supports the 5-day mule deer statewide, 5-day adult and 9-day youth. They appreciate the support for conservation permits.

Lee Howard, representing himself said he attended the Southeast RAC meeting last month. Mr. Sanslow did a great job. We could not hear the discussions there because of the sound system. On the Nine Mile limited entry there, he would like to give public access, rather than have it spike only, change it to an any bull unit. He would like to see the Zion sheep unit put in the proclamation this year.

Ryan Foutz, FNAWS said he has two recommendations today. They would like to extend the season for Desert Bighorn on regular draw by 5 extra days. This would still leave time for aerial surveys. Utah FNAWS is recommending opening the Zion's Unit this year based on high numbers of sheep outside the park. This is a nice surprise with the 240 sheep down on the Zion's.

Wade Heaton, representing Friends of Paunsaugunt would like to move the Paunsaugunt muzzleloader into September. They don't want both the muzzleloader and the rifle hunt late in the year. This year the 2009 Paunsaugunt hunts were better than they had been in years. He thanked the Board for decisions they have made to get the quality back. Also, the Paunsaugunt Management hunt, by all indicators, was a big success. They support the proposal to return to the 5-day deer hunt with the 9-day youth hunt.

Roy Hampton, representing UBA said they have three trainers in school programs. They have an after school program. 95% of the archery clubs in Utah are associated with UBA. They have a club and youth program. We are very involved with the youth, introducing them to the sport. On Emigration Canyon issue, from Parley's south it is archery only and this is a solution for that area. You could extend that border into the Emigration area. If you do that, you could grow some big bucks.

## **Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodard summarized the RAC recommendations and public comment.

Mr. Johnson said what UBA suggested would solve the problems in the Emigration Township area. He would not want high-powered rifles discharged by his house.

Craig Clyde said our regional boundary is the county line and it is on the drainage divide, which makes a good boundary. It could be moved to that. That unit was originally set up as archery only to move people away from the rifle hunt. This suggestion is a possibility.

Director Karpowitz asked if there is a CWMU or other private land in that area. Also, the north side of Parley's Canyon, do we need rifle hunting there?

Mr. Clyde said the Northern region would have to identify any CWMUs that might cross over. We end the hunt on the archery only area Dec 15, keeping it opening until Jan 1 in case we need a rifle hunt there to control population numbers. There have been times we have opened a rifle hunt during that period to control elk populations. We have never had to do that with deer, because cars seem to help with that. North of I-80 still might need a rifle hunt for elk, because archery hunters do not control populations.

Director Karpowitz asked if this area would be included in extended archery.

Mr. Clyde said it is included currently. If we changed it, it would include all of Salt Lake County east of I-15.

Mr. Aoude said the reason there is so much discussion is the Central region has a municipal boundary and when you go north, it becomes a hunt boundary of the Northern region. There are two regions involved.

Mr. Wood said there is a little piece of one CWMU that would be in the county if we did this.

Director Karpowitz said we would have to exclude the CWMU.

Mr. Fenimore said where he grew up back east, density of population is a consideration with rifle hunting. We had lots of archery only areas and then to control the issues with antlerless, we had shot gun regulations which was a lot less of an issue in densities with high powered rifles. That might be another consideration.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Ernie Perkins and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendations on the rule amendment in regards to Salt Lake County and rescind R657-5-13(5)(b)(c).**

The following motion was made by Keele Johnson, seconded by Del Brady and passed 4 to 2, opposed by Jake Albrecht and Tom Hatch.

**MOTION: I move that we extend the archery only boundary, north to the Davis county line, east of I-15, and excluding the CWMU.**

Mr. Hatch asked if they have an idea of how many rifle hunters will be displaced by this boundary change.

Mr. Aoude said it is hard to get a number on that small of an area. There are a few people that hunt in City Creek Canyon, which is included in that. It would be hard to get a good accurate number, but it will displace some rifle hunters.

#### Zion's Sheep Hunt

Mr. Perkins asked if they authorize the Zion sheep hunt, how many permits are you talking?

Mr. Aoude said there are sufficient numbers to harvest between 5-7 rams. We do not do numbers until March and the biologist would have to make the recommendation then.

Chairman Woodard said this would be a new unit in the hunt tables.

Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Flinders if the RAC would support this.

Mr. Flinders said they would love the chance to hear about the survey data and comment and pass a motion on the permits. I cannot imagine they would not want this opportunity.

Mr. Perkins said if they have an objection, they could express that when permits were set.

Director Karpowitz said they would have to be open to at least one permit.

Mr. Sanslow said nobody is going to complain about having an extra sheep hunt.

Mr. Christensen and Mr. Slater said their RACs would also be in favor of this.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Keele Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we include the Zion Unit as a new sheep unit for 2010.**

Five-day sheep hunt extension

Director Karpowitz said if it is extended five days, it will be right in the peak of the rut. This hunt used to end in mid-October. Over time we have moved it farther into November. We have resisted this in the past on Desert bighorns, because it makes it very easy to kill a sheep at this time. We do this already with Rocky Mountain bighorn. They are going to be 100% success rate hunts. It makes it a lot easier hunt if that is what we are after.

Mr. Albrecht asked how many total days they have to hunt now.

Director Karpowitz said around 50 days, last week in September to the first Saturday in November.

Mr. Perkins said FNAWS has a lot of access to the Division and this has been in discussion for a long time. He prefers it be discussed with the Division separately with pros and cons, as opposed to a surprise recommendation that the Board votes on today.

Director Karpowitz said the reason not to do it is if you hunt the rut, it is 100% success hunt. These are OIAL hunts. The only reason to go against it is there could be more opportunity if it was not 100% success.

Mr. Brady asked Mr. Foutz to give some insight on this.

Mr. Foutz said it came from guys who have hunted the last few years. It is hard to hunt sheep in September. Temperatures are cooler later and they do not want to interfere with the flight surveys. It is only five days.

Mr. Johnson said back in the 80's the chance of success with a guide was 10%. These were tough hunts. You could triple the number of permits if you cut it off back to mid-October. Those who want a sheep need to get a guide.

Mr. Foutz said there are a lot of hunters on some units that are going without a guide and having success.

The following motion was made by Jake Albrecht and died for a lack of a second.

**MOTION:** I move that we extend the Desert bighorn hunt by five days.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Del Brady and passed 4 to 2, opposed by Bill Fenimore and Ernie Perkins.

**MOTION: I move that we move to a statewide 5-day any weapon hunt on general season deer, with 9-day season length for youth.**

Mr. Perkins said this needs to be a statewide decision and it should go through the RACs again. He will gladly support 5 day and all are sharing in the sacrifice when the biology supports it. He does not hear anything in the biology that supports going to the 5 day. The best measure on the social side of it is the survey done in July 2008. In that survey, harvesting a big buck was lower on priority and giving up hunting every year was the last. 76% of the hunters were satisfied with their opportunity to hunt in 2007. Only the limited entry hunters seem to be dissatisfied. The only ones being asked to sacrifice are the general season hunters. The majority of those speaking for 5 day are the limited entry hunters. He would be happier with the 5 day proposal if everybody were sacrificing equally. He does not support this recommendation as made. We have been knee jerking on this for about four years, going back and forth. He will support a seven day hunt as a compromise, if the Board will look to stick with this for several years.

Mr. Oswald said Central voted against the five day statewide, 6 to 5 with the Chair breaking the tie.

Mr. Brady said he would wait to make this change in 2011. He agrees with what Mr. Perkins said and he has thought a lot about this. The Division has told us that biologically the five day hunt does not help. It makes us all feel like we are doing our part by taking a few less days in the field, but it may not significantly increase the number of bucks. Northeast did not have any sportsmen representatives there and it came up at the last minute. If things had been different, they would have voted the same as Southern and Southeast. All the regions did not vote.

Mr. Fenimore said with the information from the Division and with the hunt structure that is being proposed, he would be more inclined to wait on a 5 day until 2011, but he would compromise to a 7 day. We can broaden opinion with a survey on this issue in the future.

Mr. Aoude said if we do go to a five day statewide, there are still units that are supposed to have a shortened season. We would like those to be 3 days, if possible.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that deer units that are under the buck:doe objective go to a three-day season, same starting dates as the five-day season.**

Mr. Aoude said on muzzleloader and archery we would have the same shortening of seasons as recommended.

Mr. Sanslow asked if it will shorten the archery and muzzleloader seasons at the same length with going to the five day general season with nine day youth hunt.

Chairman Woodard said it will not.

Mr. Perkins said he needs the Division's help. He is going to get lots of hate mail from the Northern region, along with Mr. Slater and Mr. Fenimore. He's going to need help in explaining what has been done on this motion.

The following motion was made by Jake Albrecht, seconded by Ernie Perkins and failed 2 to 4, opposed by Tom Hatch, Bill Fenimore, Keele Johnson and Del Brady.

**MOTION: I move that the muzzleloader and archery seasons statewide be cut by 45%.**

Mr. Hatch said he agrees with what Mr. Brady and Mr. Perkins have said. He is also going to come back next year and ask everybody to share in the pain. It is only fair that they know the direction we are going.

Nine Mile

Mr. Perkins suggested that the region talk to this issue.

Mr. Bates said they have been looking to remedy this situation. We have a split set up there on Nine Mile. If we were to open it up any bull, south of Dry Canyon, it would result in having no incentive to have a CWMU for any of the landowners in that area. On Nine Mile you have all the good elk habitat, summer habitat up on private land, and it takes snow to move the elk down to where private hunters can get them. We picked up the Cold Springs WMA a few years back which is about 13,000 acres with BLM land. It borders a CWMU. If we were to open it up to any bull it would push the elk back onto the CWMU and then the public would not have the chance to take any animals. This would also leave no opportunity to take cows up on the summer habitat. We have 30 public permits on this and have given some mitigation permits to landowners. We would like to make this consistent but this works and we would like to leave it the way it is. When they did the original transplant onto this property, they told the landowners they would have the opportunity to harvest elk on their land. Butch Jensen does not have

enough land to qualify for even one permit per year, yet he is able to harvest 3-4 bulls there and not harm the population.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Ernie Perkins and passed 4 to 2, opposed by Keele Johnson and Jake Albrecht.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the Division's recommendations and direct the Division to move toward a three-year guidebook starting in 2011.**

Director Karpowitz said with the number of changes we are considering for 2011, it might be difficult to lock it into a three-year guidebook. There are always kinks with the first try at this. He would be more comfortable moving it to 2012.

Mr. Perkins asked how about working towards it? If they are still nervous about it in 2011, he'll listen.

Chairman Woodard said he sits on the Outfitter Board as the Wildlife Board representative. Starting this coming January, all guides and outfitters in the state need to get a license. They would like the Division to include something in the proclamation to the effect that if a hunter is hiring a guide or outfitter on public land, make sure they are licensed by checking on the DOPL website.

Mr. Hatch said there are no rules prohibiting hunters from hiring an unlicensed guide or outfitter.

Chairman Woodard said we have no rules in that area at this point. This is the first stepping stone of this to support this new rule that came about through legislation.

Mr. Hatch asked where is the enforcement. There is no law or regulation that requires someone to be licensed in order to guide.

Director Karpowitz said there actually is on public land only for big game, cougar and bear. If they are guiding for money on public land, they have to be licensed through DOPL.

Chairman Woodard said they are putting the general public on notice to look on DOPL's website and contact a licensed outfitter in the state.

Mr. Johnson said a number of states have it on certain species that you must hire a guide to hunt them where they might be going into rough or dangerous areas.

Chairman Woodard said he thinks that would take legislative action.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Tom Hatch and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that in 2010 we streamline the RAC and Board process, by combining the big game rule, proclamation, permit allocation with the**

**antlerless into one meeting with notification on the big game draw results available by the end of May.**

8) Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment (**Action**)

Mr. Aoude presented this agenda item. (See Powerpoint Presentation) There are two reasons they are presenting this amendment. The Board has asked the Division to reconvene the committee to deal with any unintended consequences of the plan and to resolve any lingering issues. We held a meeting of the Mule Deer Working Group September 30, 2009 and the main thing they dealt with was the premium limited entry deer. He went over the premium limited entry management current objective, the percent of bucks in the harvest 5 years and older on the premium limited entry deer units 2006-2008, consequences of current plan age objectives and why the current objective is unreasonable. The proposed objective is to manage for a three year average of 40-50 bucks/100 does and 40-55% of the harvested deer being a 5 years of age or older. This will prevent unnecessary permit reductions and it passed the committee 10 to 1.

**RAC Recommendations**

All the RACs passed this proposal unanimously.

**Public Comment**

Wade Heaton, representing Friends of the Paunsaugunt said this gives them more flexibility with a more secure number of permits each year. They support this action.

**Board Discussion**

The following motion was made by Del Brady, seconded by Keele Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation on the Statewide Deer Management Plan Amendment.**

9) CWMU & Landowner Permit Numbers for 2010 & Rule R657-37 (**Action**)

Boyde Blackwell, Wildlife Program Coordinator presented this agenda item. This was the first year of a three-year management process. December 4, 2008 we approved 103 CWMUs three year plans. During that time they still have the option to request changes. This year they have 13 new applications and they are requesting approval for 7 brand new CWMUs, 2 split into 2 CWMUs and 4 had boundary changes. There were 9 that requested changes for CWMU management needs. He gave an overview of the 2010 CWMUs. (See Powerpoint Presentation) They are at 2.1 million acres enrolled in the program. He went over the requested permits and the recommendations by species. He then went over the CWMU application recommendations by region.

Mr. Blackwell said that just this week he received an application from the Johnson Mountain Ranch, after the application period. They are not requesting any more permits or anything different than in the past, but they have a new owner, operator and president,

Mr. Bob Thomas. In our discussions with him, they feel he will be a good CWMU and operator. They were able to get their paperwork into them and the region is recommending approval.

Mr. Blackwell went on to present landowner permit recommendations for 2010. They had 15 applications and the DWR recommends approval for 11/15 as received. He then went over landowner association application issues on the West Desert, Vernon CR, Southwest Desert SR, Paunsaugunt Deer SR and Mt. Dutton/Paunsaugunt SR.

There has also been a change to R657-37-9 in wording that allows the donation of a CWMU voucher. Mr. Blackwell went over the details of this issue.

### **Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodard said we have three issues to discuss on the CWMU and Landowner Permit numbers for 2010 & Rule.

Mr. Albrecht asked on the sale of the Johnson Mountain Ranch, or part of it? Did the total acreage stay together?

Mr. Blackwell said yes.

Mr. Brady asked about those who receive a voucher donation and the fact that they cannot receive credit for it. Wouldn't they receive some consideration as a tax write off?

Mr. Blackwell said he is not sure. The donations are made to 501-C's, tax exempt organizations. The intent is that they would not be able to sell the permit, or trade it for another hunt. It is for a charitable cause.

Mr. Hatch thought a tax benefit might be a consideration. What is the intent?

Mr. Blackwell said this is all new wording, incorporating input from the RACs and we had Mr. Bushman write this up for us.

Mr. Brady said there are a lot of donations made to 501-C's that are tax benefits to the donor. That would appear to be the case here.

Mr. Blackwell said the intent of the language is so they would not be able to sell the permit, or trade it for another hunt.

Director Karpowitz he is quite sure that Mr. Bushman wrote the language not to preclude the tax benefit, but we will let him answer that.

### **RAC Recommendations**

Southeastern – Mr. Sanslow said these recommendations passed with one opposing vote with the stipulation that the Division have the right to review and approve the recipient.

Central – Mr. Oswald said they had one motion to approve these recommendations and it passed unanimously.

Northeastern – Mr. Christensen said there were lots of questions on these proposals. Mr. Blackwell explained and answered these questions and resolved the concerns. They had three motions: One for the CWMUs, one for landowners and one for the rule. They all passed unanimously.

Northern – Mr. Slater said they had three motions. MOTION: CWMU permit numbers were accepted as presented which did include the Alton management tag, it passed 9 to 4 with two recused. MOTION: The landowner permit numbers passed unanimously. On the rule there was lots of discussion on compensation, to make sure no one get an undue benefit, or be able to sell or barter. MOTION: The rule was approved with some added language and it passed 8 to 4, 1 abstained and 2 recused. The changes the Division made accommodated their concerns.

Southern – Mr. Flinders said the rule and landowner proposals passed unanimously. The CWMUs passed unanimously including the Alton CWMU with 4 private and 1 public, to be revisited no later than two years from now.

Mr. Hatch asked a question on the donation language. What about the tax benefit?

Mr. Bushman said the landowner is not receiving compensation from the entity they are donating to, but tax benefit would be okay. We can indicate that.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Del Brady and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move we amend the proposed wording for Rule R657-37, to include “other than tax benefit.”**

### **Public Comment**

Wade Heaton said they are the only CWMU that falls within the boundary of a Premium Unit. In 2009 we had a management hunt on the Paunsaugunt. There were 50 permits on that. It has been traditional that as public permits increase, private permits increase. They are asking for a 10% reduction in trophy permits as well. We are concerned with the buck/doe ratio. We are concerned about the age class of the bucks we are killing and also the specifics, including the restrictions about the bucks we are killing. Because of the set up of the CWMU they can guarantee that the right kind of bucks will be harvested. We are also more than willing to adhere to the restrictions as well as checking in the deer, data collection and all those kinds of things. It really comes down to a fairness issue. Because of the application process for CWMUs, they want five permits, 1 public, 4 private. There is a good chance there will be more than 50 permits on the management in 2010 for the Paunsaugunt. Instead of asking for 5, just make it a percentage. Historically the CWMU has gotten about 10% of the permits on the Paunsaugunt. In the event that the number of permits for the management hunt increases, they will ask the CWMU to take our percent. To simplify this, we might ask for a percentage of the recommendation

that comes back in March/April. They want to do their part to manage the area and get the buck/doe ratio down.

### **Board Discussion**

Chairman Woodard said we will do CWMU's, Landowners and then the rule R657-37.

Director Karpowitz said at one time they allowed spike bull permits for CWMUs, but since then they have been eliminated. We only have one year on these management bull permits and until we get more data, we were not comfortable with recommending more.

Mr. Albrecht said if the management bucks are part of the scenario next year, the CWMU could be involved in that next year, couldn't they?

Director Karpowitz said they could but you are opening up the door for spike bull permits. We worked hard to follow the Board's direction to get rid of those.

Mr. Hatch said he is unclear on how we would open the door. We already allow the management bucks there.

Director Karpowitz said the Board direction in the past on elk units has been, you get a certain number of permits. We are not going to allocate separate spike permits. At one time the Board was giving the Alton CWMU some sort of management permits and they were donating a lot of them. The Board asked us to work our way out of that program and now we're going back the other way.

Mr. Perkins said the other point is we have a number of CWMUs that are currently taking private tags and using them for management buck or bull hunts.

The following motion was made by Tom Hatch, seconded by Keele Johnson and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the request for the Alton CWMU permits for five additional management buck permits. (4 private and 1 public)**

The following motion was made by Del Brady, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the proposal and balance of the CWMU and Landowner permits as presented.**

The following motion was made by Del Brady, seconded by Tom Hatch and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we pass R657-37 as amended.**

Mr. Perkins said it is noted that we close two items, Statewide Archery Committee and Donation of CWMU Vouchers, on the action log.

At this point Mr. Woodard brought up Mr. Hall's letter relative to landowner permits on the Southwest Desert.

Mr. Albrecht commended Mr. Blackwell for the great job he is doing with the CWMU operators.

10) Conservation Permit Audit (**Action**)

Greg Sheehan, Administrative Services Section Chief presented the 2009 Conservation Permit Audits. It is part of R657-41, which is the rule that covers conservation permits. Section 9 deals with funds and reporting. The last section says the Division shall perform annual audits on expenditures and accounts. Our auditor this year is Todd Shaw who can answer any questions today. He also commended the various conservation groups for their cooperation and help.

Mr. Sheehan then went over the background on the 2009 audit process and the Conservation permit audit – Executive summary. (See handout). The revenues, bank accounts, project forms and fund balances are all reviewed annually. The conservations present today have been given copies of their audits as well as the summary sheet. Without spending a lot of time he listed the various groups who participated and the information on each. Based on the information reviewed in the internal audit we have not found information to indicate that any of the organizations be eliminated from their permits. 10% of the money collected goes directly to the organizations. He continued to go over the executive summary.

Mr. Hatch asked how they audit or verify how much the permits sell for.

Mr. Shaw said he is given a list of each of the permits that were sold and what it sold for from the Division.

Mr. Hatch asked how it is verified. What would preclude a conservation group from telling the Division they sold a permit for \$50,000 when they really sold it for \$70,000?

Mr. Sheehan said that is one area where we could do more auditing to validate the amount the permits are sold for. We could give more time to this next year. We could audit some of the banquet books.

Chairman Woodard said they could get a copy of the auction receipt from the banquets.

Mr. Fenimore asked how we determine how many permits each organization gets.

Mr. Clark said the process is, the organizations have a selection meeting (draft) and each group gets a market share. Some groups select one or two big tags, or lots of lesser tags. There is a competitive factor according to how much they sell. Mr. Clark does some spot checking on the sale of the permits. The night of the banquet they have to fill out information on who buys it and their information. It is a good idea to do some more checking. Their market share will go down if they do not report what they sold. This incentive is built into the system.

Mr. Clark explained the process in that they have a draft or selection meeting. There is an average on each permit and each group gets a market share based on what percentage they had during the previous three year period. They can spend those dollars any way they want at that selection meeting. Also, we do some spot checking at the banquets. He attends one banquet per organization per year and can see what the permits go for. They have to fill out information from the person who gets the permit and how much it cost. We could do better on tracking this information. If they do not report what they get for permits, they lose market share the next time. This is an incentive.

Mr. Fenimore asked what happens if someone cannot pay for their permit. He also asked how they determine who gets what permits.

Mr. Clark said there is a process to get the permit reallocated.

Mr. Perkins asked what if the economy goes south, we base the price of the tags on a three-year average and they do not sell, how does it correct?

Mr. Clark said it automatically self corrects because they are competing for market shares. Most tags are issued as multi-year tags.

Mr. Perkins said last year the legislature put some limits on carry over on the restricted account Habitat Council funds that are used for conservation projects and did not quite turn them into one-year monies, but came close. Was any of your share affected?

Mr. Clark said no, the rule says they cannot keep it for over two years. If they do not use it on a project they have to turn it back over to us. These are contributed monies.

Mr. Hatch asked Mr. Sheehan if he would put together a summary of projects that the organizations spend the money on.

Mr. Clark said Ms. Candelaria could run that and get it to the Board members.

Mr. Peay said SFW had 150 permits and had a problem with two people who could not pay for their tags. This very seldom happens. If he went to a banquet and bid \$500,000 on a tag, then said he could not pay for it, would the next organization be liable for \$500,000?

Mr. Clark said no. There is language in the rule that would take care of that.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Tom Hatch and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Conservation Permit Audit as presented by the Division.**

- 11) Conservation Permit Allocation – 1 yr permits (**Action**)

Alan Clark, Assistant Director presented this information. The Board already approved the permits for 2010-2012. They have carried out every piece of the time line up to today for this allocation. Each year they come back to the Board on the one-year permits. They completed the process and the permits are allocated as single year or multi-year (3 years). There are two groups that applied for single year permits and they are recommending that 10 permits be issued. (See Table under Conservation Permit Allocation in original Board packet) Both groups had single year permits in the last three years.

12) Conservation Permit Allocation – 3 yr permits (**Action**)

He went on to clarify permits on the multi-year table. There were numerous trades and it works really well. There were four corrections to the list the Board approved. There are a lot of permits and they catch a couple mistakes as they go through it. (See 2010-2012 Multi-Year Conservation Permits) On the two Henry Mountain bison area permits, they went back and negotiated with the group and put one in the early and one in the late season. Due to an interstate agreement with Nevada the statewide conservation permits and the statewide sportsman's permit cannot hunt Pilot Mountain. We alternate with them.

Mr. Albrecht asked on the value listed, he understands that Desert bighorn and some of those have increased. On others, are they consistent?

Mr. Clark said generally they were all increasing until the economy has taken this hit. The economy has affected the prices on the high value tags.

Mr. Peay said the tag prices are determined more on the quality of the wildlife in Utah, rather than on the actual economy. The quality of our elk has gone down and we will start to see that in the tag prices.

Mr. Hatch said the average age of the bulls has not dropped significantly. What is that attributed to?

Mr. Peay said we have become very efficient at killing things. Hunters scout all year and are more proficient at taking the higher end animals. Boone & Crockett points are down 20%. We have become very good at taking the high end elk. The more opportunity, the more seasons, the more days have increased success.

Director Karpowitz said if it is true that we have over shot these herds, it will show up in age class, but it has not shown up yet. What this shows is size is not correlated with age. It is probably tied more to nutrition.

Mr. Johnson said he saw a five-year-old Rocky Mountain sheep was taken with an 18-inch base and this was the herd bull. The genetics will not get passed on.

Director Karpowitz said we kill the best of the best, right at the peak of the rut. We are the only state that does it.

Mr. Peay said he was shocked at the expo this year. The economy had crashed and the deer tag brought \$200,000, the bighorn brought \$110,000, elk was way up there. Once again, it is Utah's position with the other states. If we stay better than the other states, we will still get a better price on our tags.

### **Public Comment**

Chairman Woodard read Ryan Foutz comment. He had two issues to be addressed. In the last ten years extend all bighorn conservation permits to the end of December 31. They start the same as the proclamation opener.

Director Karpowitz said this is an extension of what has been done over the last several years. It is not new. Traditionally we extend the area permits through the end of the year.

Chairman Woodard the second thing is to open the Zion Unit, which we have already dealt with. Also to allow the statewide conservation permit hunter, or the sportsmen's permits hunter to hunt every other year in the Zion Unit, but not both at the same time. That would need discussion.

Mr. Clark said they anticipate they will issue many tags on the Zion Unit, because the population is doing really well. We do not see a need to do what Mr. Foutz has requested. They have a lot of places to spread people around so they do not see this as a big problem.

Don Peay, speaking for Utah FNAWS said on bighorn and Desert bighorn sheep hunting the program has expanded. If your hunt ends November 5<sup>th</sup> and you have not seen a ram, they might be taking smaller rams. Harvest system is designed to take older rams. A lot of the guys who buy these tags are busy, and want to hunt 5 more days.

Director Karpowitz said they have lots of options of where to take big rams.

Mr. Clark said this is where conservation tag extensions are requested.

Mr. Johnson asked if we should make a permanent change on these bighorn permits.

Mr. Clark said it would be a substantial change in definition.

Director Karpowitz said the first year this request was made, it is easy to make a compelling case for the good that FNAWS has done, a five fold increase in sheep numbers. At that point they wanted to give every advantage to keep this thing going. This has proven to be a really good thing and he supports this.

The following motion was made by Ernie Perkins, seconded by Del Brady and passed 5 to 1 with Tom Hatch opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the request for the season extension to December 31 on bighorn and desert bighorn conservation area permits, and**

**also direct the Division to propose an amendment that would lengthen the season in rule.**

Mr. Hatch said he is concerned that we are always making concessions to the high dollar, conservation permit hunters. We need to make concessions for the average hunters.

Mr. Brady said the average hunters have benefited greatly from these conservation permits through the years.

Mr. Johnson said in 1980, they asked if they could get more money into the sheep program. Doug Day said each species carries its own weight. At that point we auctioned off a sheep tag and this was the beginning of the growth of this program. It has been an amazingly successful program. If we have a problem it might be just educating the public as to what comes out of auctioning these sheep tags.

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Del Brady and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move we approve the Conservation permit allocation on the one and three year permits as presented by the Division.**

Mr. Brady asked if the Division has a grazing policy on DWR property.

Director Karpowitz said we graze our lands where it is beneficial to wildlife and where we have adequate infrastructure to graze it properly. We do not have an official policy on it. Some 60,000 acres of our lands we graze with livestock. We recognize and want to get to the point where we can use livestock to graze areas that will benefit wildlife. The same goes for SITLA lands that we lease.

The meeting was adjourned.