

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

April 29-30, 2015, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Wednesday, April 29, 2015, 1:00 pm

Board Appeal – Brad Turner

Thursday, April 30, 2015, 9:00 am

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| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments
– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Bucks, Bulls, OIAL and Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015
– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator and
– Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 7. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015
– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator and
– Regional Wildlife Manager | ACTION |
| 8. 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations
– Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans
– Dustin Schaible, Bighorn Sheep Biologist | ACTION |
| 10. Other Business
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
April 30, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

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

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the March 5, 2015 Wildlife Board meeting as presented.

3) Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 Amendments (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept R657-41 Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule Amendments as presented.

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

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimous.

MOTION: I move that we limit the increase of buck permits on the Manti to 150 instead of the 500 that the Division recommended.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, but failed for lack of a second. John Bair and Steve Dalton pushed back on the motion and suggested they review it at a later time.

MOTION: I move that we increase the bison hunter's choice permits on the Henry Mountain by 10.

The following motion was made by John Bair, but failed to pass for lack of a second.

MOTION: I move that we leave the Wasatch Mountain permits the same

as in 2014 for all hunts.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the recommendations for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit numbers as presented by the Division to the Board.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we add to the action log item that the Southeastern Region consider options for splitting the Manti unit as they review their management plan and present their findings (i.e., advantages, disadvantages, how it affects the buck:doe ratio) to the Board in May 2016.

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

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we increase the permit recommendations for pronghorn by 200 doe permits on the Plateau, which will bring the permit numbers to 600.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we increase the antlerless elk permit recommendations on the Monroe/Dutton/Plateau multi hunt unit by an additional 200, which will bring the permit numbers to 350.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 4:1. John Bair opposed his own motion due to the amended motion made by Calvin Crandall.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2015 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented by the division.

The following amended motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and John Bair opposed.

AMENDED MOTION: I move that we increase the antlerless elk permits on the southwest desert unit from last year's permit count by 175, which will bring the numbers to 600.

6) 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Antlerless CWMU permit recommendations for 2015 as presented by the division.

7) Mountain Goat Unit Management Plans (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Mountain Goat Management Plans as presented by the Division.

Approved

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
April 30, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/15-4-30.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

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

RAC Chairs Present

Central – Gary Nielson
Southern – Dave Black
Southeastern – Kevin Albrecht
Northeastern - Wayne McCallister
Northern – Robert Byrnes

Public Present

Bryce Pilling
Chris Carling
Darren Nelson
Dell Lefevre
Dennis Blackburn
Derell Spencer
Doyle Moss
Gib Yardley
Jennifer Spencer
Kenneth Ure

Kevin Campbell
Lee Peacock
Mack Morrell
Matthew Burr
Matthew Johnson
Melissa Kemp
Merth Chatworth
Mike Laughter
Mike Kuiper
Newell Hapward

Division Personnel Present

Mike Canning
Mike Fowlks
Rory Reynolds
Staci Coons
Thu Vo-Wood
Justin Shannon
Scott McFarlane
Dustin Schaible
Teresa Griffin
Dax Mangus
Randy Wood
Covy Jones
Greg Hansen
Marty Bushman
Judi Tutorow
Scott White
Debbie Marchese

Kenny Johnson
Bill Bates
Justin Dolling
Boyde Blackwell
John Fairchild
Chris Wood
Kevin Bunnell
Mark Hadley
Guy Wallace
Krystal Tucker
Devin Christensen
Darren DeBloois
Mike Styler
Karen Caldwell
Lindy Varney
Holly Betteridge

Pete Yardley
Randy Derth
Ray Matthews
Rob Hardy
Rodney Teichert
Stanton Gleave
Steven Yardley
Talmage Bagley
Thomas Wright
Troy Justensen
Verland King

Ben Lowder, UT Bowman
Bill Christensen, RMEF
Don Peay, FNAWS
Eric Tycksen, MDF
Jon Larsen, SFW
Lee Tracy, UWC
Stan Wood, Wayne Cnty Commissioner
Sterling Brown, Farm Bureau
Will Talbot, Piute Cnty Commissioner

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

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:36 – 00:02:53 of 05:33:06**

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

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

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:02:55 – 00:03:16 of 05:33:06**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the March 5, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

- 3) **Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)** No discussion.
- 4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:03:24 – 00:12:03 of 05:33:06**

Greg Sheehan mentioned the upcoming board nomination and acknowledged outgoing board chair and vice-chair, Jake Albrecht and Bill Fenimore, respectively.

Greg Sheehan brought up drought issues in Utah that will affect fish and mule deer. He talked about: the upcoming turkey hunt; sage-grouse – media attention, congressional action; Lee Kay hatchery efforts; conservation permit auctions – projects funding \$1.6M committed by sportsman groups; construction of nature center at Farmington Bay; and court order on stream access on Weber River.

- 5) Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule R657-41 amendments (**Action**) **00:13:19 – 00:22:52 of 05:33:06**

Justin Shannon presented the rule amendments.

RAC Recommendations 0:16:48 – 00:19:38

All RACs voted unanimously to pass the rule amendment except for the Southeast Region, which voted 5:4 in favor and requested the words “Annual Wildlife Exposition” be changed to “Western Hunting Wildlife Conservation Exposition” throughout the rule.

Board Discussion 00:19:40 – 00:21:46

Mike King wondered if the permits were always sold at these venues and if the rule references the rule.

Public Comments 00:22:00 – 00:22:19

The Board accepted public comments.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept R657-41 Conservation and Sportsman Permits Rule Amendments as presented.

- 6) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2015 (Action) 00:23:14 – 02:42:53 of 05:33:06

Justin Shannon presented the recommendations.

Board Questions 00:35:22 – 00:49:39

The Board asked how permit numbers are determined based on buck-to-doe ratios and population objectives. They also wanted to know how private land issues and conflict of population increases are being addressed. They also wondered why there is an increase in tag numbers when there is a decreasing trend in buck-to-doe ratios.

Public Questions 00:49:56 – 00:55:04

The Board accepted public questions.

RAC Recommendations 00:55:10 – 01:04:00

All the RACs passed the 2015 recommendations for Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL permits; however, four of the regions had various stipulations, most of which were to keep the numbers the same as in 2014. There were requests for increases or decreases in permits for certain units.

Public Comments 01:04:01 – 01:50:55

The Board accepted public comments.

Board Discussion 01:51:01 – 02:42:53

Jake Albrecht summarized the RAC's recommendations and asked Kevin Bunnell and Teresa Griffin to address drought issues and how it was managed in the past during emergency situations.

The Board focused on population objectives and continued discussion on drought situations.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we limit the increase of buck permits on the Manti to 150 instead of the 500 that the Division recommended.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, but failed for lack of a second. John Bair and Steve Dalton pushed back on the motion and suggested they review it in August.

MOTION: I move that we increase the bison hunter's choice permits on the Henry Mountain by 10.

The following motion was made by John Bair, but failed to pass for lack of a second.

MOTION: I move that we leave the Wasatch Mountain permits the same as in 2014 for all hunts.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the recommendations for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit numbers as presented by the Division to the Board.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we add to the action log item that the Southeastern Region consider options for splitting the Manti unit as they review their management plan and present their findings (i.e., advantages, disadvantages, how it affects the buck:doe ratio) to the Board in May 2016.

- 7) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 (Action) 02:43:22 – 03:19:11 of 05:33:06

Justin Shannon presented the 2015 antlerless permit recommendations.

Board Question 02:51:19 – 03:09:54

John Bair asked if the Division foresees the return of antlerless moose permits and if the study has turned up any hopeful data. Calvin Crandall asked if moose population declines were habitat related or if some other factor is at play.

Steve Dalton asked if elk populations are actually out of control compared to the Division's charts, which indicate otherwise. Greg Sheehan noted that there are discrepancies due to some northern region areas where increased elk numbers are desired. Opposition to increased elk numbers is not statewide (there are specific reasons for over objective numbers), but the Division would like and is trying to decrease the population to a more manageable number.

Calvin Crandall asked about elk issues on the North Slope area in the northeast region.

Public Questions 03:09:56 – 03:26:46

The Board accepted public questions at this time.

RAC Recommendation 03:26:48 – 03:28:42

All the RACs except Southern RAC unanimously accepted the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2015 as presented. Southern RAC voted 6:2 in favor with conditions.

Public Comments 03:28:44 – 04:02:59

The Board accepted public comments at this time.

Board Discussion 04:03:00 – 05:03:20

Greg Sheehan addressed the aspen regeneration effort on the Monroe Mountain.

Jake summarized the RAC's votes.

Jake asked Teresa Griffin to present the southwest desert objectives.

The Board discussed permit numbers in the southern region, including buck pronghorn permits. They pondered how to resolve the elk issue to the benefit of both ranchers and sportsman.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we increase the permit recommendations for pronghorn by 200 doe permits on the Plateau, which will bring the permit numbers to 600.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we increase the antlerless elk permit recommendations on the Monroe/Dutton/Plateau multi hunt unit by an additional 200, which will bring the permit numbers to 350.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed 4:1. John Bair opposed his own motion due to the amended motion made by Calvin Crandall.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2015 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented by the division.

The following amended motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 3:2. Mike King and John Bair opposed.

AMENDED MOTION: I move that we increase the antlerless elk permits on the southwest desert unit from last year's permit count by 175, which will bring the numbers to 600.

8) 2015 CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations (Action) 05:03:22 – 05:16:24 of 05:33:06

Scott McFarlane presented the antlerless CWMU permit recommendations for 2015.

Board Questions 05:10:54 – 05:13:50

Jake Albrecht asked how elk permit recommendations are determined on CWMUs.

Calvin Crandall asked if CWMU permit recommendations reflect population objectives.

Public Comments 05:13:59 – 05:14:50

Public comments were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendations 05:14:56 – 05:16:00

All RACs unanimously passed the CWMU Antlerless Permit Recommendations.

Board Discussion 05:16:00 – 05:16:24

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the 2015 CWMU Antlerless permit recommendations as presented by the division.

9) Mountain Goat Unit Management Plan (Action) 05:16:26 – 05:33:06 of 05:33:06

Dustin Schaible presented the Mountain Goat Unit Management Plan.

Board Questions 05:24:15 – 05:26:06

Mike King asked about the status of the La Sal mountain population.

Public Questions 05:26:09 – 05:28:48

Public questions were accepted at this time.

RAC Recommendations 05:28:50 – 05:29:30

All RACs unanimously voted for the Mountain Goat Unit Management Plan except for the Southeastern RAC, which passed it 8:2.

Public Comments 05:29:32 – 05:31:50

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 05:31:51 – 05:33:06

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Mountain Goat Unit Management Plan as presented by the division.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved