

**UTAH WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING**  
September 12, 2012, DNR Room 2000  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

**Wildlife Board Members**

Ernie Perkins – Vice Chair (Salt Lake)  
Jim Karpowitz – Exec. Sec (Salt Lake)  
Calvin Crandall (Salt Lake)  
Jake Albrecht (via telephone)  
John Bair (via telephone)  
Del Brady – Chair (teleconference)  
Mike King (teleconference)

**Public Present**

Dan Cockayne  
McCrae Christiansen  
Tammara Mohr  
Jason Adamson  
Andy Lyon  
Austin Lariton  
Kyler Wheeler  
Sterling Brown  
Robert Olson  
Robert Byrnes  
Chad Spencer  
Ryan Foutz

**Division of Wildlife Resources**

Judi Tutorow  
Kent Hersey  
Craig Clyde  
Linda Varney  
Dean Mitchell  
Dana Dolsen  
Staci Coons  
Kevin Bunnell  
Greg Sheehan  
Cindee Jensen  
LuAnn Petrovich

Approved

1) Approval of Agenda (Action)

Ernie Perkins, Vice-Chair said we are here in Salt Lake and we are here for a Wildlife Board meeting which will be conducted with the aid of teleconferencing. He then introduced the Board members, doing a roll call to those who are participating via teleconferencing. He then said we will approve the agenda. He noted that we're correcting the printed agenda to show that he is serving as acting Chair for this meeting. He said they will do a roll call vote on the action items, calling for each member by region.

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

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

2) DWR Update (Information)

Jim Karpowitz, DWR Director said he appreciates everyone getting together for this electronic meeting. We are experiencing some unusual conditions with drought and now with some flooding. We have to react quickly with conditions that are constantly changing around the state this year. At the last Board meeting we talked about some additional antlerless permits. Today we'll talk about some late season antlerless permits. With what we do today that should be all we need for the remainder of this year. Drought conditions have improved in the Southern part of the state, but are still tough in Central and Northern. Fires have also impacted our areas extensively.

As far as bison tags, we have a recommendation for the Board to deal with that now. The antlerless and bison tags could be done by Director decision, but we want the Board to weigh in on this issue. There may still be a need for some emergency action by the Director, but hopefully we've covered all of it now.

Director Karpowitz said he appreciates the public here to talk about cougars and to have some more dialog.

There is just one other thing he'd like to mention that is important to the future of wildlife conservation in Utah. There is an email going out today to the DWR announcing a new program within the Division. It will be followed up with a news release in the next few days. One of the top priorities in this agency has been to recruit new anglers and hunters and to encourage people to be supporters of wildlife conservation. There is a real need to continue to have people interested

in those sports because that has been the primary support for wildlife conservation for more than a century. We need to keep people interested in angling, wildlife watching and other things that increase their interest in wildlife conservation.

We have looked at our neighboring states and talked about recruitment and retention. We'll be announcing to the Division today and to the public within a couple of days, a new Wildlife Recreation program within the Division. It will unite and coordinate all of our recruitment and retention efforts into one place, our Outreach Section. We will hire a new coordinator for this program which will combine the current programs of community fisheries and youth fishing clubs, dedicated hunters and volunteers, event coordination, expos, the Great Salt Lake Nature Center at Farmington Bay, hunter education, shooting ranges, shooting sports and watchable wildlife. The goal of this program is to provide hands on wildlife experiences for young hunters and anglers, and even for people who have left the hunting and fishing programs, to encourage them back.

The Division can't do this alone. This requires a large volunteer effort across the state with all the conservation groups in the state and people who are not affiliated with conservation groups that want to participate in helping raise interest. It will be a big part of what we do over the next few years.

The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is built upon hunters and anglers who have stepped forward and funded wildlife conservation across the continent. We are in danger of losing that funding base with kids being drawn into sports and other recreational opportunities. We need to make sure we are giving kids every opportunity to participate in hunting and angling. We are going to call on the public to help us in a massive way. We need to re-attach our young people in this state to hunting and fishing opportunities.

A lot of things work as a gateway to bring them back as lifetime hunters and anglers. For example, the archery in the schools program, shooting sports and watchable wildlife programs bring kids into these activities. We are going to combine all of our efforts that have been spread all over our agency and put them in one department. We will hire a new person to get this going over the next several years. The future of wildlife in this state depends on young people participating in hunting and fishing, and engaging in outdoor activities. The demographics are telling and our hunter public is aging. We are excited about this internally. We will get new ideas within and from other states. We are going to move forward on this rapidly and are very excited.

Mr. Perkins asked if there are any questions. He addressed each of the board members. There were no questions, with general positive response on this item.

Director Karpowitz said we have been doing recruitment and retention in bits and pieces all over the agency. This will pull it together into one place, one coordinated program with the responsibility to make it go forward. By doing that and adding some resources to it so we can give it added emphasis.

Jason Adamson of Sanpete Valley Houndsmen said they'd like to be part of this. As houndsmen they are the only non-consumptive program. They want to be able to show groups of kids a big cat or a bear. All of them here today would volunteer their time to be part of it. It's an easy hunt that kids can go on and enjoy, and it's exciting to them.

3) Additional late Season Antlerless Elk Permits (Action)

Anis Aoude, Wildlife Program Coordinator presented this agenda item which is to propose a few additional permits for some antlerless elk. At our last Board meeting 1,450 permits which were mostly early season hunts were approved. They asked their managers to recommend early season hunt permits first, and then let summer get basically done and then re-evaluate whether they needed additional permits. They have done that and have come back with a request for a few more permits. There are three units where they are recommending additional permits, two Manti Units where there was a large wildfire that burned some transitional deer range where elk usually winter. To deal with that they'd like to harvest a few more elk to make sure that we're not over utilizing the areas that burned and keep those elk from perhaps dropping down on deer that might be a little lower. The third unit is in Northern region, the Henefer/Echo WMA where, because of drought conditions, the winter forage is not going to be there. We want to take a few elk to keep them from affecting deer. A lot of this is precautionary depending on what the winter brings. One thing that changed from the memo that went out to the board members is the date that these permits will go on sale, not October 18, but September 20, 2012. They will sell on a first-come first-serve basis.

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Director Karpowitz said there will be a news release out today relative to these permits to notify the public. We also want the public to know there are still some general season antlerless elk tags available, as well as some spike bull and any bull permits.

Mr. Aoude said on the Manti Unit, the Forest Service has asked permittees to get off the fire area so it can come back. The region has talked to the local sportsmen and they do agree it would be a good thing to take some pressure off that area.

Mr. Crandall said these last 205 permits will go on sale September 20 and the other 1,450 are already on sale with some left.

Mr. Aoude said that is correct. There is a pretty high demand for antlerless elk permits, because it is a hunt where you can get a good amount of meat in your freezer.

Mr. Crandall said these last 205 were from a fire related issue. Statewide there is big concern about the drought and winter feed. A number of livestock men have been told their permits are going to be cut. Are these antlerless permits enough? Is this going to be enough to mitigate that?

Mr. Aoude said they believe it is as far as the elk population goes. We already had 13,000 permits initially, so these are in addition to those. On a population of roughly 75,000 elk, we're putting a good dent in it. We won't really know if it's enough until we're into the winter. We'll try to harvest animals before they reach the winter range. Again we have quite a few permits already in place on units where we're over objective, so hopefully we have enough to deal with the issue.

Director Karpowitz said we'll keep watching it and can react fairly quickly if we get into some dire circumstances.

Mr. Aoude said Southern region has reported a lot of good regrowth from the last few storms.

Mr. Crandall said he's talked to folks in southern region who've had lots of rain and the range is looking better.

Mr. Perkins then went through each individual board member and asked if there were any questions on the presentation. There were no questions with some general comment in support.

Mr. Perkins said on the Henefer/Echo hunts there has been some limited ATV use allowed under Division supervision to access the area. Is that going to be true again this year?

Mr. Justin Dolling, Northern Regional Supervisor, said this year it will be accessed only by foot or horseback. There were a few years we allowed ATV access, but not this year.

Mr. Perkins asked if there were any questions from the audience.

Jason Adamson said we've killed a lot of elk over the last five years. We can sell these permits on short notice. He is from Manti and they have fewer elk than a

few years ago. To issue more tags planning on a bad winter, why we can't be optimistic about this and hope we have another medium winter. We have far fewer elk there than five years ago and can easily handle more. We've had substantial rains and its greening up again. We are getting some good forage and can handle the elk that are there now.

Justin Shannon, Southeastern Region Wildlife Manager, said we had the 50,000 acre Sealy fire and some of it burned hotter than others. We would like to keep the pressure off of it for the next three years to let it grow. We are trying to be surgical and direct the hunt at the elk that will use that specific area. They're not trying to wipe out the whole mountain. The Forest Service and the sportsmen are on board and it is wise management to give that ground a little bit relief to grow more grass. We are slightly higher than objective in that area. That has been an extremely stable unit for us. Locally, or on a given drainage that might not be the case, but on the entire Manti unit we're slightly higher than five years ago.

Mr. Adamson asked where the elk will be taken.

Mr. Shannon said these hunt boundaries are already preset and they're on that Sealy fire area, so we won't be killing elk on the southwest Manti, it'll be elk adjacent to that fire.

Andy Lyon from Manti asked who the sportsmen are that are on board with this recommendation.

Mr. Shannon said we have several people locally in Carbon and Emery that we deal with and we also checked with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and others. They understand what we're up against and are okay with this recommendation.

Mr. Aoude said they are not planning for the worst case scenario. This is very few permits in the big scheme of things. There are 11-12 thousand elk on a unit, so 200 permits will probably kill 100 cows. It really is not extreme. Mortality is fairly constant. Elk populations continue to grow and we want to put a lid on it.

Mr. Adamson asked about elk being killed in the fire.

Mr. Shannon said they heard rumors of many elk that were lost, but they could never verify it.

Mr. Adamson said there were elk killed on the West Nebo when the fire came through.

Mr. Shannon said he doesn't know about that one, he thought we were talking about the Sealy fire.

Mr. Boyde Blackwell, Northeastern Regional Supervisor, said those listening through teleconferencing cannot hear the conversations that are going on. The speakers need to sit by a microphone or turn up the volume.

Craig Clyde, Central Region Wildlife Manager, said they did lose 65 head in the Wood Hollow fire. Some of those elk do migrate off that side and we did not offer extra cow tags in that area because of the loss. There was good regrowth with the late rain we got. We have looked at it surgically in certain areas.

Mr. Adamson said there was probably some loss from the Huntington fire also.

Mr. Clyde said most likely there would be some with elk and deer. We probably lost all of the fawns on the Wood Hollow fire because they cannot outrun the fire. Elk migrate and move in from drainage to drainage because of new growth. It can be over grazed quickly when that occurs.

Mr. Adamson said if you've lost your calf drop, can't we look at it optimistically and not take the extra permits?

Mr. Clyde said it can be and we're looking at that. We will monitor the winter situation.

Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau, said 205 was the number. Is that the total of those three units?

Mr. Aoude said that is the total, 75 on the Gordon Creek/Price Canyon unit, 100 permits on the Mohrland-Stump Flat unit and 30 on the Henefer/Echo Unit.

Mr. Perkins said there are no comment cards from the public. Are there any members of the public at the other locations? There were none.

### **Board Discussion**

Mr. Perkins said this is about trying to save deer, as opposed to taking more elk. If we have even a medium winter, the deer will suffer when the elk take over the entire good browse. He is in favor of taking care of the deer. We don't have any

problem growing elk herds any time we want to, but we are struggling to get the deer herd back up.

Jake Albrecht said a year ago they had the Clear Creek fire in Sevier County. People were concerned about the habitat and the difference that one year makes in an area like that is incredible. He thinks it is good the Division is ahead of the game in making sure we keep some of those animals off those burns to make sure the growth comes back as it is supposed to. He supports this proposal.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the additional late season antlerless elk permits as presented.**

4) Increased Bison Permits on the Henry Mountains (Action)

Justin Shannon, Wildlife Regional Manager presented this agenda item. They took a flight in early August on the Henry Mountain Bison unit and there were more bison than what the model had previously indicated should be there. We went back and reworked the model and came up with an estimate of 48 animals over objective. The purpose of this recommendation is to add 60 additional permits in addition to a fourth season on that unit, so we can be at or below objective of our population post season. The recommendation is an increase of 15 hunter's choice and 45 cow permits, going from 60 to 120 total. They met with the bison committee and they were comfortable with the fourth season and the additional 60 permits.

Mr. Perkins asked if there were any questions from the Board.

Mr. Albrecht said a year ago we were concerned that we were going to kill too many bison. What has changed on this? Are we able to track those collared animals?

Mr. Shannon said they've used a model for the past five years. Every year we have flown the model has been higher than our survey, so we've gone with our model which is the more liberal of the two. Last year when we flew we had 27 GPS collars out on the ground and saw 25 of them from the air which is about 92%. We felt very good about that but it was still under the model estimate. This year when we flew we found 33 of 33 GPS collared animals so he is extremely comfortable with this flight. He is really glad we have this USU study going on because it helps us identify, are we counting the collared animals and what is our



sightability? He is glad they have the ability to catch this now where we can handle it with the hunt structure for this fall.

Mr. Albrecht asked if these animals are maintaining their collars or are they losing them.

Mr. Shannon said Utah State has been frustrated with losing them and malfunctioning collars. That's why they're going with the GPS. We still have 33 well functioning collars and that is still a good sample size.

Mr. Fenimore said chart says 116 permits sold, but Mr. Shannon said 120.

Mr. Aoude said there are four conservation permits also.

Mr. King asked what the current range condition is on the Henry's. Has it been affected by the drought? Do they expect that these additional permits will help the range or at least not deteriorate it further.

Mr. Shannon said in June it looked pretty rough. They have had some monsoonal rains that have helped. The north end of the Henry's is looking fairly green presently. There are still some issues with drought on the southern end but the rains have helped. As a manager the most appropriate thing he can do for the range is be at or below objective and these 60 permits will help. It's about what they can fit in the four season framework and still give Once-in-a-Lifetime hunters a quality opportunity. He feels comfortable with the recommendation.

Mr. Crandall asked what the projection is for total numbers.

Mr. Shannon said the model said we should be at 384, and we counted 410. They sat down with Kent Hersey and the model says they should be at 432. We're not saying that is 100% sightability.

Mr. Crandall asked what the population objective is.

Mr. Shannon said after the hunts are done, they should be at 325 adult animals.

Mr. Crandall asked what percentage is the harvest.

Mr. Shannon said somewhere between 95-100%. There is some associated natural mortality which is included. It is hard to predict hunt success, recently 93% hunters' choice, 78% first cow hunt and last hunt 60% success.

Mr. Aoude said as we go this information is helping us improve our model and sightability as well. Set backs are only helping how we manage that herd. Because of the collars we know that survival is better than we thought. As this study goes on it will just get better.

Mr. Albrecht asked about the Henry Mountain bison committee's agreement. Was that fairly close to consensus?

Mr. Shannon said the BLM and the sportsmen said they were ok with the 60. One permittee didn't think 60 permits was enough, but by the end of the meeting he was ok with it. Also, if there are drought conditions there he is not opposed to being more aggressive with it to help the range. For this year doubling permits is maximizing to help us get to objective and keeping a quality hunt. We can look at it again next year.

Mr. Albrecht said he is supportive of what the Division is proposing. He's been on the Henry's a lot with bison and when you get too many people down there it is frustrating. He heard some higher numbers from some of the permittees than what are being proposed, but we'll get through this year and move on.

Mr. Crandall said that was his concern too in talking with some of the permittees, they asked if this is enough? One guy has 100% cut on being unable to use some of the land there. Is the sportsmen/wildlife keeping up?

Mr. Aoude said when the 325 objective was set, there are a lot more AUMs that could be used by bison that are not being used. It does take into consideration the drought years and everything. They tried to set an objective aligned with what the range can carry.

Mr. Crandall asked if the 60 permits varies each year.

Mr. Shannon said it changes with calf production from the previous year.

Sterling Brown said the doubling of permits brings us to objective, right?

Mr. Aoude said that is correct.

Mr. Perkins said there were no comment cards. Does someone want to talk from the public?

## Public Comment

Mr. Brown, Utah Farm Bureau, said concern has been expressed in the discussion today and as we compare what's taking place with wildlife numbers and livestock numbers, livestock is taking 100% cuts and doubling the bison permits is not adequate, if we are looking at taking care of the habitat.

Mr. Perkins said he received a phone call from SFW yesterday and they are supportive of the Division's recommendations. Also under the additional antlerless elk, they are supportive.

## Board Discussion

Mr. Fenimore asked if the BLM and Forest Service have signed off on this.

Mr. Shannon said BLM is on the committee and they were in favor.

Mr. Crandall said back to Mr. Brown's comment, if this just brings us back to even, should we be looking at this many permits all the time? Maybe we need to be below objective for a couple of years.

Mr. Shannon said we have lots of AUMs on that mountain that are allocated for bison that are not being used. In addition to that, they also look at balancing the quality of those hunts. They can address this moving forward. The habitat is what is really important, not where we're at on the AUM scale. This is a very appropriate proposal.

Mr. Crandall said it was a concern of a rancher on the bison committee, that this should be done sooner and not allow the herd to get over objective.

Mr. Shannon said to clarify, last year we had a great flight with 93% sightability, but the model still said we had more objective.

Mr. King said these numbers are fairly aggressive and he is supportive of it. To get some perspective, if you have 400 animals in this population with 160 bulls to 240 cows, of those cows, you are issuing 90 permits.

Mr. Shannon said 60 hunter's choice and 60 cow permits, and some of the hunter's choice do harvest cow.

Mr. King said they are taking a large number of cows with a population of 240. 420 animals is not a really large number for a sustainable population to begin with. He feels the permit numbers are quite aggressive and will make significant impact.

Mr. Bair said he agrees with Mr. King and this is extremely aggressive. The fact that the Division has gotten everybody to the table and agreed is a miracle. If you tried to increase permits on any other Once-in-a-Lifetime species by 100%, you'd have complete chaos. This is a good thing and the conditions warrant it. He is in favor of the increase at this point.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Jake Albrecht and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the increased bison permits on the Henry Mountains.**

5) Action Log Item – Harvest of Female Cougars (Informational)

Mr. Perkins said there will be no action on this item today. It is informational only.

John Shivik, Mammals Program Coordinator presented this issue on the possible over harvest of female cougars. (See Board Packet) There are few ways to look at it, the first is to look at the quotas in each of the units statewide to see where the number of females being taken relative to the quota. The quota statewide, there is still another 52 females that could have been taken. He then looked at each cougar management area and none of them were to the quota of females taken.

Another way to look at it is relative to how we look at the numbers in the cougar management plan. Within the plan we look at some other targets, not just numbers. The data are very preliminary at this point. Some units are higher, some are lower and it seems we are right on target plan wise statewide.

Based on those two bits of information, there is no evidence for any emergency action. Next year we will probably make some changes on numbers.

Mr. Perkins asked if there were questions.

Mr. Bair said some of the concerns he has are on the Wasatch and the Manti. Along the Wasatch Front, we have sheep units with very liberal harvest objective quotas on them and then down the road we have the Manti that is some of the best cougar hunting in the world as far as access and the general overall country. By opening this whole area and putting it under one quota system, he can't

imagine why anyone would hunt on the Cascade or Timpanogos when they can go down on the Manti. He worries that will take the pressure off the sheep units where we want to harvest the cats to help the sheep and pile all that pressure down on the Manti which is already an extremely popular place to hunt. If we're going to make a change, we should carve out the sheep units and make them separate. Allowing those and the Manti to run together is a mistake.

Mr. King asked what the overall male harvest is on these units.

Mr. Shivik said it is essentially flat, looking at the statewide data. What has happened is 2010 and 2011 was a late snow year. There was significant cougar harvest. Over the last few years on males and females, it has been flat according to the numbers we have so far.

Mr. Crandall asked why the sheep units aren't hunted as well, comparing Wasatch and Manti.

Mr. Shivik said there are all those access issues. He thanked the houndsmen for being here and their communication and effort. Mr. Bair has a good point and we need to look at it in context to the plan as we move forward. What he is proposing is that we stay the course with our plan. There is no reason for an emergency but we will look at it next year when we develop our recommendations to get things grouped a little bit better.

Mr. Crandall said there is a huge human population in these areas, do we need to keep the cougar numbers lower so we have less human/cougar interference.

Mr. Shivik said those are exactly the things we need to think about for recommendations for next year. We need to stick with the plan now. If he'd looked at the numbers and they were over they would have reacted, but the way the numbers came out, he would like to make the decisions based on a three year cycle and the data involved.

Mr. Perkins asked if next year is when they convene the group or will the plan then be addressed.

Mr. Shivik said they'll know in late spring 2013 at the end of our three year cycle and they'll continue working on it.

### **Public Comment**

Dan Cockayne, Lions Coordinator for the Utah Houndsmen Association said they would like to be a partner with the Division in getting the youth involved. That is exactly what they are about, educating and helping. They appreciate Mr. Shivik and his efforts, and also Mr. Bunnell before him. They agree with John in that one of the unintended consequences of the Cougar Management Plan was we took these lions that were intended to be killed on the sheep units and they've been moved down into the Manti Units that are accessible and easy to hunt. They feel it is an emergency. They've talked to houndsmen that are there all the time and if a lion walks through that country he leaves a track and they know it. Presently they feel it is about a 36% chance that they are killing the females. On the Timp Unit there were only two lions killed. The plan has created a sync source where there are areas where these cats can live and areas where they're harvested. The area where they're living will feed the area where they are being harvested. The source area is the sheep and goats and that would raise it to the level of emergency. The reason they don't get hunted is its steep and hard access. (See Attachment #1)

Jason Adamson, Sanpete Valley Houndsmen said they live in this area and Mr. Bair is right on with his insight. The sheep units have had very high quotas for years and we've worked to get rid of the cats. Now when you combine that with the Sanpete areas, the sheep units are rough and burn off regularly. It's a rough place to kill a cat. We need to create a way to force guys to hunt the sheep units. If they have the option of hunting the Manti, that's where they'll go. On the Timp Unit they only killed two cats and what's that going to do to the sheep over time? Plus you have the Salt Lake Unit where you can't turn a dog loose. It is the best seed unit and it borders the Timp Unit, which is not getting hunted. In the meantime Sanpete cats are getting annihilated, with 94 cats harvested. Out of the 94, 2 came off Timp. Mr. Perkins brought up the fact that the male harvest stayed the same. It stayed the same because the better areas were put into it. If we stay with this plan one more year, there won't be a cougar to hunt. We have watched this happen. We are not exterminators. 36 females out of 94 on the Manti were taken. Average age was 1.9 years old and it's counted as a tom. Why aren't females counted as females?

Mr. Shivik said there is a difference and what drives the populations is the reproductive age of females, not the young ones. At age 3 the females are counted as such.

Mr. Adamson said the female subquotas don't mean anything. They shouldn't even be taken. The system is broke. A 1.9 year old female is considered a tom.

Mr. Perkins said they are counted as a juvenile. This system of breaking animals into adult males, adult females and juvenile females with a break off age of three is how Utah has managed cougars for two decades.

Mr. Bunnell said we just started using adult females in the most recent plan two years ago.

Mr. Shivik said all females are counted toward the quota. So when we're setting quotas there's a proportion of the quota of all the females, but only a proportion of those that are the adult that help us make the permit adjustments based on the plan.

Mr. Adamson said so there are 36 females taken of the 94, and then to keep the toms on a flat line, they put premium units in it that weren't part of it before. Now the premium units have been lumped in with the Timp sheep units which are the objective unit and they're not getting touched. Only 2 cats were harvested off that unit. Hunters go where it's easy and they're doing their best to educate the houndsmen to leave these females alone. We need everybody's help. What they propose is to get a subquota introduced into these units so the Manti would shut down and it would force people to hunt the other units rather than focus on the one easy one and destroying that population. If they fill the 129 quota and do the same percentage you'll be at 26 cats just off the southwest Manti. That is far too many. With Mr. Shivik's numbers it's supposed to be at 17% females. We're at 36.

Mr. Perkins pointed out that the 17% are adult females and the 36 is all females.

Mr. Adamson said to him everything should be counted female. He was told that they reproduce at two years so 1.9 is just barely under that. 2 out of 94 on sheep permits is way out of wack. They are the only nonconsumptive permits that the Division sells. They also love to deer hunt. They also want to be part of introducing kids to this sport. In the direction we're heading in the state of Utah, it will be hard to show a kid a cat. John is already seeing that the plan needs to be reduced at least 25% and that takes it back to where the kill is right now. We killed 94 of 129. He thanked the Board and said Sanpete can't take another year of this.

Mr. Shivik said he pulled the age numbers. Mean age is 3.3, 2.6, 3.0, 3.1, 3.4, 3.2, 3.0 going through the units. So actually the mean age over those units is more like 3 over the last several years. He continued to go over the numbers from this past year.

Mr. Adamson said keep in mind it was a limited entry hunt at that time when people had time to be more selective.

Andy Lyon from Manti is representing himself. If we go on for another year like this on the southwest Manti Unit, it is going to be too late. This unit has been

over harvested for the past three years and it is taking the brunt of this new plan. Looking at the numbers from the Wasatch units that are attached to the Manti units, they're not getting hunted at all. By placing the Manti with the sheep units we have been dealt a death sentence as the numbers clearly indicate. Those who hunted the Wasatch are now hunting the Manti. He asked the Board to consider this an emergency and allow Manti units to be changed to subunits and be closed when they reach quota on the individual units on the Manti. This will ensure the lions will not continue to be over harvested on those units and place the hunters back on the Wasatch units to harvest there. This would be beneficial to all parties.

Earl Hanson from Fairview said he doesn't see any guides or outfitters present with the houndsmen. They continue to invite them to their meetings and try to educate. As he sees the hunt going from the Wasatch down to their area in Sanpete, he was talking to an outfitter who is ecstatic. They can bring their clients to their area, they don't have to hike the Wasatch area, and are glad to harvest cats. That's why they aren't here today. He asked how they'd like them to hunt in their area up in Idaho and he said he wouldn't want them up there. He would like the Board to look at this as an emergency. We are bringing in guides and outfitters and their clients from Idaho, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming and other areas. Please consider this an emergency and make some changes.

Mr. Bair said having the sheep units included with the Manti is a bad thing. We are taking pressure from where we want it and putting it on one of the best units in the world where there is already plenty of pressure. He would hate to see it go another year like that if there's any way we could address it. He hopes the Division has gotten the message to separate that unit and the quotas.

Director Karpowitz said he is not hearing much objection to the limited entry part of this plan plus it opens November 14th. The next Board meeting is November 1, 2012 which would be the first opportunity that the Board could do anything about this. Harvest objective opens March 4, 2013. Long term, all agree that there needs to be a re-examination of how we've combined these units. Short term you could address the quota.

Mr. Shivik said he would still like to stay within the plan. One difficulty is if someone in another region has a favorite unit, we could end up chasing our tails constantly. As a biologist, he looks at this on a larger scale and more long term. There are bumps in years and adjustments that need to be made, but within the plan there are adjustments that we know need to be made. There can be wiggle room within the plan.

Director Karpowitz said there are a couple of issues, one is the units being combined and the other is the quota. We've just adjusted elk and bison numbers



up to accommodate situations. There is an opportunity to let the plan run the course, not mess with the separation of the unit, but perhaps address the total quota as a temporary measure.

Mr. Shivik said we'll make our recommendations this next cycle and the quota adjustments are part of that. We can make the adjustments on the next rotation of the cycle and get things more in alignment. When he looked at the numbers and the way the quotas have come up, it is what has been done historically. We know more about the system now because of the information we've been gathering. We can make some better recommendations next year.

Kevin Bunnell gave some history on the cougar plan. They made an amendment to the plan about 1 ½ years ago at the request of the Board and combined these units. You can't look at cougar harvest one year at a time. In the winter of 2010-2011, with the same female subquota, the same unit alignment with Wasatch/Manti combined, we would have shut that unit off prior to eight females being killed and would have killed 35 fewer cougars overall. That is one year different from this year. This is a different groups of houndsmen here today. Those he was working with were begging for a female subquota which we put in place last year after we combined the units. We tried doing female subquotas in the past and it didn't work. We closed units down within 48 hours of them being open and had over harvest. Administratively we can't track 50 subquotas, but can put it on larger units. When we put this in place we were worried about this from the other end, that we meet female subquotas and shut the whole unit down before we had any harvest on the sheep units because that's what we'd seen the year before. This is an example of why the three year cycle helps us make adjustments that are meaningful. He agrees with Mr. Shivik and does not see this as an emergency.

Mr. Adamson said the Southwest Manti has been over harvested the last three years. He went over the circumstances for each of these years.

Mr. Bunnell said the Southwest Manti is a small enough area that we don't look at cougar numbers on that scale. You have to look at them on a larger scale. We may over harvest small areas from time to time, they're not worried about that, and they'll fill back in.

Mr. Adamson said so let's introduce the Henry's into the general season deer and see what happens.

Director Karpowitz said since this is an informational item and the Board is not going to act on it, we have a good idea of what the public's concerns are, but we're not as clear as to what the Board wants. We can go back and look at this

and see if we need to take action. John Bair has made his concerns known, but not the other Board members. We need that information.

Mr. Perkins asked Mr. Shivik to characterize the female harvest off of these units compared to the last five years. Has that harvest jumped under this new management? We have narrowed the discussion down to this one area of concern relative to adult female and total female harvest.

Mr. Shannon gave a three year average of percent female in the harvest. On the northeast Manti it is 57, southeast is 30, northwest Manti is 16 and southwest Manti is 16. You have highs and lows within that unit. If you look at the percent of adult female in that harvest, northeast Manti is 36%, southeast is 13%, northwest is 12% and southwest is 4%.

Mr. Adamson said of those three how many years are as a limited entry unit?

Mr. Shannon said they asked for the five year history, is that correct?

Mr. Perkins said what's happened since we instituted this plan.

Mr. Shannon said he has last year's, this year is not completed. Across the Manti for percent female in harvest we were at 60, 18, 30 and 13.

Director Karpowitz said we've only had one year combined with the Wasatch.

Mr. Shannon said we don't have those numbers yet.

Mr. Bunnell said we have total female harvest, but not adult females.

Mr. Shivik said we have an estimate. What it looks like going back a few years the percent of adult female, on the Wasatch/Manti it was .12, .17, .24, then we had that big year in 2010-2011 where it was .37. This year's estimate is exactly what it was two years ago at .24. It's the standard bumping around.

Mr. Adamson said there have only been two years of considering sub-adult females as adults.

Mr. Bunnell said sub-adult females count against the female quota. They're not considered toms and if you kill a certain number of them the unit shuts down.

Mr. Lyon said during the course of a plan we have to recognize if it needs to be adjusted. We can't keep it going the way it is just because we need to go through three years.

Director Karpowitz said what you've just described is adaptive management, but the question is if now is the time to make that adjustment on an emergency basis. We agree that we need to be adaptable. Given the information we heard here today, he still needs some more information from the individual Board members. We can go back and consider our options.

Mr. Crandall asked how far north and south is it from Manti to the next sheep unit. How far will they migrate from the Wasatch or south of the Manti, to the Manti.

Mr. Shivik said the design of the plan in modern cougar management is exactly what he's saying with the source/sink population. They have a map from Utah State where all the cougar habitat is mapped out. Some parts are marked as greater than 25% harvest and some is cougar habitat without the high harvest rate. You can then break it down within the Manti and you have sources and sinks. Some drainages will get hit very hard, but there are pools of cats that will fill in.

Mr. Adamson said the maps Mr. Shivik is using are at 9,000 to 10,000 feet and there are no cats there during winter time. Those pools don't exist.

Mr. Shivik said those areas aren't counted as cougar habitat. He also referenced reports showing how quickly cougar rebound. We have some leeway and can allow these cougars to come back.

Mr. Perkins said the crux of the discussion is we have members of the public who believe the Southwest Manti cannot stand another year of harvest under this system. The Division biologists feel that we do not have a biological problem and although the harvest may be higher than they'd like to see in the future, it doesn't warrant an emergency change and getting a three year data set on what this produces. He then asked each of the Board members to state where he is at on this issue.

Mr. Brady said they need to seriously look at breaking out the northern sheep units. He feels we need to continue to look at the data as the Division proposes. If there needs to be some emergency action they will do it, but now we need to take some more time and look at the data with the idea that we move toward separating the sheep units from the Manti.

Mr. King says he agrees with Mr. Brady. He has only been on the Board for just over a year and at least half the meetings they are urged to make changes in the middle of a plan. Three years is not a long time when talking population biology. These issues that have been brought up are important and need to be addressed.

Mr. Bair said he made his point clear before. We definitely need to get the sheep units separated. The houndsmen hit it on the head to get the pressure off the Manti and get the number of permits off the quota that ends up being pressure on the Manti that shouldn't be there.

Mr. Albrecht said looking at the numbers, he's always into bringing back the deer herds no matter what. We need to stick with the plan. He doesn't mind if the Division works on the Timp Unit to make sure we get the right amount of pressure there, but he's for staying with the plan.

Mr. Crandall said he agrees we should stick with the three year plan unless something very extreme occurs. The issues need to be addressed. Would it be hard to do those adjustments at the next meeting?

Mr. Bunnell said the guidebook is already published with all the maps and boundaries.

Director Karpowitz said in an emergency its way easier to adjust permit numbers or quotas than it is to start changing boundaries. On a short term you can deal with permit numbers and quotas, but boundaries are much harder. From a long term perspective, over the years he has been doing this for 34 years and he has seen this continuous cycle over the years of we're swimming in cougars, we're out of cougars, repeated over and over. What the plan tries to do is take those fluctuations out of it. That doesn't mean there can't be adjustments, but at some point we need to take those wild swings out of it. There still is plenty of concern about too many cougars and their effect on mule deer. We are concerned about both species. Sometimes you have to stick with something to see if it's working, but still within that context if there is an emergency it needs to be looked at. There is time for us to deal with this. The harvest objective season doesn't start until March. We don't want to come across as inflexible.

Mr. Fenimore said he is in favor of sticking with the plan so we can get better data and management decisions, but is also sensitive to what the houndsmen have been talking about in this particular area. Maybe there is a way the Division can look at how permits could be issued in these different subsets to try to ease that pressure and push it where it's more desired in the sheep units.

Mr. Bunnell said that is exactly what they'll do in the next recommendation cycle.

Mr. Perkins said he is in favor of staying the course. He is convinced the comments are accurate and the harvest is higher than anybody wants right now, and there is probably good merit in discussing changing the split of the units, but he is not sure it warrants an emergency change at this point.

Mr. Fenimore asked about the outfitters coming down to hunt this area. Do we regulate those out of state outfitters? We did something on the La Sals to alleviate the situation.

Mr. Bunnell said on the La Sal and San Juan we dealt with pursuit only, because it is not a commerce issue. With guides it is a commerce issue and it goes against the commerce clause in the constitution only in terms of regulating interstate commerce. We'd like to have some more control there, but we can't do that especially with guides.

Greg Sheehan said what the Board did a few years ago was create a nonresident pursuit permit at \$135 to keep some of the nonresidents out.

Mr. Perkins said we've had enough discussion on this. We have information from the various groups. This might be a topic for the November 1, 2012 Wildlife Board meeting to address through an action log item. This will conclude this informational discussion. He thanked the public for attending. Is there any Board member that would like to see an action item go out on this issue for the next round of RACs.

Director Karpowitz said if we're going to recommend a course of action it would have to be in November. When is the deadline for the RAC meetings?

Ms. Coons clarified that the next round of RACs this could be included in would be in mid November before the December Board meeting.

6) Other Business (Contingent)

Mr. Brady asked if Ryan Foutz had some information he needed to share with the Board. Mr. Foutz said that has been taken care of.

There was no other business.

The meeting was then adjourned.