

RAC AGENDA – MAY 2014

Revised May 5, 2014



1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
- RAC Chair
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- RAC Chair
3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update
4. Regional Update
- DWR Regional Supervisor **INFORMATIONAL**
5. Turkey Management Plan
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator **ACTION**
6. Turkey Transplant Proposed List
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator **ACTION**
7. Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator **ACTION**
8. R657-46 – Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator **ACTION**
9. Waterfowl Recommendations
- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator **ACTION**
10. Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68
- Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator **ACTION**

Region Specific Items – to be presented in the specified region only.

- CR & NR - Strawberry Management Plan
- Alan Ward, Strawberry Project Leader **INFORMATIONAL**
- CR - Least Chub Refuge Site – SL County Jail
- Chris Crockett, Native Aquatics Project Leader **INFORMATIONAL**
- SER - Nash Wash Habitat Management Plan
- Makeda Hanson, Impact Analysis Biologist **ACTION**

SR RAC – May 6th 7:00 PM **Location Change**
Snow College Adm. Bldg
800 W. 200 S, Richfield

CR RAC – May 13th 6:30 PM
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville

SER RAC – May 7th 6:30 PM
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E Main St., Green River

NR RAC – May 15th 6:00 PM (Thursday)
Brigham City Community Center
24 N. 300 W. , Brigham City

NER RAC – May 8th 6:30 PM
Wildlife Resources NER Office
318 North Vernal Ave, Vernal

Board Meeting – June 5th 9:00 AM
DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, SLC



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J SHEEHAN
Division Director

April 22, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Jason D. Robinson
Upland Game Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Utah Wild Turkey Management Plan

The Division is recommending approval of the Utah Wild Turkey Management Plan 2014; which includes 5 goals, and objectives and strategies for each of those goals. The Division is recommending a 6-year plan.



Utah Wild Turkey Management Plan 2014 DRAFT

Publication 14-XX

State of Utah
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resource

Approved by the Utah Wildlife Board
June XX, 2014

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I. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

A. General

This document is Utah's management plan for the wild turkey. It presents management goals, objectives and strategies for the wild turkey in Utah. It identifies issues and concerns, and specifies strategies to overcome them. The plan provides direction for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) work, year-to-year priorities and allocation of resources.

UDWR annual operations will improve populations, increase opportunity, enhance appreciation, and address problems related to wild turkey through strategies identified in this plan. Resources will be allocated to those projects that relate to the priority programs, problems and objectives. As many projects as possible will be addressed each year.

B. Dates Covered

This plan will be reviewed in six years from the date approved by the Utah Wildlife Board as indicated. If no major revisions are required at the end of the plan's duration, the plan duration may be extended for three years as needed, on approval of the Utah Wildlife Board.

II. SPECIES ASSESSMENT

A. Natural History

The wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) is the largest of Utah's game birds and is considered by many as a pinnacle species of upland game. Its appearance is very similar to the domestic dark or bronze turkey, but it has longer legs and a more slender, streamlined body. Tips of the tail feathers are white to light tan. Upper tail coverts may be tipped in white or tan. Breast feathers of the male are tipped with black while those of the female are tipped with white or buff (Dickson 1992).

Adult male turkeys are called toms or gobblers and adult female turkeys are called hens. One year old male turkeys are called jakes and one year old female turkeys are called jennies. Chicks up to 4 weeks of age are referred as poults, turkeys between 4 weeks of age and one year are juveniles.

Courtship activities begin in early spring, usually in March. Initiation of breeding behavior is regulated primarily by day length; but year to year variation in spring conditions can delay or advance breeding activities. The gobbling of the tom serves as a challenge to other males and attracts females to his territory. There are typically two peaks in courtship behavior, with the first peak in gobbling at the start of the breeding season, and the second a few weeks later after most hens have begun incubation. Turkeys are polygamous, a mature tom will mate with as many hens as he can attract. Toms do not take part in nesting or parental activities (Dickson 1992).

Turkeys are ground nesters, with the nest made up of a shallow depression formed by simple scratching and the hen's presence on the nest. Nests are typically located next to cover such as a tree, large rock or fallen log and within dense lateral cover for concealment. Hens lay an average of 10 to 11 eggs over the course of two weeks. Continuous incubation begins after the last egg is laid and lasts for an average of 28 days. Chicks hatch synchronously and are ready to leave the nest within 24 hours. In many studies greater than 90% of hens attempted to nest

each year. Adults are more likely to renest than juveniles, and the length of time spent incubating a failed nest influences the likelihood of renesting. Hens that spend more time on a nest that fails are less likely to renest (Dickson 1992).

After hatching poults quickly increase body mass and size. Their growth requires a protein rich diet consisting primarily of insects and forbs. In their first week of life a poult's diet is roughly 80% insects with the required proportion declining as they age. Poults require ample availability of insects, without which they will not survive. Poults are dependent upon the hen for protection, and roost on the ground for the first 2 weeks of life. After the second week of life chicks develop the ability to fly and begin roosting in trees (Dickson 1992).

Jakes seldom breed in their first year unless there is an absence of mature toms in the flock. A portion of the yearling hens will mate and nest their first year.

Most producing plants such as pine nuts and acorns are important food sources. A variety of grasses, weed seeds, and green, leafy vegetation are also eaten by turkeys. Sedges are important year-round food items where available. Large quantities of insects, particularly grasshoppers, are eaten during the summer.

1. Subspecies Description

a. Merriam's Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo merriami*)

Males reach a length of 48 inches and females 36 inches. The average weight of an adult male averages 18 pounds and females average 10 1/2 pounds.

The Merriam's turkey is typically a mountain bird found in mature stands of ponderosa pine mixed with aspen, grassy meadows, and Gambel's oak grading into pinyon pine and juniper. Typical summer habitat consists of large stands of ponderosa pine beginning at about 7,000 feet in elevation up to the spruce/fir zone as high as 11,000 feet. Winter habitat consisting of ponderosa pine flats and individual ponderosa trees which extend down into the pinyon/juniper forests, is usually below 7,000 feet. Merriam's turkeys can travel up to 40 miles between summer and winter ranges.

Important turkey areas such as winter roosts, breeding territories and brooding areas are usually associated with mature ponderosa pine trees and wet meadows. Large pines are critical as roosting and escape cover from predators such as coyotes and eagles.

b. Rio Grande Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*)

The Rio Grande turkey is similar in size and appearance to the other subspecies of wild turkey. Adult males average 17 to 21 pounds. Adult females average 8 to 11 pounds. Rios can be distinguished from the other subspecies by the coloration of the tips of the tail feathers, coloration of the upper tail coverts (feathers of the lower back, covering the base of the tail feathers), and the barring in the primary wing feathers. In the Rio Grande turkey, these feather tips are buff or tan, in contrast with the white tips of the Merriam's subspecies.

The Rio Grande turkey (Rio) is found in cottonwood river bottoms often associated with Gambel's oak and green leafy plants. The Rio exhibits seasonal movements between winter roosting areas and nesting areas of up to 10 miles; Rio's seasonal movements are considerably shorter than Merriam's. The Rio Grande and the Merriam's turkey are similar in appearance;

however differences in habitat requirements are important for proper management and successful transplants.

c. Intermediate Subspecies

Since 2008, wild turkey in Utah have been managed at the species, rather than the subspecies level. Subspecies are still recognized for habitat and transplantation purposes; however, Merriam's and Rio Grande subspecies have interbred and adapted to local conditions. These intermediate subspecies are not easily categorized as Merriam's or Rio Grande due to overlapping morphological and behavioral characteristics. They are sometimes referred to as Merrios. They are found in a range of otherwise unoccupied habitat intermediate between the higher elevation Merriam's conifer habitats and lower elevation river bottom Rio habitats.

2. Utah History

Wild turkeys are not known to have existed in Utah during early European settlement. However, historical and archeological (pictographs, petroglyphs, turkey feather blankets, turkey bones) evidence clearly indicates that wild turkeys, probably the Merriam's subspecies, co-existed with Native Americans in Utah (Newbold et al. 2012).

Since the 1920s, three subspecies of wild turkey: eastern, Merriam's and Rio Grande, have been introduced into Utah with varying degrees of success. The earliest transplants were done by interested sportsmen and landowners with the help of the State Fish and Game Department. The first birds stocked were the eastern wild turkey obtained from farm-raised stock. These transplants were unsuccessful.

In the 1950s, what was then the Utah Department of Fish and Game stocked Merriam's wild turkeys obtained from Colorado and Arizona. These transplants established turkeys in Grand, Garfield, Kane, Iron and Washington counties. Subsequently, turkeys from these populations have been trapped and relocated within the state. Additional turkeys obtained from Arizona, Colorado and South Dakota have also been used to supplement and establish Utah turkey populations.

Rio Grande turkeys were obtained from Texas beginning in 1984 and were released near the Pine Valley Mountains in Washington County. These birds did not establish well initially. Additional transplants were planned for 1985, but Rio Grande turkeys being trapped in Texas were diagnosed with Mycoplasma (a well-known turkey disease). Transplanting was subsequently halted until 1989 when a solution to the disease problem was found.

Beginning in 1989, the UDWR began an aggressive wild turkey trapping and transplanting program using mostly Rio Grande turkeys and occasionally Merriam's turkeys from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

B. Management

1. UDWR Regulatory Authority

The UDWR is charged by the Legislature to manage the state's wildlife resources. Its purpose is to assure the future of protected wildlife for its intrinsic, scientific, educational and recreational values. Protected wildlife species are determined by the Utah Legislature and by terms of the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The UDWR presently operates under authority granted it by the Utah Legislature in Title 23 of the Utah Code. The UDWR was created and established as the wildlife authority for the state under Section 23-14-1 of the Code. This section of the Code also vests the UDWR with its functions, powers, duties, rights, and responsibilities. The UDWR's duties are to protect, propagate, manage, conserve, and distribute protected wildlife throughout the state.

2. Past Management

a. General Management

Past management of the wild turkey in Utah has focused on identifying suitable release sites for the varied subspecies and releasing birds into those areas in an effort to establish self-sustaining populations. The UDWR released small numbers of turkeys sporadically from 1925 through 1982, typically less than 30 birds per year and often less than 10. In 1984, the UDWR increased transplant efforts moving over 200 turkeys that year. Turkey transplants remained relatively stable until the early 2000s when over 1,000 turkeys were transplanted each year. Since 2005, turkey transplant numbers have fluctuated around 500 turkeys each year.

The first spring turkey hunts took place in 1967. The season was closed for a year in 1970, then resumed in 1971 and continues to present. There was a fall hunt as early as 1963 that continued until 1972, stopped for two years and resumed from 1974 to 1984. Fall hunts resumed in 2013 on a limited basis to reduce nuisance populations.

From 2001 to 2006, the UDWR conducted various combinations of turkey brood and winter flock surveys. These population surveys were discontinued as they did not provide adequate data that could be used to manage the wild turkey.

As turkey populations have increased throughout Utah there has been more opportunity for turkeys to come into contact with residents and agricultural operations generating nuisance and depredations complaints. The majority of human-turkey conflicts were first reported in the southern part of the state where turkey populations initially grew large. Managers in the Southern and Southeast regions responded to complaints by moving and hazing turkeys away from problem areas. Subsequent population increases in the Northern and Central regions led to an increase in nuisance reports as turkeys began to heavily use a few populated areas during winter months. In 2013, House Bill 342 was passed directing the UDWR to respond to and begin mitigation of turkey caused material damage within 72 hours of notification, as well as directing the Wildlife Board to reestablish a fall hunt to reduce and disperse nuisance populations.

3. Current Management

a. Transplants and Introductions

Utah biologists have learned a great deal about wild turkey management since the first wild turkey release in 1925. Today, biologists are able to match Utah habitat with the appropriate subspecies of wild turkey. The UDWR has transplanted the Merriam's turkey into mountain habitat of southern Utah, and the Rio Grande turkey into bottomland habitats of the state. UDWR also aggressively pursues trapping and relocating wild turkey from existing Utah populations to supplement and establish new populations throughout the state. UDWR

supplements existing populations as necessary to maintain genetic diversity and to perpetuate populations.

UDWR works cooperatively with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Turkey Federation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, other wildlife agencies and sportsmen's organizations, county and city governments and private landowners in transplanting wild turkeys, protecting and enhancing turkey habitat, and promoting the unique aspects of turkey hunting and viewing opportunities.

The UDWR responds to nuisance and depredation complaints by trapping and transporting turkeys from problem areas to habitat lacking turkeys or to populations with low numbers in need of supplementation. Transplants from areas with limited public access to publically accessible lands are the highest priority.

b. Current Hunt Structure

As of 2013, there are two primary seasons in Utah, a limited entry season and a general season. In addition a relatively small number of tags are distributed during the fall in areas with high levels of nuisance and/or depredation complaints. Utah's limited entry season begins mid-April and extends roughly two weeks into late April. In 2013, 2,930 limited entry permits were distributed throughout Utah based on population levels in each region. Limited entry turkey permits offer a higher success rates and a limited number of hunters, and are valid only in the region specified on the permit. Fifteen percent of limited entry permits are reserved for hunters 15 years of age or younger, the youth limited entry season dates are the same as the limited entry season.

The general (over the counter) hunt takes place from late April to the end of May, with an unlimited number of turkey permits available. General season permits are valid statewide. A three day youth only general hunt takes place after the limited entry and immediately before the opening of the general season. There is also additional opportunity for hunters with disabilities. There were 6,588 general season permits purchased in 2013. Estimated total harvest for limited entry and general seasons was 2,295. Each hunter may purchase either one limited entry or one general season permit per year. Limited entry and general season tags allow for harvest of one bearded turkey. Permits do not specify subspecies of wild turkey to be taken.

There were an additional 42 conservation permits available for partner organization fundraising. Another 23 permits were available for Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit (CWMU) hunts in 2013. Wild turkey poaching reported reward permits are available in addition to limited entry permits. The number of poaching reported reward permits is capped at 5% of limited entry permits issued the previous year. Up to an additional 20% of the allocated limited entry permits are available for landowners; permits not allocated to landowners are added to the pool of limited entry permits and issued through the limited entry drawing.

In 2014, there will be spring limited entry, youth only, and general seasons, as well as a fall general season hunt. Each year hunt structure will be detailed in the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook to reflect current management needs.

c. Supplemental Feeding

Regular supplemental feeding is not part of the UDWR's routine management for turkey. It is important to manage populations under natural conditions and by natural foods. Ongoing winter

feeding is discouraged because it can allow populations to increase to levels above the carrying capacity of habitat, concentrates birds in areas surrounding feeding sites increasing risks of disease transmission, and can be prohibitively expensive. However, during periods of critical stress, feeding may be warranted to relieve stress during short-term emergencies.

C. Habitat

1. Requirements

a. General

Suitable habitat includes three key ingredients: trees, forbs and grass. Regardless of the type of environment, turkeys must have a combination of trees, forbs and grass. Trees provide food, daytime loafing and escape cover, and--most important--nighttime roost sites. Grasses and forbs provide food for adults and are especially important to poults as an environment in which they can efficiently forage for insects.

The annual home range of wild turkeys varies from 370 to 1,360 acres and contains a mixture of cover types.

b. Nesting

The characteristic most common to habitat immediately surrounding the nest of the wild turkey is lateral cover. Lateral cover obscures horizontal vision. Ideal nesting cover types are those with well-developed herbaceous or woody vegetation at 0 to 3 feet above the ground. Overhead cover at the nest site of from between 50 to 90 percent at a height of .5 to 3.4 yards seems preferred as well.

Sites that are mesic (having moderate soil moisture) seem to be preferred by wild turkey hens when establishing a nest. Whether the mesic site condition provides an important microclimate for the hen and eggs, or is simply correlated with greater development of lateral vegetation, is unclear.

Close proximity to adequate brood rearing cover is an important criterion in selection of the nest site by hen turkeys.

c. Brood Rearing

During the first 8 weeks after hatching, there are 3 essential components of brood rearing habitat. First, poults need an environment that produces abundant food, insects and food. Second, poults need habitat in which they can frequently and efficiently forage throughout the day. Third, poults need an area that provides enough cover to hide, but allows the adult hen unobstructed vision for protection from predators.

Weekly home ranges for wild turkey poults average less than 75 acres, and total summer home ranges are about 250 acres.

The key to brood rearing habitat is herbaceous vegetation interspersed with trees. Herbaceous vegetation is key because it provides an ideal foraging environment for poults. Insect abundance is usually greater in open fields than in forest habitats, particularly when the fields are not mowed or grazed.

The height of vegetation is another key feature. Herbaceous vegetation that is 12 to 28 inches in height allows adult hens to see predators at long distances while allowing the hen and poults to hide.

Turkey broods are seldom found far from trees. Trees may be important for two reasons. First, microclimate is critical to heat regulation in young poults. Cold and wet conditions are an important factor in poult death. Trees provide shelter from rain and shade from heat. Trees also provide escape cover for poults that can fly at the age of 10 to 12 days. The pattern for brood rearing habitat is that of a park-like environment. Complete ground cover of forbs and grasses with average heights of 20 inches, and 10 to 50 percent overhead or nearby tree cover is necessary.

d. Fall and Winter

Wild turkeys seek two key habitat ingredients in the fall and winter--food and roosting cover. Vegetation used by turkeys during the fall and winter is highly varied. Turkeys increase their use of forested cover during the fall and winter and decrease their use of open areas. Mast (pine nuts, acorns, berries) is the principal food during fall and winter. Habitat value increases with the proportion of mast-producing species in the forest and their degree of maturity.

In areas where snow cover of 6 inches or more persists for 2 to 16 weeks, the wild turkey may need additional habitat resources.

In mountainous environments, spring seeps are an important source of fall and winter food. Seeps provide invertebrates, mast and green vegetation. Because such water does not freeze, it provides a microclimate that allows foraging throughout the winter.

Optimal winter conditions are found on south-facing slopes with less than 20 percent gradient and where seeps are spread out, each covering more than 18 square yards.

Where agriculture is prominent, a mix of cropland and forest cover provides good turkey habitat. Turkeys make extensive use of grain crops where they are available. Corn, compared with acorns, is higher in protein, lower in fats, and similar in carbohydrates.

The second characteristic critical to winter habitat is roosting cover. The essential feature of roost cover is a horizontal spreading structure 30 to 100 feet above the ground. In areas where winter temperatures are frequently below freezing, winter roosts tend to be in locations where they are protected from prevailing winds. Roost trees on northeast-facing slopes and that allow turkeys to roost above cold-air drainages are important in regions of cold winter weather.

2. Historic Trends

No detailed habitat inventories have been conducted to assess historic trends in turkey habitat throughout Utah. However, harvest statistics providing an index of population levels are available in Utah's Upland Game Annual Reports available on the UDWR website at: <http://wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/annualreports>. Utah's harvest statistics provide information on overall harvest, effort, hunters afield, hunter success, satisfaction, and perceived crowding to inform management decisions.

3. Current Status

Currently in Utah, there are 127 million acres of occupied wild turkey habitat (Figure 1). The 2014 occupied habitat map was developed by UDWR biologists based on observed wild turkeys, with input from various sources including state and federal biologists, private landowners, hunters, and others.

4. Future Projections

Aggressive logging of ponderosa pine forests in southern Utah and continued loss of riparian habitats throughout Utah could potentially impact turkey habitat. However, funding for wild turkey projects to maintain and enhance habitat is available.

D. Population

1. Limiting Factors

Annual weather conditions have the greatest impact on Utah's wild turkey populations. Periods of sustained cold temperatures and substantial snow depths can lead to starvation by increasing caloric demand while reducing food availability. Persistent, cold, wet spring weather decrease poult survival and recruitment into the population. Diseases can also impact wild turkey populations, but there has never been a documented population level disease problem in Utah's wild turkey. Predators in localized areas could potentially affect population size, but impacts of predators on wild turkey have not been studied in Utah.

2. Estimated Population

Currently UDWR does not conduct population inventories of wild turkeys, but does receive data that can be used to assess population levels from annual harvest surveys, along with biologist observations from the field, and landowner and sportsmen inputs. Formal population surveys in the form of late summer brood counts and winter flock counts were attempted from 2001 to 2006, but did not prove to be cost effective or improve the quality of management. Based on the assumption that 10% of Utah's wild turkey population is harvested each spring, the current Utah population is roughly estimated at 18,000 - 25,000 wild turkeys statewide. Populations have done very well in many regions of the state and will likely continue producing excess individuals that can be transplanted throughout the state to increase population distribution and numbers. Nuisance and depredation will be mitigated through a combination of transplants, hunts, winter habitat improvement, and outreach efforts.

E. Use and Demand

1. Harvest

a. Spring Harvest

The vast majority of Utah turkey harvest takes place in the spring during April and May, exact season dates are available in the current year's upland game and turkey guidebook. An annual harvest survey is used to assess hunter success, satisfaction, and perceived crowding. The UDWR aims to keep hunter success above 20%, hunter satisfaction above a subjective rating of 2 out of 5, and perceived crowding below a subjective rating of 4 out of 5. Permit numbers are adjusted to meet these guidelines. Each year UDWR compiles an Upland Game Annual Report that includes information on wild turkey hunting, harvest, and yearly regulations. These annual

reports can be found on the UDWR website at: <http://wildlife.utah.gov/uplandgame/annualreports>.

See table 1 for a summary of recent hunter numbers. See section II.F.1 (Economics) of this management plan for detail on demand and utilization.

Table 1. Total Utah wild turkey permit sales and applications 2008 to 2013.

^a Unlimited over the counter permits were available starting 2010

* permits to landowners

	2008	2009	2010 ^a	2011	2012	2013
Limited Entry Permits	7664	10600	2923	3007	3002	3019
LE Applications	20060	20371	12938	9682	8924	9033
General Season Permits	131*	3011*	10192	6557	5315	6640
Conservation Permits	113	136	66	65	61	38
Landowner Permits	4	200	60	39	32	36
Total Permits	7912	13947	13241	9668	8410	9733

b. Fall Harvest

A fall hunting season was offered for the Merriam's subspecies from 1964-1985. No fall hunting season occurred in Utah from 1985-2012. In 2013, a limited fall depredation hunt was offered in the Northern Region to help alleviate wild turkey nuisance situations in Box Elder and Cache counties; 43 wild turkeys were harvested.

2. Wildlife Watching

The wild turkey's limited, but broad distribution throughout Utah provides occasion for wildlife enthusiasts to view, study, and photograph this distinctive bird. No data has been collected to assess interest in wild turkey viewing.

F. Economics

1. Turkey Related Economic Activity

A 2003 study prepared by Southwick Associates for the National Wild Turkey Federation found that over 2.2 million U.S. hunters spent \$1.8 billion on turkey hunting related expenses during the 2003 season. On average each hunter spent \$784 on expenses relating to turkey harvest including \$207 for travel-related goods, \$80 for vehicles, \$76 for firearms, and donated \$105 for habitat improvement through conservation organizations or other channels.

In 2011, Utah had 193,000 hunters spending an estimated \$499 million on hunting related expenses averaging \$2,334 per hunter. Out of the total hunters in Utah, 63,000 hunted small game, spending an average of \$557 specifically on small game hunting on an annual basis. Average expenditures for wildlife viewing in Utah averaged \$727 per person, with 410,000 people participating annually for a total of \$585 million in expenditures (US Dept. of Interior 2011). A 2006 survey, *Wild Turkey Hunting in Utah*, produced by Utah State University reported 19% of turkey hunters spent under \$100, 36% spent between \$100 and \$299, 21% spent

between \$300 and \$499, and 17% spent between \$500 and \$999 on wild turkey hunting in 2005.

Utah turkey permit sales peaked in 2009, with 13,947 permits issued. Demand outstripped supply with 20,371 applications for the 10,600 limited entry permits issued in 2009. In 2010, unlimited over the counter permit sales were implemented, and permit numbers were relatively stable compared to 2009, with 13,241 permits sold. Since 2010 there have been a decreased but relatively stable number of permits sold with 9,668, 8,410, and 9,733 permits sold in 2011, 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Since the introduction of over the counter permit sales in 2010, applications for limited entry units have decreased by more than half, from 20,371 applications for the 2009 limited entry season to 9,033 applications for the 2013 limited entry season. However, demand for limited entry permits still is greater than available opportunity. In 2013, there were 9,033 applications for 3,019 permits (see Table 1 for more detail on demand relative to opportunity). Revenue from application and permit sales peaked at \$712,070 in 2009 then declined and stabilized at approximately \$430,000 from 2011-2013.

2. Management Funding

Funding for wild turkey habitat projects is available from a number of sources. The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act) of 1937 generates funds from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment. These funds are available to use with state matching funds. Federal Pittman-Robertson funds may provide funding for turkey management and habitat projects.

The Wildlife Habitat Account is a restricted account within the Utah General Fund directed by Utah Code 23-19-43. The habitat account is funded by the sale of licenses, permits, stamps, and certificates of registration. Each year up to \$230,000 or 12% (whichever is greater) of the Wildlife Habitat Account is allocated to upland game projects for habitat acquisition and improvement, predator control, increasing public access to private land and other upland game related purposes. Habitat funds are made available through the director of the Division of Wildlife. The Habitat Council reviews and recommends proposed projects to the director, and the projects are tracked through the Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative administrative framework.

Funding for acquiring pen-raised birds for transplanting and releasing in Utah is provided by Utah Code 23-19-24. The code dictates that up to 50 cents of each hunting license fee may be directed to the upland game program to acquire pen raised birds and to capture and transplant upland game species. These funds are separate and distinct from the funds in the Wildlife Habitat Account.

In addition, wild turkey conservation permits, obtained and sold by 501(c)(3) conservation organizations, generate funds that can be used on turkey management and habitat projects.

III. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

High Priority: Urgent and Important

Issue H1. Human-wild turkey conflicts in urban and agricultural settings.

Concern A. High number of complaints of turkey nuisance and depredation in urban and agricultural settings.

Concern B. Lack of formal guidance with prioritized options and identified resources.

Issue H2. Insufficient Winter Habitat

Concern A. Starvation during severe weather.

Concern B. Winter overutilization of urban and agricultural areas (see Issue H1).

Issue H3. Lack of response to sudden population declines/crashes.

Concern A. Population declines will lead to extirpation of populations without intervention.

Concern B. Intervention will not be effective without a population crash response plan prepared in advance of adverse events to guide division actions and identify needed resources.

Issue H4. Lack of interagency management cooperation.

Concern A. Emergency feeding will be limited to state and private lands.

Concern B. Population expansion efforts will be less effective on federal lands without interagency cooperation.

Concern C. Access to hunting areas on public lands will be limited (e.g. road access).

Issue H5. Lack of sufficient funding to implement strategies identified in this plan.

Concern A. Nuisance and depredation will receive disproportionate resources.

Issue H6. Insufficient UDWR Wild Turkey Management Plan flexibility.

Concern A. New methods of mitigating human-wild turkey conflicts will not be developed and used without sufficient plan flexibility.

Concern B. UDWR staff will not be able to implement management practices based on the best available science.

Medium Priority: Less Urgent and Important

Issue M1. Insufficient access to hunting and viewing opportunities.

Concern A. Lack of opportunity limits interest, hunter recruitment, and hunter retention.

Issue M2. Insufficient outreach and education.

Concern A. Lack of knowledge on where and how to hunt can limit recruitment and retention.

Concern B. Lack of value given to wild turkey by the public.

Concern C. Increased nuisance and depredation complaints resulting from lack of knowledge of factors leading to undesirable concentrations of wild turkey and methods to mitigate nuisance.

Concern D. Lack of knowledge of potential benefits of wild turkey to agriculture.

Issue M3. Lack of western population research.

Concern A: Lack of regional information on wild turkey ecology may be impeding the best possible management.

Issue M4. Low quality and quantity of breeding and summer habitat.

Concern A. Population growth will be limited.

Concern B. Hunting and viewing opportunity will be limited.

Low Priority: Not Urgent but Important

Issue L1. Disease transmission from within and from outside Utah, including to and from commercial turkeys. (Note: Disease is a low priority because there is no Utah record of disease transmission between wild and commercial turkeys.)

Concern A. Economic impacts to commercial turkey producers.

Concern B. Disease related decline of wild turkey populations.

Issue L2. Excessive corvid (crow, raven, magpie) predation.

Concern A. Limited population growth, or population decline.

Issue L3. Lack of population monitoring to detect and respond to population declines.

Concern A. Local populations will decline or be extirpated before the population crash response plan can be implemented.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

Archeological evidence indicates that the wild turkey is native to Utah. Two distinct subspecies of wild turkey are found in Utah—Merriam's and Rio Grande, with intermediate subspecies filling ecological niches between distinct subspecies. Throughout Utah there is still habitat capable of supporting wild turkey that is currently unoccupied.

Wild turkey range has been successfully expanded in Utah. Subsequently, available hunting permits have risen substantially from 1,016 in 2000, when the last management plan was published, to 9,656 in 2013. There are a limited number of locally overabundant populations resulting in nuisance and limited depredation issues.

Turkey hunting is fast becoming one of the top hunting sports in the United States. This is the result of the efforts of states to establish new wild turkey populations and increase existing ones. The interest is similar in Utah. The vast majority of Utah wild turkey hunting takes place during the spring season to minimize harvest of hens and poults and allow wild turkey populations to expand.

Throughout Utah there is still opportunity for populations to be expanded both in numbers and distribution to provided additional hunting and viewing opportunity.

Ponderosa pine habitats are most important for the Merriam's subspecies while cottonwood riparian habitats are most important for Rio Grande subspecies of wild turkeys.

V. MANAGEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND STRATEGIES

Goal A. Maintain and Improve Wild Turkey Populations to Habitat or Social Carrying Capacity

Objective 1. Stabilize populations that are declining outside of natural population fluctuations; especially through catastrophic events (i.e. following fires, severe winters, etc.).

Strategy a: Develop a Population Crash Response Plan.

Strategy b: Supplement declining populations with additional wild turkeys when adequate habitat is available.

Strategy c: Conduct habitat projects to address limiting factors.

Strategy d: Develop a wild turkey feeding policy for UDWR.

- i. Include formalized feeding agreements with National Wild Turkey Federation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, and/or other groups.

Strategy e: Identify and secure funding sources.

Strategy f: Control predator populations in targeted areas when warranted.

Objective 2. Increase wild turkey habitat, quality and quantity, by 40,000 acres statewide by 2020.

Strategy a: Map priority treatment areas.

Strategy b: Identify population limiting habitats (e.g. winter habitat).

Strategy c: Identify and secure funding sources.

Strategy d: Conduct habitat improvement projects in limiting habitat(s).

- i. Increase outreach to Non-government Organizations (NGO) and regional biologists to increase comments on, and quality of proposed WRI projects.

Objective 3. Establish wild turkey populations at 80 new sites by 2020.

Strategy a: Develop translocation guidelines.

- i. Prioritize transplants within Utah over interstate transplants.
- ii. Focus interstate transplants into Utah on Merriam's subspecies, with secondary focus on Rio Grande subspecies.

Strategy b: Translocate birds from areas where populations are in excess of social or biological carrying capacity following the Wildlife Board approved wild turkey transplant list.

Strategy c: Identify and secure funding sources.

Goal B. Minimize Human-Wild Turkey Conflicts

Objective 1. Decrease the number of chronic material damage complaints per 100 turkeys by 25% by 2020.

Strategy a: Develop a baseline of complaint numbers based on complaints per region per 100 estimated wild turkeys (population estimated assuming a 10% harvest).

Strategy b: Improve outreach and education.

Strategy c: Increase involvement and personal contact between landowners and NGOs to reach mutually beneficial conservation solutions.

Strategy d: Develop UDWR wild turkey management manual.

i. Respond to complaints as required by law.

ii. Develop guidelines and framework for dealing with wild turkeys causing material damage.

Strategy e: Work to enact local wild turkey feeding ordinances in chronic complaint areas where appropriate.

Strategy f: Improve habitat to draw wild turkey populations away from conflict areas.

Strategy g: Increase walk-in-access in complaint areas.

Strategy h: Translocate complaint wild turkeys as per the approved transplant list.

Strategy i: Conduct a targeted fall wild turkey hunting season.

Strategy j: Identify and secure funding sources.

Strategy k: Formalized assistance agreements with National Wild Turkey Federation and/or Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and others.

Objective 2. Decrease the number of chronic nuisance complaints per 100 turkeys by 25% by 2020.

Strategy a: Develop a baseline of complaint numbers based on complaints per region per 100 estimated wild turkeys (based on 10% harvest population estimate).

Strategy b: Improve outreach and education.

Strategy c: Develop a UDWR wild turkey management manual.

Strategy d: Work to enact local wild turkey feeding ordinances in chronic complaint areas where appropriate.

Strategy e: Improve habitat to draw wild turkey populations away from conflict areas.

Strategy f: Translocate complaint turkeys as per the approved transplant list.

Strategy g: Conduct a targeted fall wild turkey hunting season.

Strategy h: Identify and secure funding sources.

Goal C. Improve Wild Turkey Hunting Opportunities

Objective 1: Increase accessible hunting areas within a one hour drive of the Wasatch Front (Nephi to Brigham City) by 10,000 acres by 2020.

Strategy a: Identify areas with wild turkey habitat that are not currently accessible for public hunting.

Strategy b: Identify and secure funding sources.

Strategy c: Secure public access (Walk-in Access, easements, etc.) through agreements with landowners or management agencies.

i. Examine increases in Walk-in Access payments for key areas.

Objective 2: Increase the number of permits sold to > 11,680 (20% increase from 2013) by 2020.

Strategy a: Provide optimized season timing and length.

Strategy b: Increase outreach efforts (news releases, etc.) to increase interest in hunting.

Strategy c: Educate hunters (manage expectations, how to hunt effectively, etc.).

i. Develop an online turkey hunting school/program.

ii. Develop regional hunt forecast.

iii. Work with conservation groups, and others to develop and provide wild turkey seminars and workshops.

Strategy d: Increase turkey distribution and numbers throughout the state (see Goal A).

Strategy e: Evaluate permit pricing.

Strategy f: Implement a system for regional permit allocation for the LE and fall seasons.

Strategy g: Provide youth opportunity.

Strategy h: Promote conservation group events (JAKES, WITO, etc.).

Goal D. Enhance the Appreciation of Wild Turkeys in Utah

Objective 1: Increase targeted distribution of educational materials & presentations on the benefits of wild turkeys.

Strategy a: Develop or otherwise make available presentations to offer to agricultural communities and other groups on the benefits of wild turkeys.

Objective 2: Increase the number of participants at wild turkey events by 10% by 2020.

Strategy a: Develop a baseline of events and participant numbers.

Strategy b: Increase support and partnerships with conservation organizations and help promote events (i.e. NWTF JAKES).

Strategy c: Increase availability of turkey educational resources from UDWR and conservation organizations, and improve ease of use of the UDWR wild turkey web pages.

Strategy d: Establish more viewing events and educational opportunities (around Thanksgiving, transplants involving schools, local governments, spring strut, etc.).

i. Involve Future Farmers of America (FFA), Scouts, 4H and other youth groups.

ii. Involve local government leaders.

Goal E. Enhance Interagency Cooperation

Objective 1. Increase the number of interagency meetings to five per year.

Strategy a. Organize one annual interagency meeting within each UDWR region.

Strategy b. Coordinate between UDWR regional and Salt Lake Office staff prior to interagency meetings.

Strategy c: Complete MOU with federal agencies and NGOs at the state level and update as needed.

Strategy d: Complete joint press releases, educational information about wild turkeys, and wild turkey events.

Strategy e: Work cooperatively to provide access to federal lands (e.g. open gates, easements, roads, etc.).

VI. Literature Cited

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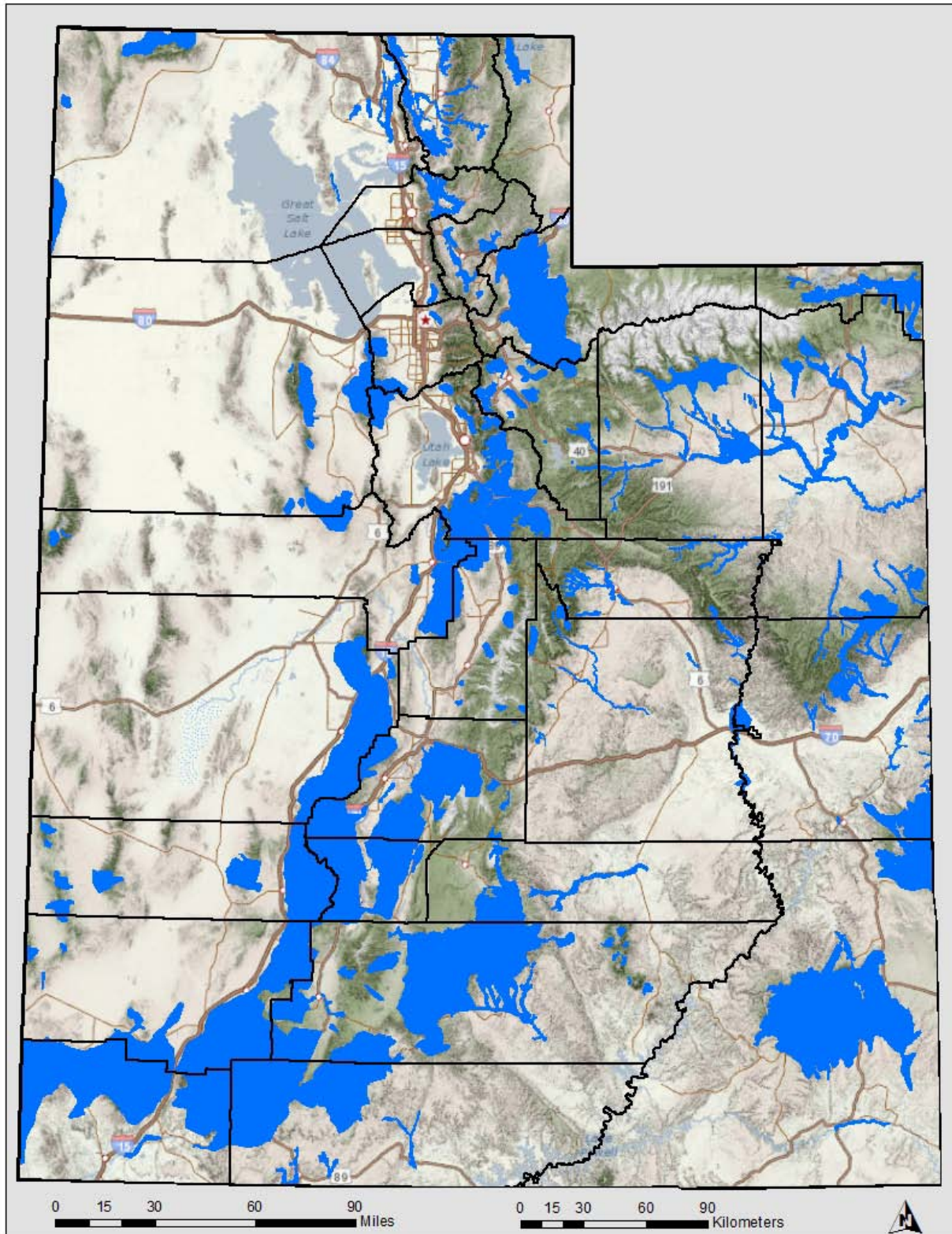
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VII. Figures

Figure 1. Occupied Wild Turkey Habitat Map, Utah 2014. Shaded area (blue) represents occupied turkey habitat.





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State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J SHEEHAN
Division Director

April 22, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Jason D. Robinson
Upland Game Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Wild Turkey Transplant List

The Division is recommending approval of a 5-year Wild Turkey Transplant List. The list was developed at the DWR regional level and include 235 proposed release sites, of those 106 are new sites.



Release Site Location	Region	County	Release Type	
			Supplemental	Initial
Lower Sevier River	SR	Millard		X
Mineral Mountains	SR	Beaver	X	
Miller Canyon, Sawtooth Mountain	SR	Millard		X
Richards Ranch, Pahvant Valley	SR	Millard	X	
Indian Peaks Range	SR	Iron/Beaver		X
Wah Wah Range	SR	Iron/Beaver		X
Mt. Home Range	SR	Beaver/Millard		X
Rippgut Spring, Hamlin Valley	SR	Beaver		X
Butcher Spring, Hamlin Valley	SR	Iron		X
Mud Spring, Hamlin Valley	SR	Iron		X
Stateline Canyon, Hamlin Valley	SR	Iron	X	
Pine Creek, Hamlin Valley	SR	Iron		X
Chokecherry Creek, Hamlin Valley	SR	Iron		X
Bear Creek, Panguitch	SR	Iron	X	
Red Creek, Panguitch	SR	Iron	X	
Little Creek, Panguitch	SR	Iron	X	
Cottonwood Creek, Panguitch	SR	Iron	X	
Water Canyon, west of Enterprise	SR	Washington		X
Oak Grove, Pine Valley Mts	SR	Washington	X	
Beaver Dam Mountains	SR	Washington		X
Cottonwood creek, Pine Valley Mt.	SR	Washington	X	
Browse, East Pine Valley Mt.	SR	Washington	X	
Leeds Creek, Pine Valley Mts	SR	Washington	X	
Box Creek	SR	Piute	X	
Red Creek	SR	Sevier		X
Old Women	SR	Sevier	X	
Last Chance	SR	Sevier	X	
Round Springs Draw	SR	Sevier		X
Pine Creek	SR	Wayne	X	
Monroe, Dry Creek	SR	Sevier		X
Marysvale Dry Creek	SR	Sevier		X
Pole Canyon	SR	Sevier		X

Fremont River	SR	Sevier	X	
Lost Creek	SR	Sevier		X
Salina Creek	SR	Sevier		X
Edmund's Hole	SR	Garfield	X	
Rose Meadow	SR	Sevier		X
Johnson Mtn Ranch	SR	Sevier		X
Polk Creek TLM	SR	Sevier		X
Bulberry Creek, Boulder Mt.	SR	Wayne	X	
Solomon Basin	SR	Wayne	X	
East/West Hunt Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Bullrush Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Prospect Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Bear Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Rock Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Proctor Canyon	SR	Garfield	X	
Fifty Mile Mountain	SR	Garfield/Kane	X	
Collet Top	SR	Garfield/Kane		X
Circle Cliff	SR	Garfield/Kane		X
4 mile Mountain	SR	Garfield/Kane		X
Panguitch Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Kanab Creek	SR	Kane		X
Sandy Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Indian Hollow	SR	Garfield	X	
Three Mile Creek	SR	Garfield	X	
Butler Creek, North of Panguitch Lake	SR	Garfield		X
Gordon Creek	SER	Carbon	X	
Range Creek	SER	Emery	X	
SanRafel River	SER	Emery		X
Ferron Creek	SER	Emery	X	
Green River	SER	Emery	X	
Colorado River (Fish Ford)	SER	Grand	X	
South Book Cliffs (Hay, Nash, Floy Cyns)	SER	Grand	X	
Huntington WMA	SER	Emery	X	
Nine Mile Canyon	SER	Carbon	X	
Muddy Creek	SER	Emery	X	
Grassy Trail Creek	SER	Carbon		X
Spring Canyon	SER	Carbon		X

Joes Valley	SER	Emery	X	
South Elk Ridge	SER	San Juan	X	
Indian Creek	SER	San Juan	X	
Mary's Lake	SER	Emery		X
Wildcat Knolls/Pines	SER	Emery	X	
La Sal Mountains	SER	Grand/San Juan	X	
Henry Mtns	SER	Garfield/Wayne	X	
Cedar Mountain	SER	Emery		X
Tie Fork Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Sheep Creek Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Long Hollow Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Dairy Fork	CR	Utah		X
Mill Hollow	CR	Utah		X
Nelson Spring/Kimbell Creek	CR	Utah		X
Miller Canyon	CR	Juab		X
Sevier River Bottoms	CR	Juab		X
Harper Spring	CR	Juab		X
Hartleys Canyon	CR	Juab		X
Spring Hollow	CR	Juab		X
Trout Creek, Deep Creek	CR	Tooele		X
Granite Canyon, Deep Creek	CR	Tooele		X
Tom's Creek, Deep Creek	CR	Tooele		X
Chokecherry Canyon, Deep Creek	CR	Tooele		X
Spencer Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Anderson Hollow	CR	Utah		X
Lampson Canyon	CR	Juab		X
Biglows Canyon	CR	Juab		X
Hjorth Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Benion, Sheeprocks	CR	Tooele		X
Joe's Canyon, Sheeprocks	CR	Tooele		X
Ott's ,Canyon, Sheeprocks	CR	Tooele		X
Indian Springs, Simpson Mts	CR	Tooele		X
Jud Creek, Simpson Mts	CR	Tooele		X
Lee Creek, Simpson Mts	CR	Tooele		X
Death Canyon	CR	Juab		X
Faust Canyon, Onaqui Mt	CR	Tooele		X
Chokecherry Spring, Stansbury	CR	Tooele		X

Hell Hole, Onaqui Mt	CR	Tooele		X
Slate Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Grove Creek Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Battle Creek Canyon	CR	Utah		X
Rileys Canyon	CR	Wasatch		X
Cedar Hollow	CR	Wasatch		X
Shingle Creek Canyon	CR	Wasatch		X
Beaver Creek Can	CR	Wasatch		X
Herd Hollow	CR	Wasatch		X
Bridge Hollow	CR	Wasatch		X
Center Creek Canyon	CR	Wasatch		X
Andrews Spring Canyon	CR	Juab	X	
Black Canyon	CR	Juab	X	
Salt Creek	CR	Juab	X	
Little Salt Creek	CR	Juab	X	
Silverado, Oquirrh	CR	Tooele	X	
Bates Canyon, Oquirh	CR	Tooele	X	
Pole Canyon NW, Oquirh	CR	Tooele	X	
Pass Canyon, Oquirrh	CR	Tooele	X	
Silcox, Oquirrh	CR	Tooele	X	
Pole Canyon SE, Oquirrh	CR	Tooele	X	
Dry Creek/Timp WMA	CR	Utah	X	
Shurtz Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Maple Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Rock Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Payson Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Birdseye	CR	Utah	X	
Nebo Creek	CR	Utah	X	
Lake Fork	CR	Utah	X	
Squaw Peak Trail	CR	Utah	X	
Losty Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Sterling Hollow	CR	Utah	X	
Long Hollow/Thistle Slide	CR	Utah	X	
Billies Mountain	CR	Utah	X	
Mill Fork	CR	Utah	X	
Diamond Fork Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Dairy Fork	CR	Utah	X	

Starvation Creek	CR	Utah	X	
North Fork Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
South Fork Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Hobble Creek Canyon	CR	Utah	X	
Decker Canyon	CR	Wasatch	X	
Soldier Hollow	CR	Wasatch	X	
Little South Fork Canyon	CR	Wasatch	X	
Pine Valley	CR	Wasatch	X	
Dutch Hollow	CR	Wasatch	X	
Little Deer Creek Canyon	CR	Wasatch	X	
Snake Creek Canyon	CR	Wasatch	X	
Midway Bench	CR	Wasatch	X	
Daniels Canyon	CR	Wasatch	X	
Wallsburg Valley	CR	Wasatch	X	
Chalk Creek East of Coalville, Huff Creek, South Fork of Chalk Creek, C	NR	Summit	X	
Left Hand Fork, Blacksmith Fork Canyon, Hardware Ranch, Rock Creek	NR	Cache	X	
Left Fork Beaver Creek	NR	Summit	X	
Yellow Pine Creek	NR	Summit	X	
Pilot Mountain	NR	Box Elder	X	
Promontory	NR	Box Elder	X	
Clear Creek-Wildcat Creek	NR	Box Elder	X	
Coop Creek	NR	Summit		X
Etna Reservoir	NR	Box Elder		X
Sheep Ck	NER	Daggett	X	
Cedar Springs / Greendale	NER	Daggett	X	
Spring Creek / Dowd Mtn	NER	Daggett		X
Red Canyon Overlook/Greendale Junction	NER	Daggett	X	
Bare Top	NER	Daggett		X
Pipe Creek	NER	Daggett		X
Crouse Canyon	NER	Daggett	X	
Lodgepole Creek/Connor Basin/Phil Pico	NER	Daggett		X
Meadow Park - Between Greendale Junction and Carter Creek	NER	Daggett	X	
Yellowstone River	NER	Duchesne	X	
Lime Kiln	NER	Duchesne	X	
77 Flat	NER	Duchesne	X	
Avintaquin Canyon	NER	Duchesne	X	
Pigeon Water	NER	Duchesne		X

Clay Basin	NER	Duchesne		X
Upper Lake Fork	NER	Duchesne		X
Red Creek	NER	Duchesne		X
Strawberry River	NER	Duchesne	X	
Dry Gulch	NER	Duchesne	X	
Sand Creek	NER	Duchesne		X
Indian Cyn	NER	Duchesne		X
Timber Canyon	NER	Duchesne/Wasatch	X	
Currant Creek Mtn	NER	Duchesne/Wasatch		X
Bogart Canyon/Sego Canyon	NER	Grand		X
Diamond Ridge/Ten Mile Knoll	NER	Grand		X
Trail Canyon - Book Cliffs	NER	Grand	X	
Little Jim Canyon - Book Cliffs	NER	Grand	X	
Cedar Camp - Book Cliffs	NER	Grand	X	
Upper Sweet Water; including Railroad and South Canyons - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah/Grand	X	
Winter Ridge - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah/Grand	X	
Tom Patterson Point - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah/Grand		X
Black Horse/Saddle Ridge Junction - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah/Grand		X
Mexico Point - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah/Grand		X
Upper Bitter Creek	NER	Uintah/Grand		X
McCook Ridge - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah		X
Atchee Ridge - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah	X	
Upper Big Brush Creek; Colton Draw, Iron Spring, Range Study, Little V	NER	Uintah	X	
Upper Dry Fork Canyon; Brownie Canyon, Alma Taylor, Charlies Park	NER	Uintah	X	
Mosby Mountain	NER	Uintah		X
Taylor Mountain	NER	Uintah		X
Lake Mountain	NER	Uintah		X
Currant Creek	NER	Wasatch		X
North of Roosevelt	NER	Duchesne		X
Lower Dry Gulch	NER	Duchesne	X	
Lake Fork River corridor	NER	Duchesne	X	
Neola	NER	Duchesne		X
Red Creek	NER	Duchesne		X
Strawberry River WMA	NER	Duchesne	X	
Duchesne River corridor from Duchesne to Utahn	NER	Duchesne	X	
Duchesne River corridor from Utahn to Tabiona	NER	Duchesne	X	
Duchesne River corridor from Duchesne to Myton	NER	Duchesne	X	

Duchesne River corridor from Myton to Green River	NER	Duchesne	X	
Indian Canyon	NER	Duchesne		X
Montes Creek	NER	Uintah	X	
Doc's Beach	NER	Uintah		X
Rock Point Canal	NER	Uintah		X
Big Brush Creek; between Red Fleet and Simplot	NER	Uintah		X
Crows Roost Canyon	NER	Uintah		X
Pine Springs Canyon	NER	Uintah	X	
White River	NER	Uintah	X	
Two Waters WMA - Book Cliffs	NER	Uintah		X
Willow Creek	NER	Uintah	X	
Uintah River one mile north of Highway 40 and Highway 121	NER	Uintah		X
Ashley Creek north of Vernal	NER	Uintah	X	
Green River - Horseshoe Bend	NER	Uintah	X	
Green River - Hamacker Bend	NER	Uintah	X	
Bitter Creek	NER	Uintah	X	
Sweetwater	NER	Uintah	X	
Farm Creek	NER	Uintah	X	



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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

April 22, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Jason D. Robinson
Upland Game Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: 2014/2015 - 2016/2017 Upland Game Season Recommendations

The Division is recommending the following changes and season dates for the Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook, for a 3-year cycle:

Summary of Recommended Changes:

- Youth: 17 years old or younger on July 31
- Increase the youth Partridge and youth Pheasant/Quail hunt from 1 day (Saturday) to 3 days (Saturday-Monday).
- Open the extended pheasant season statewide; private lands would be closed (except those private lands leased or managed by UDWR [e.g. walk in access]).
- Discontinue limited entry turkey landowner permits.
- Make the falconry season statewide; maintain current fixed dates (September 1 - February 28) for all resident upland game species, except turkeys.
- Discontinue 10% allocation of greater sage-grouse permits to falconers, must get through draw.
- Allow 10-28 gauge shotguns to hunt turkeys.
- Allow crossbows to hunt upland game and turkeys
- Allow group applications for the LE turkey hunts (up to 4/group).
- Offer a fall hunting season for Turkeys. This hunt is to help reduce human-wild turkey conflicts.

Limited permits for specific areas within a region, only specified areas in the region would be open, but not other regions. An any turkey hunt, 15% of permits go to youth. A hunter could kill a spring bearded turkey and a fall either sex turkey in the same year. Use a permit allocation system; permit numbers, season dates (Max = Nov 1-Feb 28, regions could be more restrictive if desired) and open areas determined by the region annually; Board approved process. All other laws apply (legal weapon, city limits, building buffers, etc.).



- Allow falconers to release on wild turkeys during the fall season only. Must draw a fall turkey permit, same season dates and areas for all hunters.
- Begin a yearly limited entry turkey permit allocation system (similar to the sage-grouse system). Inputs include: previous year's harvest, success rate, hunter participation, population trend, accessible lands, perceived crowding index, and hunter satisfaction index.
- Allow youth, unsuccessful in harvesting a spring limited entry turkey, to hunt the youth general hunt and the general seasons (over the counter).

Species Recommendations:

California & Gambel's Quail:	Area: Statewide Youth hunt: Saturday - Monday closest to the 13 th of October General hunt: 1st Saturday in November - December 31 (fixed date) Bag limit: 5 Possession limit: 15
Scaled Quail:	CLOSED STATEWIDE
Chukar:	Area: Statewide Youth hunt: Second to last Saturday - Monday in September General hunt: Last Saturday in September to February 15 (fixed date) Bag limit: 5 Possession limit: 15
Gray (Hungarian) Partridge:	Area: Statewide Youth hunt: Second to last Saturday - Monday in September General hunt: Last Saturday in September to February 15 (fixed date) Bag limit: 5 Possession limit: 15
Cottontail, mountain/desert:	Area: Statewide General hunt: September 1 (fixed date) to February 28 (fixed date) Bag limit: 10 Possession limit: 30
Dusky and Ruffed Grouse:	Area: Statewide General hunt: September 1 (fixed date) to December 31 (fixed date) Bag limit: 4 Possession limit: 12

- Greater sage-grouse: Requires special permit obtained in a drawing in addition to hunting license
Area: Rich and West Box Elder Co., Parker Mtn. and Diamond/Blue Mtn.
Permit only hunt: Last Saturday in September to Sunday 3 weeks later
Bag limit: 2 per season
Possession limit: 2 per season
- Ring-Necked Pheasant: Area: Statewide
Youth hunt: Saturday - Monday closest to the 13th of October
General hunt: 1st Saturday in November - 3rd Sunday in November
Extended hunt (statewide, private lands closed): 3rd Monday in November- 1st Sunday in December
Bag limit: 2 males
Possession limit: 6 males
- Sharp-tailed Grouse: Requires special permit obtained in a drawing in addition to hunting license
Area: Cache and Northeast Box Elder Co.
Permit only hunt: Last Saturday in September to Sunday 3 weeks later
Bag limit: 2 per season
Possession limit: 2 per season
- Snowshoe Hare: Area: Statewide
General hunt: September 1 (fixed date) to March 15 (fixed date)
Bag limit: 5
Possession limit: 15
- White-tailed Ptarmigan: Requires a free permit in addition to hunting license
Area: Statewide
Permit only hunt: 4th Saturday in August to October 31 (fixed date)
Bag limit: 4
Possession limit: 12
- Wild Turkey (Spring): Requires special permit obtained in a drawing in addition to hunting license
Area: LE = DWR Region OTC = Statewide
LE hunt: 2nd Saturday to last Thursday in April
OTC Youth hunt: Last Friday to Sunday in April
OTC hunt: Monday following youth hunt to May 31 (fixed date)
Bag limit: 1 bearded turkey
Possession limit: 1

April 22, 2014

Subject: Upland Game Bird Recommendations

Wild Turkey (Fall): Requires special permit obtained in a drawing in addition to hunting license
Area: Open areas within a DWR Region
General Hunt: Maximum of November 1 - Feb 28 (region determines within these dates)
Bag limit: 1 turkey
Possession limit: 1

The Division requests your consideration to the following changes to R657-6, Taking Upland Game, including:

1. Correction of species names,
2. Consistency in the wording of the use of dogs on wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas,
3. Added American crow to the list of Migratory Upland Game birds,
4. Adjustment to legal weapons, and
5. Minor adjustments in wording and corrections.

The Division requests your consideration to the following changes to R657-54, Taking Wild Turkey, including:

1. Removal of landowner permit section,
2. Adjustments to the falconry wording,
3. Adjustments to legal weapon,
4. Consistency in the wording of the use of dogs on wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas, and
5. Minor adjustments in wording and corrections.

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-54. Taking Wild Turkey.

R657-54-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 2003 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking wild turkey.

(2) Specific season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, number of permits and other administrative details that may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

R657-54-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Bait" means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

(b) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) ~~"[Cleared and planted land" means private land or privately leased state or federal land used to produce a cultivated crop for commercial gain and the cultivated crop is routinely irrigated or routinely mechanically or manually harvested, or is crop residue that has forage value for livestock.]~~ Falconry" means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.

~~[(d) "Commercial gain" means intent to profit from cultivated crops through an enterprise in support of the crop owner's livelihood.]~~

~~[(e) "Essential habitat" means areas where wild turkeys regularly and consistently roost, feed, loaf, nest or winter.]~~

~~[(f) "Immediate family" means the landowner's lessee, or landowner's or lessee's spouse, children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother, sister, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepchildren, and grandchildren.]~~

~~[(g) "Landowner" means any individual, family or corporation who owns property in Utah and whose name appears on the deed as the owner of eligible property or whose name appears as the purchaser on a contract for sale of eligible property.]~~

~~[(h) "Livestock Forage" means any forage, excluding cultivated crops and crop residues, meant for consumption by livestock, not routinely irrigated or routinely mechanically or manually harvested.]~~

~~[(i) "Open season" means the days when upland game may lawfully be taken. Each period prescribed as an open season shall include the first and last days thereof.]~~

~~[(j) "Private land" means land in private fee ownership and in agricultural use as provided in Section 59-2-502 and eligible for agricultural use valuation as provided in Section 59-2-503 and 59-2-504. Private land does not include tribal trust lands.]~~

R657-54-3. Application Procedure for Wild Turkey.

(1) Permits for wild turkey will be issued pursuant to R657-62-~~[26.]~~25.

R657-54-4. ~~[Landowner Permits.]~~Authorized Weapons.

~~[(1)(a) Up to an additional 20 percent of the limited entry permits authorized for taking Merriam's and Rio Grande turkeys are available to private landowners through a drawing.]~~

~~[(2) Landowners interested in obtaining landowner permits must:]~~

~~[(a) contact the regional Division office in their area on the dates published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey;]~~

~~[(b) obtain and complete a landowner application;]~~

~~[(c) obtain a Division representative's signature on the landowner application; and]~~

~~[(d) submit the landowner application in accordance with Section R657-62-26.]~~

~~[(4)(a) Landowner permit applications that are not signed by the local Division representative will be rejected.]~~

~~[(5)(a) Only one eligible landowner may submit an application for the same parcel of land within the respective regional hunt boundary area.]~~

~~[(b) In cases where more than one application is received for the same parcel of land, all applications will be rejected.]~~

~~[(6) Applications must include:]~~

~~[(a) description of total acres owned within the respective regional hunt boundary;]~~

~~[(b) evidence of property ownership, including a copy of a title, deed, or tax notice indicating the applicant is the owner of the property; and]~~

~~[(c) the signature of the landowner.]~~

~~[(i) The signature on the application will serve as an affidavit certifying land ownership.]~~

~~[(7)(a) A landowner is eligible to participate in the drawing for available landowner turkey permits provided the landowner owns:]~~

~~[(i) at least 640 acres of essential habitat, or 40 acres of essential habitat that is cleared and planted land, in an open unit designated as a Merriam's unit that supports wild turkeys; or]~~

~~[(ii) at least 20 acres of essential habitat in an open unit designated as a Rio Grande unit that supports wild turkeys.]~~

~~[(b) Land qualifying as essential habitat, or cleared and planted land, and owned by more than one landowner may qualify for a landowner permit. However, the landowners who own the qualifying land must determine the landowner who will be participating in the drawing.]~~

~~[(8)(a) A landowner who applies for a landowner permit may:]~~

~~[(i) be issued the permit; or]~~

~~[(ii) designate a member of the landowner's immediate family or landowner's regular full-time employee to receive the permit.]~~

~~[(b) At the time of application, the landowner must identify the designee who will receive the permit.]~~

~~[(c) The landowner permit may be used only on the open limited entry area in which the landowner's property is located during the open season established for hunting wild turkeys.]~~

~~[(d) A person may not apply for or obtain a landowner permit without possessing a Utah hunting or combination license.]~~

~~[(9) Applicants will be notified by mail or e-mail of the drawing results for landowner permits by the date published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.]~~

~~[(10)(a) Any landowner permits remaining after the landowner drawing shall be converted to public limited entry permits for that specific unit.]~~

~~[(b) These permits shall be issued through the limited entry drawing. Therefore, the number of public permits listed in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey, may increase.]~~

~~[(11)(a) A waiting period does not apply to landowners applying for landowner permits.]~~

~~[(b) A landowner may apply once annually for a landowner permit and a limited entry permit, but may only draw or obtain one permit.]~~

~~[R657-54-5. Firearms and Archery Tackle.]~~

Wild turkey may be taken only with

(a) Archery equipment, including a draw-lock, or a crossbow using broadhead tipped arrows or bolts: or

(b) ~~[Wild turkey may be taken only with [a bow and broadhead tipped arrows or]~~a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge and no smaller than ~~[20]~~28 gauge, firing shot sizes ranging between BB and no. 8.

R657-54-~~[6.]~~5. Shooting Hours.

(1) Wild turkey may be taken only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

(b) A person must add to or subtract from the official sunrise and sunset depending on the geographic location of the state. Specific times are provided in a time zone map in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

R657-54-~~[7.]~~6. State Parks.

(1) Hunting of any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those areas designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Rule R651-614-4.

(2) Hunting with rifles and handguns in park areas designated open is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps, and developed beaches.

(3) Hunting with shotguns, crossbows or archery tackle is prohibited within one quarter mile of the above stated areas.

R657-54-7. Falconry.

Falconers may not release a raptor on wild turkeys during the spring seasons. Falconers may release a raptor on wild turkeys during the fall season, as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

R657-54-8. ~~[Falconry.]~~

~~[Falconers may not release a raptor on wild turkey.]~~**~~[R657-54-9.]~~Live Decoys and Electronic Calls.**

A person may not take a wild turkey by the use or aid of live decoys, records or tapes of turkey calls or sounds, or electronically amplified imitations of turkey calls.

R657-54-~~[10.]~~9. Baiting.

A person may not hunt turkey using bait, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. An area is considered baited for 10 days after bait is removed, or 10 days after bait in an area is eaten.

R657-54-~~[11.]~~10. Sitting or Roosting Turkeys.

A person may not take or attempt to take any turkey sitting or roosting in a tree.

R657-54-~~[12.]~~11. Tagging Requirements.

(1) The carcass of a turkey must be tagged before the carcass is moved from, or the hunter leaves, the site of kill.

(2) To tag a carcass, a person shall:

(a) completely detach the tag from the license or permit;

(b) completely remove the appropriate notches to correspond with:

(i) the date the animal was taken;

(ii) the sex of the animal; and

(c) attach the tag to the carcass so that the tag remains securely fastened and visible.

(3) A person may not:

(a) remove more than one notch indicating date or sex; or

(b) tag more than one carcass using the same tag.

(4) A person may not hunt or pursue turkey after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from the permit.

R657-54-~~[13.]~~12. Identification of Species and Sex.

(1) ~~The~~During the spring seasons the head and beard must remain attached to the carcass of wild turkey while being transported.

(2) During the fall season only the head must remain attached to the carcass of wild turkey while being transported.

~~[R657-54-14.]~~R657-54-13. Use of Dogs.

(1) An individual may not use or permit a dog to harass, pursue, or take protected wildlife unless otherwise allowed for in the Wildlife Code, administrative rules issued under Wildlife Code, or a guidebook of the Wildlife Board.

(~~1~~)2) Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve ~~[wild-]~~turkey during open turkey hunting seasons.

(~~2~~)3) Dogs are ~~[not]~~generally allowed on state wildlife management ~~[or]~~and waterfowl management areas, ~~[except during open hunting seasons or as posted by the Division]~~subject to the following conditions.

(a) dogs are not allowed on the following state wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas between March 10 and August 31 annually or as posted by the Division:

- (i) Annabella;
- (ii) Bear River Trenton Property Parcel;
- (iii) Bicknell Bottoms;
- (iv) Blue Lake;
- (v) Browns Park;
- (vi) Bud Phelps;
- (vii) Clear Lake;
- (viii) Desert Lake;
- (ix) Farmington Bay;
- (x) Harold S. Crane;
- (xi) Hatt's Ranch
- (xii) Howard Slough;
- (xiii) Huntington;
- (xiv) James Walter Fitzgerald;
- (xv) Kevin Conway;
- (xvi) Locomotive Springs;
- (xvii) Manti Meadows;
- (xviii) Mills Meadows;
- (xix) Montes Creek;
- (xx) Nephi;
- (xxi) Ogden Bay;
- (xxii) Pahvant;
- (xxiv) Public Shooting Grounds;
- (xxv) Redmond Marsh;
- (xxvi) Richfield;
- (xxvii) Roosevelt;
- (xxviii) Salt Creek;
- (xxix) Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve;
- (xxx) Steward Lake;
- (xxxi) Timpie Springs;
- (xxxii) Topaz Slough;
- (xxxiii) Vernal; and
- (xxxiv) Willard Bay.

(b) The Division may establish special restrictions for Division-managed properties, such as on-leash requirements and temporary or locational closures for dogs, and post them at specific Division properties and at Regional offices;

(c) Organized events or group gatherings of twenty-five (25) or more individuals that involve the use of dogs, such as dog training or trials, that occur on Division properties may require a special use permit as described in R657-28; and

(d) Dog training may be allowed in designated areas on Lee Kay Center and Willard Bay WMA by the Division without a special use permit.

~~[R657-54-15.]~~ R657-54-14. **Closed Areas.**

A person may not hunt wild turkey in any area posted closed by the Division or any of the following areas:

- (1) Salt Lake Airport boundaries as posted.
- (2) Incorporated municipalities: [~~Most of the incorporated areas of Alta, a portion of Davis County, Garland City, Layton, Logan, Pleasant View City, South Ogden City, West Jordan, and West Valley City are closed to~~][Many incorporated municipalities prohibit](#) the discharge of firearms [and other weapons](#). Check with the respective city officials for specific boundaries[~~. Other municipalities may have additional firearm restrictions~~] [and limitations](#).
- (3) All State Waterfowl Management Areas except [~~Brown's~~][Browns](#) Park and Stewart Lake
- (4) All National Wildlife Refuges unless declared open by the managing authority.
- (5) Military installations, including Camp Williams, are closed to hunting and trespassing[~~unless otherwise authorized~~].

R657-54-~~16.~~[15.](#) Possession of Live Protected Wildlife.

It is unlawful for any person to hold in captivity at any time any protected wildlife, except as provided by Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code or any rules and regulations of the Wildlife Board. Protected wildlife that is wounded must be immediately killed and shall be included in the hunter's bag limit.

R657-54-~~17.~~[16.](#) Spotighting.

- (1) Except as provided in Section 23-13-17:
 - (a) a person may not use or cast the rays of any spotlight, headlight or other artificial light to locate protected wildlife while having in possession a firearm or other weapon or device that could be used to take or injure protected wildlife; and
 - (b) the use of a spotlight or other artificial light in a field, woodland or forest where protected wildlife are generally found is prima facie evidence of attempting to locate protected wildlife.
- (2) The provisions of this section do not apply to:
 - (a) the use of the headlights of a motor vehicle or other artificial light in a usual manner where there is no attempt or intent to locate protected wildlife; or
 - (b) a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

R657-54-~~18.~~[17.](#) Exporting Wild Turkey from Utah.

- A person may export wild turkey or their parts from Utah only if:
- (1) the person who harvested the turkey accompanies it and possess a valid permit corresponding to the tag; or
 - (2) the person exporting the turkey or its parts, if it is not the person who harvested the turkey, has obtained a shipping permit from the Division.

R657-54-~~19.~~[18.](#) Waste of Game.

(1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts.

(2) A person shall not kill or cripple any wild turkey without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the turkey.

R657-54-~~20.~~19. Wild Turkey Poaching Reported Reward Permits.

(1) Any person who provides information leading to another person's arrest and successful prosecution for wanton destruction of a wild turkey under Section 23-20-4, within any limited entry area may receive a permit from the Division to hunt wild turkey in the following year on the same limited entry area where the violation occurred, except as provided in Subsection (2).

(2)(a) In the event that issuance of a Poaching-Reported Reward Permit would exceed 5 percent of the total number of limited entry permits issued in the following year for the respective area, a permit shall not be issued for that respective area. As an alternative, the Division may issue a permit as outlined in Subsection (b).

(b) A permit for a wild turkey, on an alternative limited entry area that has been allocated more than 20 permits, may be issued.

(3)(a) The Division may issue only one Poaching-Reported Reward Permit for any one wild turkey illegally taken.

(b) No more than one Poaching-Reported Reward Permit shall be issued to any one person per successful prosecution.

(c) No more than one Poaching-Reported Reward Permit shall be issued to any one person in any one calendar year.

(d) A person must possess a Utah hunting or combination license to receive a Poaching-Reported Reward Permit.

(4)(a) Poaching-Reported Reward permits may only be issued to the person who provides the most pertinent information leading to a successful prosecution. Permits are not transferrable.

(b) If information is received from more than one person, the director of the Division shall make a determination based on the facts of the case, as to which person provided the most pertinent information leading to the successful prosecution in the case.

(c) The person providing the most pertinent information shall qualify for the Poaching-Reported Reward Permit.

(5) Any person who receives a Poaching-Reported Reward Permit must be eligible to hunt and obtain wild turkey permits as provided in all rules and regulations of the Wildlife Board and the Wildlife Resources Code.

(6) For purposes of this section, "successful prosecution" means the screening, filing of charges and subsequent adjudication for the poaching incident.

R657-54-~~21.~~20. Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits, and Areas Open.

Season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, and number of permits for taking wild turkey are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

KEY: wildlife, wild turkey, game laws

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: September 12, 2011

Notice of Continuation: November 30, 2009

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-1

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-6. Taking Upland Game.

R657-6-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking upland game.

(2) Specific season dates, bag and possession limits, areas open, number of permits and other administrative details that may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

R657-6-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Bait" means shelled, shucked or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt or other feed that lures, attracts or entices birds.

(b) "CFR" means the Code of Federal Regulations.

(c) "Falconry" means the sport of taking quarry by means of a trained raptor.

(d) "Landowner" means any individual, family or corporation who owns property in Utah and whose name appears on the deed as the owner of eligible property or whose name appears as the purchaser on a contract for sale of eligible property.

(e) "Migratory game bird" means, for the purposes of this rule, [~~Mourning Dove, White~~]American crow, mourning dove, white-winged [~~Dove~~]dove, [~~Band~~]band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~]pigeon, and Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane.

(f) "Transport" means to ship, carry, export, import, receive or deliver for shipment, conveyance, carriage, exportation or importation.

(g) "Upland game" means pheasant, quail, [~~Chukar Partridge, Hungarian Partridge, Sage-grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Blue Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse~~]chukar partridge, gray partridge, greater sage-grouse, ruffed grouse, dusky grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, cottontail rabbit, snowshoe hare, [~~White~~]white-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~]ptarmigan, and the following migratory game birds: [~~Mourning Dove, White~~]American crow, mourning dove, white-winged [~~Dove~~]dove, [~~Band~~]band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~]pigeon, and Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane.

R657-6-4. Permits for Band-tailed [~~Pigeon, Sage~~]pigeon, Greater sage-grouse, Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse and White-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~]ptarmigan.

(1)(a) A person may not take or possess:

(i) Band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~]pigeon without first obtaining a Band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~]pigeon permit;

(ii) [~~Sage~~]Greater sage-grouse without first obtaining a [~~Sage~~]Greater sage-grouse permit;

(iii) Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse without first obtaining a Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse permit; or

(iv) White-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~]ptarmigan without first obtaining a White-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~]ptarmigan permit.

(b) A person may obtain only one permit for each species listed in Subsection (1)(a), except a falconer with a valid Falconry Certificate of Registration may obtain one additional two-bird [~~Sage~~]Greater sage-grouse permit beginning on the date published

in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey, if any permits are remaining.

(2)(a) A limited number of two-bird [~~Sage~~Greater sage-grouse permits are available in the areas published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

(b) A [~~Sage~~Greater sage-grouse permit may only be used in one of the open areas as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

(c) [~~Sage~~Greater sage-grouse permits will be issued pursuant to R657-62-~~22~~21

(3)(a) A limited number of two-bird, Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~grouse permits are available.

(b) A Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~grouse permit may only be used in one of open areas as published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

(c) Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~grouse permits will be issued pursuant to R657-62-~~22~~21

(4) Band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~pigeon and White-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~ptarmigan permits are available from Division offices, through the mail, and through the Division's Internet address by the first week in August, free of charge.

R657-6-5. Application Procedure for Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane.

(1)(a) Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane permits will be issued pursuant to R657-62-~~22~~21

(b) Residents and nonresidents may apply.

(c) The application period for Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane is published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

(2) A person may obtain only one Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane permit each year.

R657-6-6. [~~Firearms and Archery Tackle~~Authorized Weapons.

(1) A person may not use any weapon or device to take upland game except as provided in this section.

(2)(a) Upland game may be taken with archery equipment, including a draw-lock, a crossbow, a shotgun no larger than 10 gauge, or a handgun. Loads for shotguns and handguns must be one-half ounce or more of shot size ranging between no. 2 and no. 8, except:

(i) migratory game birds may not be taken with a handgun, or a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells;

(ii) cottontail rabbit and snowshoe hare may be taken with any firearm not capable of being fired fully automatic; and

(iii) Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane may be taken with any size of nontoxic shot.

~~[(b) Crossbows are not legal archery equipment for taking upland game, except as provided in Rule R657-12.]~~

(3) A person may not use:

(a) a firearm capable of being fired fully automatic; or

(b) any light enhancement device or aiming device that casts a visible beam of light.

R657-6-7. Nontoxic Shot.

- (1) Only nontoxic shot may be used to take Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane].
- (2) Except as provided in Subsection (3), nontoxic shot is not required to take any species of upland game, except Sandhill [~~Crane~~crane].
- (3) A person may not possess or use lead shot or any other shot that has not been approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service while on federal refuges or the following state waterfowl or wildlife management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Manti Meadows, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve, Stewart Lake, and Timpie Springs.

R657-6-8. Use of Firearms, Crossbows and Archery Tackle on State Wildlife Management Areas.

- (1) A person may not possess a firearm, a crossbow, or archery tackle, except during the specified hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division on the following wildlife management areas: Bear River Trenton Property Parcel, Browns Park, Bud Phelps, [~~Castle Dale,~~]Huntington, James Walter Fitzgerald, [~~Mallard Springs~~Kevin Conway, Manti Meadows, Montes Creek, Nephi, Pahvant, Redmond Marsh, Roosevelt, Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve, Stewart Lake, Vernal, and Willard Bay.
- (2) The firearm restrictions set forth in this section do not apply to a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

R657-6-9. Use of Firearms, Crossbows, and Archery Tackle on State Waterfowl Management Areas.

- (1) A person may not possess a firearm, crossbow or archery tackle, except during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division on the following waterfowl management areas: Bicknell Bottoms, Blue Lake, Browns Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, [~~and~~Stewart Lake, Timpie Springs, and Topaz.
- (2) During the waterfowl hunting seasons, a shotgun is the only firearm that may be held in possession.
- (3) The firearm restrictions set forth in this section do not apply to a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

R657-6-10. Shooting Hours.

- (1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), shooting hours for upland game are as follows:

(i) [~~Band~~]American crow, band-tailed [~~Pigeon, Mourning Dove, White~~]pigeon, mourning dove, white-winged [~~Dove~~]dove, and Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane may be taken only between one-half hour before official sunrise through official sunset.

(ii) [~~Sage~~]Greater sage-grouse, [~~Ruffed Grouse, Blue Grouse, Sharp-tailed Grouse, White-tailed Ptarmigan, Chukar Partridge, Hungarian Partridge~~]ruffed Grouse, dusky grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, chukar partridge, gray partridge, pheasant, quail, cottontail rabbit, and snowshoe hare may be taken only between one-half hour before official sunrise through one-half hour after official sunset.

(b) A person must add to or subtract from the official sunrise and sunset depending on the geographic location of the state. Specific times are provided in a time zone map in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

(2) A person may not discharge a firearm on state owned lands adjacent to the Great Salt Lake, state waterfowl management areas or on federal refuges between official sunset through one-half hour before official sunrise.

R657-6-11. State Parks.

(1) Hunting of any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas, except those areas designated open to hunting by the Division of Parks and Recreation in Rule R651-614-4.

(2) Hunting with rifles and handguns in park areas designated open is prohibited within one mile of all park facilities including buildings, camp or picnic sites, overlooks, golf courses, boat ramps, and developed beaches.

(3) Hunting with shotguns, crossbow, or archery tackle is prohibited within one quarter mile of the above stated areas.

R657-6-12. Falconry.

(1)(a) Falconers must obtain an annual hunting or combination license and a valid falconry certificate of registration or license to hunt upland game and must also obtain:

(b) a Band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~]pigeon permit before taking Band-tailed [~~Pigeon~~]pigeon;

(c) a [~~Sage~~]Greater sage-grouse permit before taking [~~Sage~~]Greater sage-grouse;

(d) a Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse permit before taking Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse;

(e) a White-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~]ptarmigan permit before taking White-tailed [~~Ptarmigan~~]ptarmigan; or

(f) a Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane permit before taking Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane.

(2) Areas open and bag and possession limits for falconry are provided in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking upland game and wild turkey.

R657-6-13. Baiting.

(1) A person may not hunt upland game by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. This section does not prohibit:

(a) the taking of any migratory game bird on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

(i) standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics), standing, flooded or manipulated natural vegetation, flooded harvested croplands, or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation or normal soil stabilization practice;

(ii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;

(iii) from a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or

(iv) standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys or retrieving downed birds.

(b) The taking of any upland game, except Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

R657-6-16. Tagging Requirements.

(1) The carcass of a Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane, Greater sage grouse, or Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse must be tagged in accordance with Section 23-20-30.

(2) A person may not hunt or pursue Sandhill [~~Crane~~]crane, Greater sage grouse, or Sharp-tailed [~~Grouse~~]grouse after any of the notches have been removed from the tag or the tag has been detached from the permit.

R657-6-18. Waste of Upland Game.

(1) A person may not waste or permit to be wasted or spoiled any protected wildlife or their parts.

(2) A person shall not kill or cripple any upland game without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the upland game animal.

R657-6-20. Use of Dogs.

An individual may not use or permit a dog to harass, pursue, or take protected wildlife unless otherwise allowed for in the Wildlife Code, administrative rules issued under Wildlife Code, or a guidebook of the Wildlife Board.

(1) Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve upland game during open upland game hunting seasons.

(2) Dogs are generally allowed on state wildlife management and waterfowl management areas, subject to the following conditions.

(a) Dogs are not allowed on the following state wildlife management [or] areas and waterfowl management areas, except during open hunting seasons between March 10 and August 31 annually or as posted by the Division:

(b) State wildlife management and waterfowl management areas are listed under Sections R657-6-9 and R657-6-10. (c) Annabella;

- (ii) Bear River Trenton Property Parcel;
- (iii) Bicknell Bottoms;
- (iv) Blue Lake;
- (v) Browns Park;
- (vi) Bud Phelps;
- (vii) Clear Lake;
- (viii) Desert Lake;
- (ix) Farmington Bay;
- (x) Harold S. Crane;
- (xi) Hatt's Ranch
- (xii) Howard Slough;
- (xiii) Huntington;
- (xiv) James Walter Fitzgerald;
- (xv) Kevin Conway;
- (xvi) Locomotive Springs;
- (xvii) Manti Meadows;
- (xviii) Mills Meadows;
- (xix) Montes Creek;
- (xx) Nephi;
- (xxi) Ogden Bay;
- (xxii) Pahvant;
- (xxiv) Public Shooting Grounds;
- (xxv) Redmond Marsh;
- (xxvi) Richfield;
- (xxvii) Roosevelt;
- (xxviii) Salt Creek;
- (xxix) Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve;
- (xxx) Steward Lake;
- (xxxi) Timpie Springs;
- (xxxii) Topaz Slough;
- (xxxiii) Vernal; and
- (xxxiv) Willard Bay.

(b) The Division may establish special restrictions for Division-managed properties, such as on-leash requirements and temporary or locational closures for dogs, and post them at specific Division properties and at Regional offices;

(c) Organized events or group gatherings of twenty-five (25) or more individuals that involve the use of dogs, such as dog training or trials, that occur on Division properties may require a special use permit as described in R657-28; and

(d) Dog training may be allowed in designated areas on Lee Kay Center and Willard Bay WMA by the Division without a special use permit.

R657-6-21. Closed Areas.

A person may not hunt upland game in any area posted closed by the Division or any of the following areas:

- (1) Salt Lake International Airport boundaries as posted.

(2) Incorporated municipalities: [~~Most of the incorporated areas of Alta, a portion of Davis County, Garland City, Layton, Logan, Pleasant View City, South Ogden City, West Jordan, and West Valley City are closed to~~]Many incorporated municipalities prohibit the discharge of firearms and other weapons. Check with the respective city officials for specific boundaries[~~. Other municipalities may have additional firearm restrictions~~]and limitations.

(3) Wildlife Management Areas:

(a) Waterfowl management areas[~~and federal refuges~~] are open for hunting upland game only during designated waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the Division, including: [~~Bear River National Wildlife Refuge, Bicknell Bottoms,~~]Blue Lake[, ~~Brown's Park~~], Clear Lake, [~~Desert Lake,~~]Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Manti Meadows, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, [~~Ouray National Wildlife Refuge,~~]Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, Salt Creek, Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve, Stewart Lake, and Timpie Springs.

(b) Fish Springs National Wildlife Refuge is closed to upland game hunting.

(c) Goshen Warm Springs is closed to upland game hunting.

(4) Military installations, including Camp Williams, are closed to hunting and trespassing[~~unless otherwise authorized~~].

KEY: wildlife, birds, rabbits, game laws

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Change: September 12, 2011

Notice of Continuation: July 8, 2010

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

GREGORY S. BELL
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

April 22, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members

FROM: Jason D. Robinson
Upland Game Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: R657-46, The Use of Game Birds in Dog Field Trials and Training

The Division requests your consideration to the following changes to R657-46, The Use of Game Birds in Dog Field Trials and Training, including:

1. Correction of species names.
2. Consistency in the wording of the use of dogs on wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas, referencing rules R657-6, R657-54, and R657-9.



R657. Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-46. The Use of Game Birds in Dog Field Trials and Training.

R657-46-1. Purpose and Authority.

Under authority of Sections 23-14-18, 23-14-19 and 23-17-9 this rule provides the requirements, standards, and application procedures for the use of game birds in dog field trials and training.

R657-46-2. Definitions.

- (1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.
- (2) In addition:
 - (a) "Field trial" means an organized event where the abilities of dog handlers and their dogs are evaluated, including the ability of the dogs to hunt or retrieve game birds.
 - (b) "Game bird" means:
 - (i) crane;
 - (ii) ~~blue~~dusky, ruffed, sage, sharp-tailed, and spruce grouse;
 - (iii) chukar, red-legged, and ~~Hungarian~~gray partridges;
 - (iv) pheasant;
 - (v) band-tailed pigeon;
 - (vi) ~~northern~~ bobwhite, California, Gambel's, ~~harlequin~~Montezuma, mountain, and scaled quail;
 - (vii) waterfowl;
 - (viii) common ground, Inca, mourning, and white-winged dove;
 - (ix) wild or pen-reared wild turkey of the following subspecies:
 - (A) ~~Eastern~~eastern;
 - (B) Florida or Osceola;
 - (C) Gould's;
 - (D) Merriam's;
 - (E) ~~Ocellated~~ocellated; and
 - (F) Rio Grande; and
 - (x) ptarmigan.
 - (c) "Quad flyer test" means throwing pen-reared game birds by hand from four fixed stations and shooting of the pen-reared game birds one immediately after the other.
 - (d) "Train" or "training" means the informal handling, exercising, teaching, instructing, and disciplining of dogs in the skills and techniques of hunting and retrieving game birds characterized by absence of fees, judging, or awards.

R657-46-3. Application for a Field Trial Certificate of Registration.

(1)(a) A person may conduct a field trial using pen-reared game birds provided that person applies for and obtains a certificate of registration from the Division of Wildlife Resources, except as provided in Subsection (b).

(b) A person may conduct a field trial using pen-reared game birds on a commercial hunting area without obtaining a certificate of registration.

- (2) Applications are available at any division office.
- (3) The application must include written permission from the owner, lessee, or land management agency of the property where the field trial is to be conducted.
- (4)(a) Applications must be submitted to the appropriate regional division office where the field trial is being held.
- (b) Applications must be received at least 45 days prior to the date of the field trial.
- (5) The division will not approve any application for an area where, in the opinion of the division, the field trial or the release of pen-reared game birds interferes with wildlife, wildlife habitat or wildlife nesting periods.
- (6) Field trials may be held only during the dates and within the area specified on the field trial certificate of registration.

R657-46-4. Use of Pen-Reared Game Birds for Field Trials.

- (1) Legally acquired pen-reared game birds may be possessed or used for field trials.
- (2) Any person using pen-reared game birds must have an invoice or bill of sale in their possession showing lawful personal possession or ownership of such birds.
- (3) Pen-reared game birds may not be imported into Utah without a valid veterinary health certificate as required in Rules R58-1 and R657-4.
- (4)(a) Each pen reared game bird must be marked with an aluminum leg band or other permanent marking before being released in the field trial, except as provided in Subsection (d).
- (b) Aluminum leg bands may be purchased at any division office.
- (c) The aluminum leg band or other permanent marking must remain attached to the pen-reared game bird.
- (d) Each pen-reared game bird used in a field trial that is conducted on a commercial hunting area may be released without marking each pen-reared game bird, as with an aluminum leg band.
- (5) Pen-reared game birds used for a field trial may be released only on the property specified in the certificate of registration where the field trial is conducted.
- (6) After release, pen-reared game birds may be taken:
 - (a) by the person who released the pen-reared game birds, or by any person participating in the field trial; and
 - (b) only during the dates of the field trial event as specified in the certificate of registration.
- (7) Wild game birds may be taken only during legal hunting seasons as specified in the Upland Game or Waterfowl proclamations of the Wildlife Board.
- (8) Pen-reared game birds acquired for a field trial that are not released may be held in possession:
 - (a) no longer than 60 days; or
 - (b) longer than 60 days provided the person possessing the pen-reared game birds first obtains a private aviculture certificate of registration as provided in Rule R657-4.

(9) Pen-reared game birds that leave the property where the field trial is held at the end of the field trial shall become the property of the state of Utah and may not be taken, except during legal hunting seasons as specified in the Upland Game or Waterfowl proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

R657-46-5. Use of Pen-Reared Game Birds for Dog Training.

(1) A person may train a dog using legally acquired pen-reared game birds provided:

(a) the person using the pen-reared game birds has an invoice or bill of sale in their possession showing lawful personal possession or ownership of the pen-reared game birds;

(b) each pen-reared game bird must be marked with an aluminum leg band or other permanent marking before being released for training, except as provided in Subsection (3)(a); ~~and~~

(c) any pheasant released during training must be marked with a visible streamer or tape at least 12 inches in length before being released, and any pheasant killed during training must have the streamer or tape attached when killed~~[-];~~ and

(d) the use of dogs complies with Rules R657-6, R657-9, and R657-54.

(2) Aluminum leg bands may be purchased at any division office.

(3)(a) Each pen-reared game bird used for dog training that is conducted on a commercial hunting area may be released without marking each pen-reared game bird with an aluminum leg band or other permanent marking.

(b) Any pheasant released during training on a commercial hunting area may be released without marking as provided in Subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c).

(4) The training may not consist of more than four dogs at any time, except the training may consist of more than four dogs provided:

(a) the dogs exceeding four in number are eight months of age or younger; and

(b) no live ammunition is in possession of the person or persons engaged in training the dogs.

(5) A person or group of persons may not release more than ten pen-reared game birds per day or three pen-reared game birds per dog per day, whichever is greater.

(6) A person or group of persons may not use more than three firearms at any time, except four firearms may be used when training retrievers using the American Kennel Club quad flyer test.

(7) Pen-reared game birds acquired for training that are not released may be held in possession:

(a) no longer than 60 days; or

(b) longer than 60 days provided the person possessing the pen-reared game birds first obtains a private aviculture certificate of registration as provided in Rule R657-4.

(8) Pen-reared game birds that are not recovered on the day of the training or pen-reared game birds that escape shall become property of the state of Utah and may

not be recaptured or taken, except during legal hunting seasons as specified in the Upland Game and Waterfowl proclamations of the Wildlife Board.

(9) A person training dogs on official dog training areas, designated by the division, is not required to comply with Subsection (1)(c) or Subsections (4), (5) or (6).

R657-46-6. Use of Wild Game Birds for Dog Training.

(1) A person may train a dog on wild game birds provided:

(a) the dog, or the person training the dog, may not harass, catch, capture, kill, injure, or at any time, possess any wild game birds, except during legal hunting seasons as provided in the Upland Game or Waterfowl proclamations of the Wildlife Board;

(b) the [~~dogs are not on any state wildlife management or waterfowl management areas as specified in Rule R657-6, except during open hunting seasons or as posted by the division;~~][use of dogs complies with Rules R657-6, R657-9, and R657-54;](#)

(c) the person training a dog on wild game birds, except during legal hunting seasons:

(i) may not possess a firearm, except a pistol firing blank cartridges;

(ii) must comply with city and county ordinances pertaining to the discharge of any firearm;

(iii) must obtain written permission from the landowner for training on properly posted private property.

(2) The firearm restrictions set forth in this section do not apply to a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed weapon to hunt or take wildlife.

KEY: wildlife, birds, dogs, training

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: March 5, 2002

Notice of Continuation: June 9, 2009

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J SHEEHAN
Division Director

April 22, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board / Regional Advisory Council Members
FROM: Blair Stringham
Migratory Game Bird Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2014-15 Migratory Game Bird Season Recommendations

This year the UDWR is moving the waterfowl recommendation cycle from July/August to May/June in anticipation of changes in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regulatory cycle, and to coincide with the upland game regulation process. As a result of this change, the North American Duck Breeding Pair Survey and May Pond Survey results will not have been released yet, so specific season dates and bag limits will not be finalized until that information is available. However, our past waterfowl recommendations have also been based on data that was not yet finalized. The recommendations that we present this year will be based on expected options given to us by the USFWS. The Division will also be combining the migratory upland game bird recommendations (dove, band-tailed pigeon and crane) with the waterfowl regulations because they are all coordinated through the flyway process.

The Rocky Mountain Population of Canada Geese continues to thrive throughout their entire range and remains well above population objectives. The Division is recommending increasing the bag to four birds. The Division is also recommending including Locomotive Springs WMA in the Northern Zone, better identifying boundaries for the Urban Zone, and removing Washington County from the Urban Zone. The Urban Zone changes are as follows:

Boundary begins at the Weber-Box Elder county line at I-15; east along Weber county line to US-89; south on US-89 to I-84; east and south and along I-84 to I-80; south along I-80 to US-189; south and west along US-189 to the Utah County line; southeast and then west along this line to I-15; north on I-15 to US-6; west on US-6 to SR-36; north on SR-36 to I-80; north along an imaginary line from this intersection to the southern tip of Promontory Point and Promontory Road; east and north along this road to the causeway separating Bear River Bay from Ogden Bay; east on this causeway to the southwest corner of Great Salt Lake Mineral Corporations (GSLMC) west impoundment; north and east along GSLMC's west impoundment to the northwest corner of the impoundment; directly north from this point along an imaginary line to the southern boundary of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge; east along this southern boundary to the Perry access road; northeast along this road to I-15; south along I-15 to the Weber-Box Elder county line.

White goose populations continue to do well and the Division is not recommending any changes to light geese regulations.



April 22, 2014

Subject: 2014-15 Migratory Game Bird Recommendations

General season duck harvest frameworks are driven by the status of mallard breeding populations. In 2008, a Western Mallard Harvest Strategy was implemented to determine harvest regulations in the Pacific Flyway. Additionally, scaup, pintail and canvasback have separate harvest frameworks that are based on species-specific harvest strategies. The Division will select the most liberal season and bag packages offered by the USFWS.

Swan populations continue to do well and the Division is not recommending any changes to swan harvest regulations.

For several years the USFWS has been working to evaluate the harvest potential for mourning doves. After undergoing a detailed harvest evaluation, the USFWS has concluded that mourning doves are largely underutilized, so this year they are offering an increased bag and season option. The Division is recommending increasing the mourning dove bag to 15 birds and extending season dates by 30 days.

Sandhill crane populations are stable throughout the flyway and the Division is not recommending any changes.

Band-tailed pigeon populations are similar to last year and the Division is not recommending any changes.

The DWR is recommending an American crow hunt this year. The hunt is intended to address depredation issues and provide sport hunting opportunity. Hunters are required to remove harvested crows from the field and have a valid hunting license.

The DWR is recommending the following changes:

- 1- Moving shooting times on opening day of the waterfowl season to ½ hour before official sunrise. This will reduce the violations that occur from confusion over shooting times and increase hunter success. Most other counties in Utah have been operating under these shooting times without any problems.
- 2- Allowing crossbows to be used to take migratory bird species.
- 3- Allow dove hunting at Bicknell Bottoms, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, and Topaz WMAs. Dove hunting on Clear Lake will only be allowed from September 1-15. Non-toxic shot is required on all these areas.
- 4- Clarifying and making consistent the dog use rule on waterfowl management areas.

Specific season and bag recommendations for the 2014-2015 Utah migratory upland game seasons are as follows:

Band-tailed Pigeon (2 bag/6 possession)

Season: 9/1/2014-9/30/2014

Mourning Dove (15 bag/45 possession)
Season: 9/1/2014-10/30/2014

Sandhill Crane
 Uintah County: Hunt 1- 9/20/2014-9/28-2014
 Hunt 2- 10/1/2014-10/9/2014
 Hunt 3- 10/11/2014-10/19/2014
 Rich County: 9/6/2014-9/14/2014
 Cache County: 9/6/2014-9/14/2014
 Box Elder County: 9/6/2014-9/14/2014

American Crow (10 bag/30 possession)
Season: 9/1/2014 – 9/30/2014; 12/1/2014 – 2/28/2015

Specific season and bag recommendations for the 2014-2015 Utah waterfowl season are as follows:

Youth Day: 9/20/2014

Duck/Coot/Merganser (7 bag/21possession; 2 female mallards, 2 redheads, 2 wood ducks)
Season: 10/4/2014 – 1/17/2015
Scaup/Pintail/Canvasback: Maximum Allowed Bag and Season

Dark Goose (4 bag/12 possession)
Northern Zone: 10/4/2014 – 1/17/2015
Rest of the State: 10/4/2014 – 10/16/2014; 10/25/2014 – 1/25/2015
Urban Zone: 10/4/2014 – 10/16/2014; 11/1/2014 – 2/1/2015

Light Goose (20 bag/60 possession)
Northern/Urban Zone: 10/24/2014 – 1/17/2015; 2/18/2015 – 3/10/2015
Rest of the State: 10/22/2014 – 1/25/2015; 2/28/2015 – 3/10/2015

Snipe (8 bag/24 possession)
Season: 10/4/2014 – 1/17/2015

Falconry (3 bag/9 possession)
Season: 10/4/2014 – 1/17/2015

Swan (1 with permit; 2000 total permits)
Season: 10/4/2014 – 12/14/2014

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-9. Taking Waterfowl, Common Snipe and Coot.

R657-9-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, and in accordance with 50 CFR 20, 50 CFR 32.64 and 50 CFR 27.21, 2004 edition, which is incorporated by reference, the Wildlife Board has established this rule for taking waterfowl, Common snipe, and coot.

(2) Specific dates, areas, limits, requirements and other administrative details which may change annually are published in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking waterfowl, Common snipe and coot.

R657-9-4. Permit Applications for Swan.

(1) Swan permits will be issued pursuant to R657-62-~~23~~22

R657-9-7. ~~[Firearms]~~Authorized Weapons.

(1) Migratory game birds may be taken with a shotgun, crossbow or archery tackle, including a draw lock.

(2) Migratory game birds may not be taken with a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, ~~[crossbow, except as provided in Rule R657-12,]~~poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

(3) Migratory game birds may not be taken with a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells, except as authorized by the Wildlife Board and specified in the guidebook of the Wildlife Board for taking Waterfowl, Common snipe and Coot.

R657-9-9. Use of ~~[Firearms]~~Weapons on State Waterfowl Management Areas.

(1) A person may not possess a firearm, crossbow, or archery tackle on the following waterfowl management areas any time of the year except during the specified waterfowl hunting seasons or as authorized by the division:~~[(a) Box Elder County]~~ Bicknell Bottoms, Blue Lake, Brown's Park, Clear Lake, Desert Lake, Farmington Bay, Harold S. Crane, Howard Slough, Locomotive Springs, Mills Meadows, Ogden Bay, Powell Slough, Public Shooting Grounds, ~~[and]~~ Salt Creek[;]

~~[(b) Daggett County - Brown's Park;]~~

~~[(c) Davis County - Farmington Bay, Howard Slough, and Ogden Bay;]~~

~~[(d) Emery County - Desert Lake;]~~

~~[(e) Juab County - Mills Meadow;]~~

~~[(f) Millard County - Clear Lake, Topaz Slough;]~~

~~[(g) Sanpete County - Manti Meadows;][(h) Tooele County - Blue Lake and].~~

Stewart Lake, Timpie Springs[;]

~~[(i) Uintah County - Stewart Lake;]~~

~~[(j) Utah County - Powell Slough;][(k) Wayne County - Bicknell Bottoms;]~~ and

Topaz.

~~[(l) Weber County - Ogden Bay and Harold S. Crane.]~~

(2) During the waterfowl hunting seasons, a shotgun is the only firearm that may be in possession, except as provided in Rule R657-12.

(3) The firearm restrictions set forth in this section do not apply to a person licensed to carry a concealed weapon in accordance with Title 53, Chapter 5, Part 7 of the Utah Code, provided the person is not utilizing the concealed firearm to hunt or take wildlife.

R657-9-23. Custody of Birds of Another.

No person may receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required by Section R657-9-~~23~~21.

R657-9-28. Use of Dogs.

An individual may not use or permit a dog to harass, pursue, or take protected wildlife unless otherwise allowed for in the Wildlife Code, administrative rules issued under Wildlife Code, or a guidebook of the Wildlife Board.

~~(1)2~~ Dogs may be used to locate and retrieve ~~[migratory game birds]~~ turkey during open turkey hunting seasons.

~~(2)3~~ Dogs are ~~[not]~~ generally allowed on state wildlife management ~~[or]~~ and waterfowl management areas, ~~[except during open hunting seasons or as posted by the division]~~ subject to the following conditions.

(a) dogs are not allowed on the following state wildlife management areas and waterfowl management areas between March 10 and August 31 annually or as posted by the Division:

- (i) Annabella;
- (ii) Bear River Trenton Property Parcel;
- (iii) Bicknell Bottoms;
- (iv) Blue Lake;
- (v) Browns Park;
- (vi) Bud Phelps;
- (vii) Clear Lake;
- (viii) Desert Lake;
- (ix) Farmington Bay;
- (x) Harold S. Crane;
- (xi) Hatt's Ranch
- (xii) Howard Slough;
- (xiii) Huntington;
- (xiv) James Walter Fitzgerald;
- (xv) Kevin Conway;
- (xvi) Locomotive Springs;
- (xvii) Manti Meadows;
- (xviii) Mills Meadows;
- (xix) Montes Creek;
- (xx) Nephi;
- (xxi) Ogden Bay;
- (xxii) Pahvant;
- (xxiv) Public Shooting Grounds;
- (xxv) Redmond Marsh;
- (xxvi) Richfield;
- (xxvii) Roosevelt;

- (xxviii) Salt Creek;
- (xxix) Scott M. Matheson Wetland Preserve;
- (xxx) Steward Lake;
- (xxxi) Timpie Springs;
- (xxxii) Topaz Slough;
- (xxxiii) Vernal; and
- (xxxiv) Willard Bay.
- (b) The Division may establish special restrictions for Division-managed properties, such as on-leash requirements and temporary or locational closures for dogs, and post them at specific Division properties and at Regional offices;
- (c) Organized events or group gatherings of twenty-five (25) or more individuals that involve the use of dogs, such as dog training or trials, that occur on Division properties may require a special use permit as described in R657-28; and
- (d) Dog training may be allowed in designated areas on Lee Kay Center and Willard Bay WMA by the Division without a special use permit.

R657-9-30. Closed Areas.

- (1) A person may not trespass on state waterfowl management areas except during prescribed seasons, or for other activities as posted without prior permission from the division.
- (2) A person may not participate in activities that are posted as prohibited.
- (3) A person may not trespass, take, hunt, shoot at, or rally any waterfowl, snipe, or coot in the following specified areas:
 - (a) Antelope Island causeway – within 600 feet of either the north or south side.
 - (b) Brown's Park - That part adjacent to headquarters.
 - (c) Clear Lake - Spring Lake.
 - (d) Desert Lake - That part known as "Desert Lake."
 - (e) Farmington Bay - Headquarters and Learning center area, within 600 feet of dikes and roads accessible by motorized vehicles, the waterfowl rest area in the northwest quarter of unit one as posted.
 - (f) Ogden Bay - Headquarters area.
 - (g) Public Shooting Grounds - That part as posted lying above and adjacent to the Hull Lake Diversion Dike known as "Duck Lake."
 - (h) Salt Creek - That part as posted known as "Rest Lake."
 - (i) Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge - For information contact the refuge manager, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at (435) 723-5887. The entire refuge is closed to the hunting of snipe.
 - (j) Fish Springs and Ouray National Wildlife Refuges -Waterfowl hunters must register at Fish Springs refuge headquarters prior to hunting. Both refuges are closed to the hunting of swans[~~-, and Fish Springs is closed to the hunting of geese~~].
 - (k) State Parks
Hunting of any wildlife is prohibited within the boundaries of all state park areas except those designated open by appropriate signing as provided in Rule R651-614-4.
 - (l) Great Salt Lake Marina and adjacent areas as posted.
 - (m) Millard County
Gunnison Bend Reservoir and the inflow upstream to the Southerland Bridge.
 - (n) Salt Lake International Airport - Hunting and shooting prohibited as posted.

KEY: wildlife, birds, migratory birds, waterfowl

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: November 7, 2013

Notice of Continuation August 16, 2011

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-19; 23-14-18; 50 CFR part 20

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-3. Collection, Importation, Transportation, and Possession of Animals.

R657-3-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code of Utah and in accordance with a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Health, and the Division of Wildlife Resources, this rule governs the collection, importation, exportation, transportation, and possession of animals and their parts.

(2) Nothing in this rule shall be construed as superseding the provisions set forth in Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code of Utah. Any provision of this rule setting forth a criminal violation that overlaps a section of that title is provided in this rule only as a clarification or to provide greater specificity needed for the administration of the provisions of this rule.

(3) In addition to this rule, the Wildlife Board may allow the collection, importation, transportation, propagation and possession of species of animal species under specific circumstances as provided in Rules R657-4 through R657-6, R657-9 through R657-11, R657-13, R657-14, R657-16, R657-19, R657-20 through R657-22, R657-33, R657-37, R657-38, R657-40, R657-41, R657-43, R657-44, R657-46 and R657-52 through R657-60. Where a more specific provision has been adopted, that provision shall control.

(4) The importation, distribution, relocation, holding in captivity or possession of coyotes and raccoons in Utah is governed by the Agricultural and Wildlife Damage Prevention Board and is prohibited under Section 4-23-11 and Rule R657-14, except as permitted by the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food.

(5) This rule does not apply to division employees acting within the scope of their assigned duties.

(6) The English and scientific names used throughout this rule for animals are, at the time of publication, the most widely accepted names. The English and the scientific names of animals change, and the names used in this rule are to be considered synonymous with names in earlier use and with names that, at any time after publication of this rule, may supersede those used herein.

R657-3-7. Take of Nuisance Birds and Mammals.

(1)~~(a)~~ A person is not required to obtain a certificate of registration or a federal permit to ~~kill~~take American Crows, Black-billed Magpies, Cowbirds, House Sparrows, European Starlings, or Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves) when found damaging personal or real property, or when concentrated in such numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance, provided:

~~(i)~~(a) an attempt to control these species using non-lethal methods occurred prior to the use of lethal control;

~~(b)~~ strict observance of all local and other state and federal laws is adhered to:

~~(ii)~~(c) none of the birds killed pursuant to this section, nor their plumage, are sold or offered for sale; ~~and~~

~~(d)~~ only nontoxic shot or nontoxic bullets may be used to take American Crows, Black-billed Magpies or Cowbirds, excluding use of an air rifle, air pistol, or a 22 caliber rimfire firearm;

~~(e)~~ all parts of removed birds are disposed of at a landfill that accepts wildlife carcasses, burned or incinerated;

(f) these birds are not taken using bait, explosives or poison, and only taken on or over the threatened area; and

(g) poison may only be used by a certified pesticide applicator in accordance with the pesticide label.

~~(iii)2~~ [any]Any person ~~[killing]~~taking American Crow, Black-billed Magpies, or Cowbirds~~[, House Sparrows, European Starlings, or Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves)]~~ shall:

(A)a allow any federal warden or conservation officer unrestricted access over the premises where ~~[Black-billed Magpies, Cowbirds, House Sparrows, European Starlings, or Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves) are killed]~~these species are taken; and

(B)b furnish any information concerning the control operations to the division or federal official upon request.

~~(b)—A person may kill~~3) American Crows, Black-billed Magpies~~[, Cowbirds, House Sparrows, European Starlings, or Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves) by any means, excluding bait, explosives or poison, and only on or over the threatened area.]~~[(c) Black-billed Magpies, Cowbirds, House Sparrows, European Starlings, or Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves) killed pursuant to this section including their], or Cowbirds plumage and other parts may be retained for noncommercial, personal use~~;~~.

~~(d)—Black-billed Magpies, Cowbirds, House Sparrows, European Starlings, or Domestic Pigeons (Rock Doves) killed pursuant to this section and disposed of must be disposed of at a landfill that accepts wildlife carcasses or must be burned or incinerated.~~4) Any person or agency acting under this rule for American Crows, Black-billed Magpies, or Cowbirds, must provide to the appropriate Regional Migratory Bird Permit Office an annual report for each species taken;

(a) reports must be submitted by January 31st of the following year, and must include the following information:

(i) your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address;

(ii) the species and number of birds taken;

(iii) the months in which the birds were taken;

(iv) the county(ies) in which the birds were taken; and

(v) the general purpose for which the birds were taken, such as for protection of agriculture, human health and safety, property, or natural resources.

(e)5 This subsection incorporates Section 50 CFR 21.41, 21.42 and 21.43, ~~[2007,]~~2013, ed., by reference.

(2) A person may ~~[kill]~~take nongame mammals as provided in R657-19

KEY: wildlife, animal protection, import restrictions, zoological animals

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: Sept. 10, 2012

Notice of Continuation: March 5, 2013

Authorizing, and Implemented or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18; 23-14-19; 23-20-3; 23-13-14; 63G-7-101 et seq.



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Governor

SPENCER COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

April 22, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board/Regional RAC Members

FROM: Kirk I Smith
Hunter Education Program Coordinator

SUBJECT: Changes to Administrative Rule R657-68

The Division requests your consideration to implement the following rule R657-68, Utah Trial Hunting Authorization Program.

R657-68— This division recommends implementation of this rule. This rule implements the trial hunting authorization program established in Section 23-19-4.6 to expand public participation in hunting sports by allowing a person to temporarily obtain specified hunting licenses and permits and participate in hunting activities on a trial basis without first satisfying regular hunter education requirements.

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

R657-68. Trial Hunting Authorization.

R657-68-1. Purpose and Authority.

Pursuant to Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19, this rule implements the trial hunting authorization program established in Section 23-19-4.6 to expand public participation in hunting sports by allowing a person to temporarily obtain specified hunting licenses and permits and participate in hunting activities on a trial basis without first satisfying regular hunter education requirements.

R657-68-2. Definitions.

(1) Terms used in this rule are defined in Section 23-13-2.

(2) In addition:

(a) "Commercial hunting area" means a parcel of land where privately owned game birds are released under Section 23-17-6 and R657-22 for the purpose of allowing hunters to take them for a fee.

(b) "Division drawing" means a random selection process administered by the division or under its authority for the purpose of allocating hunting permits to the public.

(i) "Division drawing" includes the wildlife convention permit drawing administered under R657-55.

(c) "Multi-year license" means a license issued by the division under R657-45-3 that is valid for a period exceeding 365 days.

(d) "Supervising hunter" means a person qualified under R657-68-5(1)(b) that accompanies a trial hunter while participating in hunting activities.

(e) "Trial hunter" means a person who possesses a valid hunting license or permit obtained with a trial hunting authorization pursuant to this rule.

(f) "Trial hunting authorization" means a document issued by the division authorizing the holder to obtain and use specified hunting licenses and permits without having completed an approved hunter education course, subject to the qualifications, requirements and limitations set forth in this rule.

(g) "Written consent" means a written or typed document containing the:

(i) full name, date of birth, and home address of the trial hunter;

(ii) full name, home address, and phone number of the supervising hunter;

(iii) nature of the planned hunting activity and the general area where it will occur;

(iv) parent or legal guardian's consent for the:

(A) trial hunter to participate in the described hunting activity; and

(B) supervising hunter to transport and accompany the trial hunter in the activity;

and

(v) name, signature, and phone number of the authorizing parent or legal guardian.

R657-68-3. Obtaining a Trial Hunting Authorization.

(1) Upon application, the division may issue a trial hunting authorization to a resident or nonresident who:

(a) is 11 years of age or older at the time of application;

(b) is eligible under state and federal law to possess a firearm, muzzleloader, bow and arrow, or crossbow;

(c) is born after December 31, 1965 and has not completed an approved hunter education course; and

(d) successfully completes an abbreviated online course on trial hunting program requirements and hunting ethics and safety.

(2) The division may charge a handling fee for a trial hunting authorization.

R657-68-4. Effect and Term of a Trial Hunting Authorization.

(1)(a) A person who obtains a trial hunting authorization will receive an accompanying registration number to be used in lieu of a hunter education number when applying for or purchasing a hunting license or permit authorized in Subsection (b).

(b) A person who possesses a trial hunting authorization may apply for and purchase the following Utah hunting licenses and permits, notwithstanding the hunter education requirements in Section 23-19-11 and R657-23:

(i) hunting license, excluding multi-year licenses;

(ii) combination license, excluding multi-year licenses;

(iii) all hunting permits, excluding the following big game permits allocated through a division drawing:

(A) premium limited entry;

(B) limited entry;

(C) once-in-a-lifetime;

(D) cooperative wildlife management unit;

(E) dedicated hunter; and

(F) sportsman.

(2)(a) A trial hunting authorization:

(i) is valid for a single, three year term, except as provided in Subsection (6); and

(ii) shall immediately terminate upon the holder successfully completing an approved hunter education course, as provided in Section 23-19-11 and R657-23.

(b) A person may not obtain more than one trial hunting authorization in a lifetime.

(3) A trial hunting authorization shall be considered an "approved hunter education course" under Section 23-17-6(3)(a)(ii) for the exclusive and limited purpose of hunting on a commercial hunting area.

(a) A person who hunts on a commercial hunting area with a trial hunting authorization is subject to the requirements in R657-68-5.

(4)(a) A person who possesses a current trial hunting authorization may not participate in the Hunter Mentoring Program (R657-67) as a hunting mentor.

(b) A person who possesses a current trial hunting authorization may participate in the Hunter Mentoring Program (R657-67) as a qualifying minor, as hereafter provided.

(i) A trial hunting authorization will be recognized by the division as a "hunter education program" under R657-67-3(1)(b) for the exclusive and limited purpose of a qualifying minor participating in the Hunter Mentoring Program.

(ii) Notwithstanding the big game permit limitations in Subsection R657-68-4(1)(b)(iii), a qualifying minor possessing a current trial hunting authorization may share any big game permit authorized in the Hunter Mentoring Program rule.

(iii) Both the qualifying minor and hunting mentor are subject to the provisions of this rule and the Hunter Mentoring Program rule when a hunting permit is shared under R657-67-3 with a qualifying minor possessing a current trial hunting authorization.

(5) A person that applies for a big game hunting permit with a trial hunting authorization is subject to the minimum age requirements set forth in Section 23-19-22.

(6)(a) A trial hunting authorization that expires after a hunting permit application is

filed in a division drawing shall remain valid to the date the permit is issued for the exclusive purpose of receiving and using the permit.

(i) A trial hunting authorization extended under Subsection (6)(a) beyond the prescribed three year term may not be used during the extension period to obtain any other hunting license or permit.

(b) A person that obtains a license or permit with a valid trial hunting authorization that thereafter expires prior to the conclusion of the hunting season assigned to that license or permit may use the license or permit through the entire season, subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in R657-68-5.

(c) A person that successfully completes an approved hunter education course prior to using a hunting license or permit obtained with a trial hunting authorization is not subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in R657-68-5, provided proof of hunter education compliance is carried on the person while hunting.

R657-68-5. Using a Hunting License or Permit Obtained with a Trial Hunting Authorization.

(1) A person that obtains a hunting license or permit with a trial hunting authorization issued under R657-68-3 may use the license or permit, provided they are:

(a) 12 years of age or older; and

(b) accompanied, as defined in Section 23-20-20(1), in the field at all times while hunting by a resident or nonresident, supervising hunter who:

(i) is 21 years of age or older;

(ii) is eligible under state and federal law to possess a firearm and archery equipment;

(iii) possesses a current Utah hunting or combination license;

(iv) has satisfied applicable hunter education requirements under Section 23-19-11; and

(v) obtains the written consent of the parent or legal guardian when accompanying a trial hunter that is under 18 years of age.

R657-68-6. Supervising Hunter Responsibilities.

(1) A supervising hunter that escorts a trial hunter under R657-68-5(1)(b) shall:

(a) accompany, as defined in Section 23-20-20(1), the trial hunter at all times in the field while hunting;

(b) not accompany more than two trial hunters in the field at any point in time;

(c) provide the trial hunter direct supervision and instruction on hunting regulations, ethics and safety; and

(d) possess on their person a valid Utah hunting or combination license issued in their name; and

(e) possess the written consent of the parent or legal guardian when accompanying a trial hunter under 18 years of age.

R657-68-7. Violation and Discipline.

(1)(a) A trial hunter may not take protected wildlife under authority of a license or permit obtained with a trial hunting authorization, unless accompanied at all times in the field by a supervising hunter satisfying the requirements of R657-68-5(1)(b).

(b) A person may not take game birds on a commercial hunting area under authority of a trial hunting authorization, unless accompanied at all times in the field by a

supervising hunter satisfying the requirements of R657-68-5(1)(b).

(2) The division may refuse to issue a trial hunting authorization to a person that:

(a) fails to satisfy the eligibility criteria in R657-68-3 or R657-68-5(1)(a);

(b) provides false or misleading information in the application for a trial hunting authorization; or

(c) has engaged in conduct that results in a conviction, no contest plea, plea held in abeyance, or diversion agreement to a:

(i) violation of the Wildlife Resources Code, or the rules and guidebooks of the Wildlife Board; or

(ii) crime that when considered with the privileges granted in a trial hunting authorization bears a reasonable relationship to the person's ability or willingness to safely and responsibly participate in the program.

(3) A hunting license or permit is invalid when obtained with a trial hunting authorization that is acquired by fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.

KEY: wildlife, game laws, hunter education

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment: New Rule

Notice of Continuation: New Rule

Authorizing, and Implementing or Interpreted Law: 23-14-18, 23-14-19, 23-19-4.6

Strawberry Reservoir Fishery Management Plan

3/03/2014

The following management plan drafted for Strawberry Reservoir was developed by the Friends of Strawberry Valley (FOSV) working group. During the plan development process, the following 18 different entities were represented:

- US Forest Service
- Central Utah Water Conservancy District
- Wasatch County Planning Office
- Wasatch County Public Lands Committee
- Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Utah Division of Water Quality
- Strawberry Water Users
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Strawberry Bay Marina
- High Country Fly Fishers
- Trout Unlimited
- Strawberry Anglers Association
- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
- Fish Tech Outfitters
- Blue Ribbon Fisheries Advisory Council
- Habitat Council
- Strawberry Land Owners
- Friends of Strawberry Valley

Data from UDWR angler opinion surveys conducted during 2012, and the biological data obtained from the Strawberry Reservoir Special Project Office of the UDWR were also used to help guide the discussion and provide a basis to build the plan upon. Due to the high profile nature of Strawberry Reservoir, it was imperative that considerable public input from the opinion surveys, and the diversity of the FOSV group, be allowed to drive the ultimate direction that this plan would take. The previous plan was developed in 1987, and was in need of being updated with the most current biological data and public opinions. The 1987 plan was successful in building one of the most important sport fisheries in the Western United States, which receives as much as 1.5 million angler hours annually. In 2006, the Strawberry Project received a distinguished award as the “Outstanding Project of the Year” in North America by the National American Fisheries Society, further validating the success of the program at Strawberry Reservoir. It is the intent of the FOSV working group that the following plan serve as the guiding document to help managers maintain, and even improve, this important world class fishery into the foreseeable future.

Illegal introductions of aquatic species is a serious problem facing most fisheries. Illegal introductions have occurred, or have been attempted, at Strawberry in the past (Utah chub, smallmouth bass, and others). Fish species illegally introduced into Strawberry Reservoir will not be managed for or promoted, and appropriate actions will be taken on a case by case basis.

The following Strawberry management plan is comprised of two major components: Goals and Objectives. The “Goals” are the basic concepts that the group decided upon as overriding visions of what is desired from the fishery at Strawberry Reservoir. The “Objectives” outline more specific outputs that need to be met to provide the desired components to the fishery. In addition, a “Discussion and Strategies” section provides more detail and background validating the reasoning for each Goal and Objective, and the “Strategies” are a list of possible tools or methods to obtain the related objective. It is important to note that the listed strategies are not a comprehensive list, nor do they provide a checklist, or stepwise approach, to meeting the

objectives. They are simply a list of potential tools that should be considered in meeting the Goals and Objectives.

Strawberry Reservoir Management Plan

Guiding Statement

“Protect and enhance the unique, year-round angling experience that Strawberry Reservoir provides as one of Utah’s premier coldwater fisheries”

Goals

1. Prevent chubs from negatively impacting the sport fishery at Strawberry Reservoir

Objectives

1. Maintain minimum daily growth rate of at least 0.8mm per day in length for age I cutthroat trout (June-October)
2. Limit total catch rate of chubs sampled in gillnet surveys to 1.0/net-hour
3. Maintain number of 18” or greater cutthroat trout sampled in gillnet surveys at 0.20/net-hour

2. Ensure a high quality, diverse fishery and associated habitats

Objectives

1. Meet or exceed water quality standards for Strawberry Reservoir and tributaries within 10 years
2. Maintain overall gamefish catch rate of 0.5 fish per hour
3. Maintain average size of cutthroat trout in gillnets at 18”
4. Maintain average size of rainbows in the creel at 16”

3. Ensure a variety of fishing experiences

Objectives

1. Maintain fishing pressure at 1.2 million angler-hours annually
2. Maintain at least 200,000 ice angler-hours per year
3. Explore potential for increasing fishing opportunities on Strawberry tributaries
4. Enhance non-angling opportunities

4. Improve natural reproduction of cutthroat trout and Kokanee salmon populations

Objectives

1. Increase average annual recruitment of Age I cutthroat trout to 150,000 fish per year within 10 years
2. Explore opportunities to expand kokanee salmon population and natural recruitment

**A formal review of this plan should be conducted in 2018 and every five years thereafter to coincide with 5 year rotation of Creel Surveys and the Statewide Angler Surveys.*

Discussion and Strategies

Goal #1 - Prevent chubs from negatively impacting the sport fishery at Strawberry

Reservoir - *Utah chubs have had negative impacts on the fishery at Strawberry Reservoir during the past. Strawberry has been chemically treated on two occasions in the past (1961 and 1990) in attempts to remove these unwanted introduced species. It is critical to the overall health of the sport fishery that we control the Utah chub populations to try to avoid future problems including the need for expensive and difficult chemical treatments. Proper management of the predatory Bear Lake cutthroat has provided sustainable top down control of the Utah chub populations since 2003, thereby providing a template for control into the future.*

Objectives

1. Maintain minimum daily growth rate of at least 0.8mm per day for age I cutthroat trout (June-October) ¹ – *Daily summer growth rates of age I cutthroat have averaged roughly 0.8mm per day during the years when they have provided adequate chub control. It is critical to maintain good growth rates during the first year for the cutthroat to ensure sufficient survival and recruitment to adult sizes for chub control.*

Strategies

- a. Monitor zooplankton for composition, abundance, and size – *Current zooplankton sampling includes tows taken during the second week of February, third week of May, first week of August, and the second week of October. The May and October sampling dates coincide with the spring and fall stocking to assess what is available during these periods for stocked fish, and compare it to what is seen in fish diets from gillnetting. Data collected will be used to assess whether significant changes in zooplankton abundance and/or size could be affecting growth and survival of cutthroat trout.*
 - b. Monitor water quality annually to assess limitations in growth and survival for cutthroat – *Basic water quality parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH will be monitored in the water column in conjunction with zooplankton sampling to assess conditions and potential limitations to survival and growth for the cutthroat and other fish. Receiving water will also be monitored during stocking events to ensure that stocked fish are being placed into favorable conditions.*
 - c. Implement water quality improvement recommendations contained in “Strawberry Valley Watershed Restoration Report” (USDA, 2004a) and Strawberry Valley Watershed Report Action Plan (USDA, 2004b).
 - d. Monitor interaction of cutthroat trout with other species – *It is imperative that other fish species either currently found in Strawberry, or to be introduced, do not adversely affect the cutthroat trout populations which have proven an effective biological control on Utah chubs in Strawberry Reservoir. Any potential predatory and/or competitive interactions with other game fish should be closely monitored and adjusted to ensure adequate growth and survival in the cutthroat populations to provide the needed chub control.*
2. Limit total catch rate of chubs sampled in gillnet surveys to 1.0/net-hour ¹ – *Since 2003 it has been shown that Utah chub numbers can be held below this threshold level, while also maintaining a quality sport fishery. The ability to keep Utah chub numbers below this level will help ensure that a quality sport fishery can be sustained into the future.*

Strategies

- a. Adjust cutthroat trout population and age structure to control chubs – *Since 2003 it has been shown that the Bear Lake cutthroat have been extremely effective at controlling Utah chub populations in Strawberry Reservoir. During a diet study conducted in 2005 it was estimated that cutthroat ate 64 million chubs during the year. However,*

adjustments in the management of the cutthroat have been necessary to provide the needed population structure to obtain chub control. In 2003, special regulations (a slot limit eliminating harvest from 15" to 22") controlling the harvest of cutthroat were placed on the reservoir and have provided more, and larger sized, cutthroat needed to effectively control the chub populations. Adjustments to numbers, size, and timing of stocked fish have also been necessary to provide the cutthroat numbers and age/size structure needed to control chubs. Future adjustments may also be needed to make sure that cutthroat populations remain robust enough to control chub populations.

- b. *Consider commercial harvest of chubs – Commercial harvesters have taken Utah chub from Strawberry Reservoir in the past, particularly when the numbers of small chubs were high. These smaller chubs were primarily sold as bait. During 2004 (right in the peak of chub numbers since the 1990 treatment) the harvester sold 7,798 packages of a dozen chubs (93,576 chubs) harvested from Strawberry. This number pales in comparison to the estimated 64 million eaten by cutthroat predators the next year in the diet study, but does offer some help in chub control, and provided a viable commercial operation at the time. Currently these harvesters are not taking fish from Strawberry, largely because numbers of smaller chubs have diminished due to cutthroat predation, making baitfish harvesting there less profitable than elsewhere. If chub numbers increase, or another market opens up for a beneficial use of the chubs available in Strawberry, allowing these operations should be considered. However, making sure that the harvesting operations do not negatively impact sportfishing in any way is paramount. In addition, it would be crucial to make sure that these operations would not spread any unwanted aquatic invasive species or diseases through equipment being used elsewhere and actively being transported to other bodies of water.*
 - c. *Consider spot treatment for removal of chubs – If Utah chub numbers increase to a point where the current biological control provided through cutthroat predation is not keeping up with their expansion, then it may be advantageous to consider chemical spot treatments to kill off large concentrations of chubs, such as spawning concentrations. It is important to realize that spot treatments alone would not be completely effective at controlling chubs by itself, and that the biological control mechanism currently provided through cutthroat predation is more effective in the long-term. However, spot treatments may allow a short-term control mechanism that may help get the system back in balance if cutthroat populations suffer, and chubs get a stronger foothold. Spot treatments with chemicals would obviously have many unwanted side effects through its non-selective nature, and many sport fish could also be killed. It would be critical to run smaller test runs to determine methods and timing that would minimize the unwanted side effects.*
 - d. *Consider introducing another sterile salmonid as a predator (while maintaining the rainbow fishery) – If the Bear Lake cutthroat currently being used as a biological control mechanism to reduce chub numbers proves ineffective at some point, other salmonid species could also be considered in addition to the Bear Lake cutthroat, or as a replacement if necessitated. The issue of sterility is important if introgression with cutthroat is likely, and/or if a positive control on the newly introduced population needs to be maintained, particularly during initial trial periods. However, the Bear Lake cutthroat have proven to be extremely effective for the past 10 years, and nothing at this point would dictate a need for a change. In addition, current public opinion dictates that the rainbow fishery be continued at Strawberry Reservoir, thereby negating the substitution of another species for the rainbows as a strong possibility.*
3. *Maintain number of 18" or greater cutthroat trout sampled in gillnet surveys at 0.20/net-hour¹ – In addition to the needed chub control provided by the cutthroat, the anglers at Strawberry Reservoir have become accustomed to catching numerous large cutthroat, and would*

like to see that continue. During the mid to late 2000's we were able to provide large numbers of cutthroat over 18", and the gillnet catch rates of these fish during that period provided the benchmark of 0.20/net hour. When cutthroat over 18" were present at or above the defined catch rate, chub numbers were either decreasing or stable.

Strategies

- a. Adjust size restrictions and harvest limits on cutthroat – *In order to maintain relatively high numbers of the large (18" and larger) cutthroat in Strawberry Reservoir, care should be taken in adjusting harvest limits based on size and numbers. Strawberry continues to be driven by harvest, and unless overall angling practices/expectations change dramatically, many anglers will continue to harvest as many fish as the regulations will allow. With the considerable pressure that Strawberry Reservoir receives, legal harvest can, and will, quickly deplete cutthroat populations. The current slot limit allowing two cutthroat under 15" and one over 22" has been very effective at providing the 0.20/net hour catch rate of 18" or larger cutthroat for most years since 2003. This level of larger cutthroat has been effective at keeping chub numbers under control.*
- b. Promote voluntary catch and release – *Since the 1990 treatment of Strawberry Reservoir the UDWR has promoted voluntarily releasing cutthroat of any size in an effort to limit the harvest of this fish. It is difficult to quantify the effect of this program, but by continuing to send the same message, the angling public will hopefully further understand the importance of the cutthroat to the biological health of the system, and also reap the benefits of having numerous large cutthroat to catch.*
- c. Adjust stocking of cutthroat trout – *Stocking is one of the most important management tools that can be manipulated at Strawberry Reservoir. Since harvest continues to be an important aspect of the fishery for as many as 50% of the anglers at Strawberry, we have to make sure that stocking keeps up with the demand. Increasing stocking of one species will likely decrease the stocking of other species. Hatcheries are limited in the pounds that can be produced, as well as by funding. If all things remain equal, increased stocking of one species will reduce the potential to stock other species.*
- d. Adjust timing, size, and location of cutthroat trout stocking to optimize survival and growth- *Not only are the numbers stocked important, but size of stocked fish and timing of the stocks can also be critical to survival. For instance, a study conducted in 2008 indicated that cutthroat stocked at 8" had a survival rate 4 times higher than those stocked at 7". Recent information also indicates that stocking the cutthroat early in the year (May as opposed to late June-July) may also improve survival of the stocked cutthroat. Location, such as stocking in the tributaries, may also prove to be important in getting returns to tributaries to promote natural reproduction, and barge stocking in appropriate locations to promote survival may also greatly improve survival. Obviously, there are many more potential alterations to the stocking program at Strawberry that could be tested in attempts to improve survival. It is important that managers continue to look for methods to help boost survival of stocked fish in Strawberry.*
- e. Increased law enforcement emphasis – *For many years one of the most common suggestions/complaints in public opinion surveys conducted at Strawberry Reservoir have been regarding law enforcement presence at Strawberry Reservoir, with most people indicating that they would like to see an increase in law enforcement presence. With the special restrictions placed on cutthroat trout in Strawberry, and the high levels of pressure Strawberry receives, it is important that an adequate law enforcement presence be maintained. The most recent compliance data tallied from road blocks indicates that 96% – 98% of the anglers are not in violation of overlimits/slot limits.*

However, there is always the need for a certain level of law enforcement presence to maintain, or even improve, those numbers.

Goal #2 - Ensure a high quality, diverse fishery and associated habitats – *One of the main purposes of this goal is to define the fishery that anglers have come to expect, and want to continue to see, at Strawberry Reservoir. It is also important to maintain, and improve, the associated habitats that are critical to the fishery at Strawberry.*

Objectives

1. Meet or exceed water quality standards for Strawberry Reservoir and tributaries within 10 years - *Division of Environmental Quality (UDEQ) specifies appropriate water uses to be achieved and protected². These include for Strawberry Reservoir and tributaries the following uses: domestic/drinking water (1C), infrequent primary contact recreation (2B), cold water fishery/aquatic life (3A), and agriculture (4). High total phosphorus (TP) and low dissolved oxygen (DO) concentrations in Strawberry Reservoir have exceeded water quality standards protective of aquatic life. A restoration plan (Total Maximum Daily Load – TMDL) was approved by EPA in 2007 to address these impairments. The study identified potential sources and targeted endpoints to protect aquatic life. These targets are a 5% reduction in TP loading (15,100 lbs TP/year), DO with greater than 50% of the water column above 4 mg/L, average trophic state index of 40-50, and TP concentrations of 0.025 mg/L in-lake and 0.05 mg/L in the tributaries. No fish kills and decrease of blue-green algae in the system serve as the biological endpoints. Current temperature trends suggest possible exceedance of the water quality standard but have not been listed on Utah's 303(d) of Impaired Waterbodies. Watershed planning documents have identified project work that can achieve the restoration goals and much of this work has been completed or is being pursued. The remaining project work should be prioritized.*

Strategies

- a. Implement water quality improvement recommendations contained in “Strawberry Watershed Restoration Report, Strawberry Watershed Restoration Report Action Plan and Strawberry Reservoir TMDL Study (UDEQ, 2005).
 - b. Continue Restoration Efforts to improve riparian habitat, decrease TP, and increase DO.
2. Maintain overall gamefish catch rate of 0.5 fish per hour³ – *Since the 1990 treatment, Strawberry Reservoir has sustained an average angler catch rate of 0.47 fish per hour. The last three surveys conducted in 2001, 2006, and 2011 have averaged just over 0.50 fish per hour, providing the benchmark for this objective. The overall catch rate should currently be a combination of cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon. During the last four creel surveys conducted in 1996, 2001, 2006, and 2011 cutthroat have averaged 71% of the catch, rainbows 28%, and kokanee 1%, again possibly providing initial benchmarks for catch rates among species.*

Strategies

- a. Continue year-long comprehensive creel surveys at least every five years – *Since 1996, year-long comprehensive creel surveys have been conducted every five years at Strawberry. Supplemental funding from a creel fund housed in the Salt Lake Office of the UDWR for each of these intensive surveys has been needed. A five year rotation for these surveys would be considered a minimum as long as the needed funding remains intact. For obvious reasons, more frequent surveys would be advantageous to stay abreast of catch rates and creel patterns. If funding is available, it would be recommended that the frequency of the surveys be increased to once every 3 years.*
- b. Consider alternative survey techniques to obtain interim catch rate assessments – *The following ideas for obtaining catch rates are intended to help fill in the gaps between the five year comprehensive surveys. It is important to understand that other methods for*

obtaining catch rates are not going to be directly comparable to the comprehensive surveys, or even among each other, as the methods easily bias the data obtained. However, they can still provide important information on their own, particularly once enough data is obtained to develop a trend line with each type of survey.

- i. *Conduct limited creel survey annually – During previous years, limited catch rate creel surveys have been conducted on an opportunistic schedule. These types of surveys may not be as robust and statistically sound as the year-long surveys; however, they do provide some basic catch information. These surveys are typically limited to seasons when additional seasonal help is available, and to times when the normal Strawberry Project work load is lighter.*
 - ii. *Voluntary reporting (Strawberry fishing app) – With the increase in use of mobile “smart phone” devices, it would be logistically easy to develop a networked application (app) that anglers could use to enter daily fishing information. The biggest limitations of this type of survey are that they are limited to only those who have the ability to utilize the app, and to those types of anglers who are willing to voluntarily participate. Again, these types of data would likely have to stand on their own as they would not be directly comparable to other types of surveys; however, they could show trends in catch rates.*
 - iii. *Explore other options – Other options may very well exist, or become available, to allow for angler catch rate data to be collected.*
3. *Maintain average size of cutthroat trout in gillnets at 18”¹ – From 2004 to 2013 (years following the 2003 slot limit on cutthroat), cutthroat total length has averaged 17.6” at Strawberry Reservoir. Recent angler surveys have concluded that the majority (nearly 60%) of anglers expect/desire to catch fish 16” and larger at Strawberry. These same surveys also indicated that 73% of all anglers at Strawberry would like to see some “quality” aspect to the regulations to provide larger fish. The current slot limit protecting cutthroat from 15” to 22” has been effective at producing numerous large cutthroat that many anglers have come to expect and desire in the fishery. In addition, during the years that gill net catches of cutthroat have averaged 18” or greater, are the years we have experienced the most effective chub control. Since the average size of cutthroat harvested at Strawberry are not representative of actual population size structure due to the slot limit, size in gillnets is the best way to track success of this objective.*

Strategies

- a. *See strategies for Goal 1, Objective 3*
4. *Maintain average size of rainbows in the creel at 16”³ – Since the treatment in 1990, rainbows in the creel at Strawberry Reservoir have averaged 15.5”. Again, recent surveys indicated that anglers at Strawberry expect to catch, and harvest, fish over 16” to satisfy their desires. Roughly half of the anglers also indicated that they still desire to have a consistent harvest component to the fishery at Strawberry Reservoir. The rainbows at Strawberry have provided the main harvest component in recent years due to the restrictive nature of the current slot limit on cutthroat. Surveys have also long documented that rainbow trout remain a favorite component of the catch at Strawberry. Since there are currently no size restrictions on rainbow harvest, the size of rainbows in the creel may be a more relevant way of tracking the success of this objective than size in the gillnets.*

Strategies

- a. *Continue stocking 8” rainbows and adjust size and timing as necessary – Studies conducted on cutthroat in 2008, and results of stocking 8” fish since then, have indicated that the stocking of 8” rainbows has been very effective at improving stocking survival and providing a quality rainbow fishery. It is critical to continually monitor the effectiveness of the stocks, and future adjustments in size and timing of these stocks may be needed.*

- b. If average size drops due to competition, implement strategies for chub control found in Goal 1, Objective 2 – *Competition between rainbow trout and Utah chubs has been well documented at Strawberry Reservoir (and elsewhere), and has prompted the past rotenone treatments there. If chubs become a problem again in the fishery, it will likely first be seen in rainbow growth and survival.*
- c. Publicize growth rate as a way to promote catch and release – *Growth rates of the rainbows at Strawberry are very good, and a slight change in the harvest patterns of anglers can have huge impacts on survival and size potential of the fish there. Strawberry continues to be driven by harvest and the promoting of voluntary catch and release with the promise of larger rainbows in the near future may alter some anglers harvest habits. The effectiveness of these types of programs is difficult to quantify, but they may help without much additional effort or cost.*
- d. Adjust limits (size and/or numbers) as needed – *Since Strawberry Reservoir continues to be largely driven by harvest (anglers control populations of sportfish), restricting harvest remains one of the most effective means of controlling size and numbers of sportfish available. However, harvest in general remains important to roughly half of the anglers at Strawberry, and severe reductions in harvest potential will impact those anglers and their desire to fish at Strawberry Reservoir. Care should be taken to ensure that restrictions designed to increase the average size of the rainbows does not overly restrict the harvest potential at Strawberry Reservoir.*

Goal #3 - Ensure a variety of fishing experiences – *Strawberry Reservoir receives as much as 1.5 million angler hours on an annual basis, and remains one of the top sport fisheries in Utah. It is critical that a fishery be provided at Strawberry that will appeal to the largest group of anglers possible, which means providing a variety of opportunities. In addition, it is important to make sure that all anglers, and potential anglers, are aware of the opportunities available.*

Objectives

- 1. Maintain fishing pressure at 1.2 million angler-hours annually ³ – *Strawberry has sustained an average annual fishing pressure of just over 1.1 million angler hours since the 1990 treatment, providing an obtainable, and sustainable, goal for pressure.*

Strategies

- a. Focus on new recruitment – *Organize and promote activities and events that focus on recruiting new anglers of all ages to the sport (e.g. Cast For Kids).*
- b. Advertisement/outreach – *Continue, and possibly increase effort, in advertising events and opportunities such as the following non-comprehensive list:*
 - i. *Disabled veterans fishing event, ice fishing clinics, etc.*
 - ii. *Publicize rainbow availability and size*
 - iii. *Out of state campaign*
 - iv. *Quality aspect (cutthroat trout)*
 - v. *Promote kokanee angling opportunities*
 - vi. *Publicize and promote watchable wildlife events (e.g. kokanee and cutthroat events)*
 - vii. *Web based weather and wildlife cameras*
- c. Maps/Apps – *Provide web based maps and mobile apps that link anglers to all the available information to fishing and recreating at Strawberry Reservoir. Much of the groundwork for these efforts has been laid with current products produced for the Blue Ribbon Fisheries interactive map. It may be possible to expand on this concept and keep it current.*

- d. Provide the quality fishery to draw people (Objective 2, Goals 3 and 4) – *If a quality fishery can be developed, it is likely that people will use it. The strategies outlined above provide the means to help accomplish this.*
 - e. Improve/maintain fishing-related recreational experiences at Strawberry – *For many, fishing at Strawberry Reservoir means more than just catching fish. Camping, ATV riding, hunting, wildlife viewing, and aesthetics/setting are also important to the overall experience. It is important that managers recognize the interactions of these activities, and that a management decision at one level can affect other areas as well. It is critical that all resource managers maintain a high level of cooperation and communication in the Strawberry Valley to ensure that all types of recreational activities are considered in management decisions.*
 - f. Make Strawberry more user friendly – *Make sure that fishing at Strawberry Reservoir does not seem too difficult or inconvenient for the largest possible group of potential anglers. Information availability, opportunities, fees, regulations, and facilities need to be geared towards making people comfortable with the experience. It is of obvious importance that good working relationships be developed and maintained with all partnering agencies and groups to make sure that the needs of users are being met.*
 - g. Explore opportunities for increasing and/or improving access for shore fishing (general public and disabled anglers) and for launching personal watercraft, consistent with Forest Plan – *Opportunities to increase and/or improve shore angling and use of small personal watercraft (e.g. float tubes and personal pontoon crafts) need to be explored. Strawberry continues to be a boat oriented fishery during ice-off seasons, and expansion of shore angling and non-motorized watercraft opportunities (including dissemination of information) has great potential to draw more anglers to Strawberry. Included in this concept, is the idea of providing facilities for disabled anglers. Any expansion and/or improvement would obviously have to be taken through the proper channels (typically including the Forest Service), as they are the land managers over the vast majority of the land around Strawberry Reservoir.*
2. Maintain at least 200,000 ice angler-hours per year ³ – *During the last three creel surveys since 2001, Strawberry has sustained nearly 180,000 hours of ice fishing pressure. Ice angling was identified as one of the most promising areas to expand angling opportunities to a wide array of the public due to the lack of a need for expensive equipment (e.g. boat) and because Strawberry Reservoir could sustain more pressure provided that adequate access can be maintained and even expanded upon. Opportunities to expand and promote ice fishing opportunities should be taken.*

Strategies

- a. Improve access and maintain access authorizations – *Currently UDWR coordinates with Utah State Parks and Recreation, Strawberry Bay Marina, and the US Forest Service to keep angler parking areas open during the winter. The parking areas currently provided during the winter are often filled to capacity on busy days, and any efforts to expand ice angling opportunities would need to address access.*
- b. Plowing and parking improvements – *Look for opportunities to improve plowing/parking areas. Possibly consider changes such as providing lots for vehicle with no trailers to provide more parking space. Look for other ways to provide the best possible service with our plowing efforts.*
- c. Explore opportunities to increase facilities to support more ice fishing (parking, restrooms, trash, etc.) - *Look for opportunities to increase parking areas such as development of the proposed Chicken Creek East boat ramp and parking area. If currently proposed developments (or others) that provide winter access come to fruition, look for opportunities to provide ice angler parking areas in conjunction with their*

efforts. Any expansion of parking/access would obviously need to address other facilities such as restroom and trash services.

- d. *Promote opportunities through advertising and events – Recent public ice angling events have met with tremendous success, and similar events that promote the sport to the new angler should be explored.*
 - e. *Explore funding opportunities for above - Annually the UDWR is obligated to compete for funding to help pay for snow removal efforts at angler parking areas. This funding is in jeopardy of not being funded on any given year. If this funding were to not get approved for any reason, ice angling opportunities would be severely limited at Strawberry Reservoir. Managers should always be looking for additional opportunities to help fund, and continue, this vital service.*
3. *Explore potential for increasing fishing opportunities on Strawberry tributaries – Opportunities to fish the tributaries to Strawberry Reservoir have been much more limited than they were prior to the 1990 treatment. Spawning closures, catch and release restrictions, and special gear restrictions have been used to protect spawning and rearing of naturally produced fish in the tributaries. And though many of these goals are still relevant (see Goal 4), managers should explore the potential to promote and expand fishing opportunities on the tributaries.*

Strategies

- a. *Stream restoration/improve fishery – See Goal 4*
 - b. *Promotion – Promote current and future opportunities for fishing the tributaries. Provide information to anglers through a variety of means (e.g. trailhead signs, maps, etc.).*
 - c. *Explore the potential for loosening regulations – In some instances it may be possible to allow more fishing opportunities on certain streams, or during certain seasons, when and where the impacts to spawning and recruitment will be minimal. Careful monitoring of potential additional impacts to spawning and recruitment should be incorporated into any loosening of the regulations on the tributaries.*
 - d. *Monitor tributaries (fish populations and water quality) – Continue careful monitoring of fish populations and water quality valley-wide, including agreements between UDWR and UDWQ (EPA QAPP – Strawberry River Phase IV, 2012). This information would provide the basis for ascertaining the possibilities of allowing more angling opportunities on the tributaries.*
4. *Enhance non-angling opportunities – Not all visitors who come to the Strawberry Valley are anglers. Through good education and information dissemination, non-anglers can also gain an appreciation for the fishery resources at Strawberry, and may potentially gain an interest in angling through these activities. With the connection of the UDWR fish trap facility to the USFS Visitors Center at Strawberry, there is a unique opportunity to connect many non-anglers to the area and resources.*

Strategies

- a. *Fish viewing events – Continue an emphasis on activities such as the Kokanee and cutthroat viewing days. Thousands of people come through the Visitors Center and fish trap each year to see the spawning fish. Other opportunities should also be explored to connect people at large with the resources. Providing online viewing opportunities should also be considered. It is imperative that a good relationship be fostered with the USFS, and that the facilities (such as the boardwalk and trap) are maintained to keep these valuable activities ongoing.*
- b. *Educational tours – Continue providing educational tours for a wide variety of people. Each year numerous tours/lectures on spawning and egg taking operations, stream restoration, natural resources and management, and fishing have been conducted for groups ranging from grade school children to the Governor, US Senators and heads of*

Federal agencies. Such activities provide valuable information and education that help not only in promoting the resource at Strawberry Reservoir, but in a broader sense as well.

Goal #4 - Improve natural reproduction of cutthroat trout and Kokanee salmon populations –
Promoting natural reproduction at Strawberry Reservoir has been one of the primary goals since prior to the 1990 treatment. The 1987 management plan for Strawberry identified some lofty goals of natural reproduction (10 million fry produced each year) that were difficult for managers to track the progress of. However, the general idea of enhancing natural reproduction remains a high priority, largely based on the data that on average 32% of the cutthroat and 43% of the kokanee in Strawberry have come from natural reproduction since 1993.

Objectives

1. Increase average annual recruitment of Age I cutthroat trout to 150,000 fish per year within 10 years ¹ – *Since the 1990 treatment, we have estimated that there have been nearly 110,000 age I cutthroat in the reservoir (based on population modeling from the fall gillnets) from natural recruitment. Efforts to promote stream spawning success are intended to increase spawning and recruitment potential, thereby justifying the goal to increase the average annual production.*

Strategies

- a. Research and mitigate pelican impacts – *Pelicans have been shown to limit spawning activity in many streams at Strawberry Reservoir, as well as impacting fish populations through direct predation. Research efforts are currently underway to help quantify these affects, and to help provide a baseline of data to explore opportunities to either control pelican populations at Strawberry, or provide ideas for additional mitigation measures. Efforts to mitigate and control pelican impacts need to be continued and expanded upon as needed, and as possible. Currently, continual hazing and limited physical barriers (string and flagging) where possible have been the most effective methods of deterring pelican activity on spawning tributaries. However, physical hazing is limited by its time consuming nature, and physical barriers have their inherent limitations as well. Other methods should continue to be explored.*
- b. Stream restoration – *Millions of dollars, and a considerable amount of effort, have been spent in attempts to rehabilitate degraded tributaries in the Strawberry Valley since 1990. It is impossible to determine how much affect many of the past efforts have had in increasing natural reproduction, but current efforts have a monitoring component included that should help quantify the effects of the restoration efforts. However, it does seem intuitive, and is backed by considerable research, that certain improvements to stream quality does have a positive impact on spawning and recruitment of fish. Efforts to improve stream quality for fish spawning and recruitment should be continued.*
- c. Improve/increase water flows – *Water is obviously one of the most limiting factors in fish populations. If options arise where water flow regimes can be improved they should be pursued. For instance, studies are currently being undertaken to find out why some valley streams dry up during late summer. Once dewatered reaches are identified and causes of water loss are found, measures to reverse these causes should be undertaken if feasible.*
- d. Promote stream spawning – *Managers should look for opportunities to promote stream spawning activity. For instance, allowing cutthroat to bypass the trap during spawning migrations, looking into imprinting strategies, and stocking the streams to promote natural imprinting of stocked fish should all be considered. Continual monitoring and removal of fish migration barriers, such as beaver dams, is of obvious importance as well.*
- e. Research potential of tributaries to produce fish (potential of each tributary) – *Efforts should be taken to try and quantify the reproductive potential of the tributaries of the*

Strawberry Valley. This information would be critical in identifying limiting factors as well as the overall potential for natural reproduction.

2. Explore opportunities to expand kokanee salmon population and natural recruitment – *Kokanee salmon currently do not comprise a large proportion of the sport fish species assemblage at Strawberry Reservoir based on numbers found in the creel (3% to 4% of the harvest in the creel). However, many anglers would like to see the kokanee program expanded at Strawberry. Not only do kokanee provide an important sport fish opportunity at Strawberry, but they also provide an extremely valuable watchable wildlife opportunity (see Goal 3, Objective 4).*

Strategies

- a. Pursue lake spawning strains – *Most of the past effort in establishing kokanee populations at Strawberry Reservoir have been focused on stream spawning fish, largely due to the difficulty in obtaining lake spawned eggs, and the difficulties in determining how much lake spawning takes place. Efforts should be pursued to obtain eggs from lake spawning fish at Flaming Gorge (or elsewhere) to try and establish populations of strains of kokanee that have a lake spawning propensity.*
- b. Investigate/monitor lake spawning activity currently in place – *In conjunction with efforts to establish lake spawning kokanee populations in Strawberry Reservoir, being able to determine the amount, and success, of lake spawning activity currently in place is also important. It is possible that considerable lake spawning occurs, or it could be possible that lake spawning will likely not be very successful in Strawberry Reservoir due to unforeseen variables. It is critical that we understand the potential, and the successes and failures, of such efforts to determine how much money and effort should be expended in their pursuit.*
- c. Explore stocking strategies – *Currently most of the kokanee stocked into Strawberry are stocked in late April or May, and they are stocked into the tributaries to promote returns to those tributaries. In recent years managers have stocked some of the kokanee directly into the reservoir in certain areas to try and promote lake spawning activity. In addition, some kokanee have been stocked in January as swim-up fry. The level of success of each of these varied methods and strategies has been difficult to quantify. Managers should look for ways to try and determine the successes and failures of various stocking strategies to try and maximize the returns on stocked kokanee.*
- d. Annual reservoir monitoring – *Currently, managers do not have an effective method of monitoring kokanee populations in Strawberry Reservoir. Gillnetting (even in the open water) has proven to be ineffective at following kokanee population trends. Recent research has indicated that hydroacoustics monitoring could prove to be an effective method of tracking kokanee population in Strawberry; however, a means of determining species composition (such as mid-water trawling) must also be conducted in conjunction with the hydroacoustics. The UDWR does not currently have access to a boat adequate to conduct mid-water trawling at Strawberry Reservoir, and this remains the main obstacle in being able to conduct these surveys.*
- e. Stock more kokanee – *Increasing the number of stocked kokanee into Strawberry Reservoir has the potential of increasing the overall population. However, determining the most effective strategies (see Goal 4, Objective 2, Strategy c.) is also crucial to the effectiveness of stocking more fish. Obviously, increasing stocking is limited to the hatchery production capabilities and funding available. Increasing stocking pounds for one species of fish at Strawberry will likely reduce the pounds stocked for another species. Kokanee currently comprise about 28% of the numbers of fish stocked into Strawberry Reservoir, yet they only represent about 2% of the pounds stocked, largely due to the small size of the kokanee stocked. For these reasons, small changes in the pounds stocked could dramatically increase the numbers of kokanee stocked. Of course, a source for these eggs would also have to be available. Currently, the majority of the kokanee eggs stocked in Utah come from the*

spawning runs at Strawberry Reservoir, and the number of eggs taken from year to year are highly variable, making consideration of egg availability, and distribution, key factors in our ability to increase stocking numbers at Strawberry.

- f. Promote the kokanee fishery at Strawberry Reservoir – *The kokanee fishery is often underutilized at Strawberry Reservoir, and anglers often need to know of the availability of a resource before they will utilize it. With the variable nature of kokanee fisheries, having current information explaining the current opportunities is important.*

¹ *Based on a three year moving average from data collected in the fall gillnetting at Strawberry Reservoir (gillnetting must remain consistent with past methods and effort)*

² *Utah Water Quality Standards(Utah Administrative Code R317-2):*
<http://www.rules.utah.gov/publicat/code/r317/r317-002.htm>

³ *Based on the comprehensive year-long creel surveys conducted every five years at Strawberry Reservoir, combined with data from limited surveys conducted in the interim years (Thomas and Chamberlain, 2000).*

References:

EPA, 2012. PIP and QAPP for the Strawberry River Restoration Phase IV. Unpublished. 23 pp.

Thomas, H. M., and C. Chamberlain. 2000. Roving creel survey data management and statistical analysis program. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources publication number 00-28, Salt Lake City, Utah.)

UDEQ. 2005. Strawberry Reservoir TMDL Study. Utah Department of Environmental Quality - Division of Water Quality. Salt Lake City, Utah. 101 p.

USDA Forest Service. 2004a. Strawberry Valley Restoration Report. Uinta National Forest. Heber City, Utah. 230 p.

USDA Forest Service. 2004b. Strawberry Valley Watershed Report Action Plan. Uinta National Forest. Heber City, Utah. 18 p.

Establishment of Least Chub Refuge Population at Salt Lake County Jail
Information for May 2014 RAC
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
Chris Crockett: Central Region Native Aquatics Project Leader

Project Proponents: The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Salt Lake County Jail, and the University of Utah INSPIRE Program. Additional partnerships are being pursued.

Proposed Action: Creation of ½ acre pond in the fall of 2014 as part of a larger project to provide education and job training opportunities for inmates and provide a refuge population of least chub (Figure 1).

Description of Project: Creation of a lined ½ acre pond, approximately 8 feet in depth. The pond will be equipped with a wind operated aeration unit and backup electric unit. In the fall of 2014 the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) proposes to stock five thousand Least Chub, from Wahweap State Hatchery into the pond. The pond will be filled/maintained utilizing treated culinary water provided by the Salt Lake County Jail. Pond and fish maintenance costs will be shared by the Project Proponents.

Implementation of the project will accomplish multiple goals: 1) Create a genetic refuge population (backup) for the Mona Springs population of Least Chub 2) Serve as a broodstock for establishing additional refuge populations, augmentation of wild populations, provide fish for mosquito abatement and educational populations 3) Provide educational and job training opportunities for inmates relative to fish culture operations.

The creation of a refuge population for each of the six remaining natural populations is a critical component of the Least Chub Conservation Agreement and Strategy. Creation of refuge populations for Least Chub will contribute significantly to meeting the conservation objectives for the species and the further the state's efforts to prevent Federal listing under the Endangered Species Act. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been drafted to guide the management of the population.

Additional Background Information: The least chub, *Iotichthys phlegethontis*, is a small endemic fish species native to Bonneville Basin and is a State Sensitive Species and USFWS Candidate Species. Least Chub were reportedly common in the beginning of the 20th century and were found in streams, freshwater ponds, wetlands, and springs around Utah Lake. The species began to decline mid-century and has continued to decline for the last two decades. Currently, only six wild populations of the species exist. A recent ruling by the USFWS found listing of least chub under ESA is warranted (but precluded by higher priorities) due to the threats of livestock grazing; water withdrawal and diversion; nonnative species; and the cumulative effects of drought, water withdrawal, and groundwater pumping.

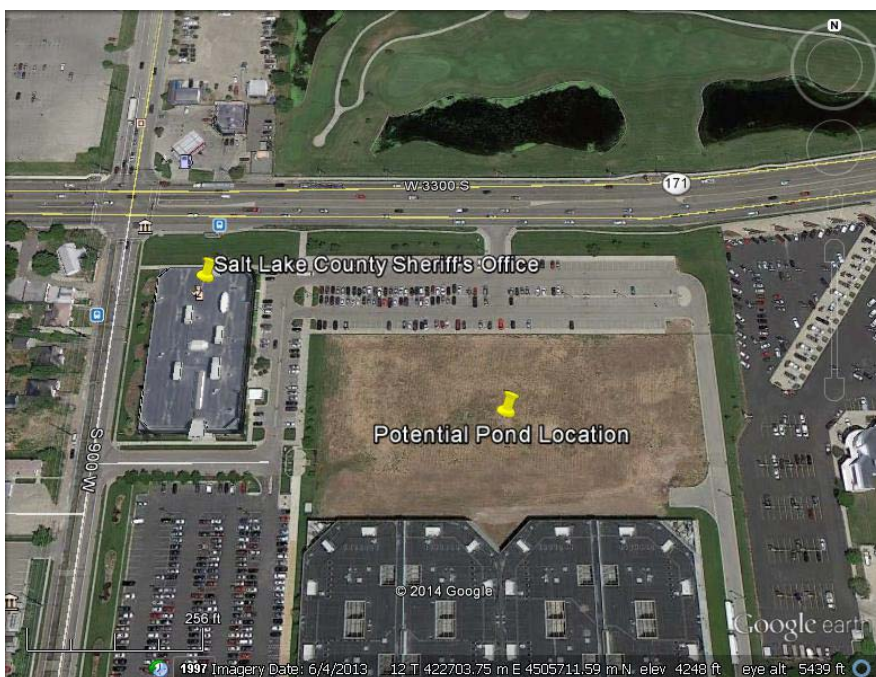


Figure 1: Location of proposed Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office Least Chub Pond

Nash Wash Wildlife Management Area

Habitat Management Plan

2014



**NASH WASH
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Property Description

Location

The Nash Wash Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located at the foot of the Book Cliffs and North of Cisco, Utah and is centered within the old Cunningham Ranch in Nash Wash (see Map 1, Nash Wash WMA, Location). Interstate 70 runs in an east/west direction and there is a freeway exit on both the west and east side of Cisco. These exits are connected by state road 128, which runs parallel to the freeway on the south side. A county road extends from State Road 128 north under I-70 towards the ranch headquarters. Elevations range from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. The WMA consists of 1,178.75 acres.

The property is located in:

T 20 S, R 21 E Salt Lake Base and Meridian
Section 15 N2SW4, W2SE4
Section 16 ALL (acquired spring 2013)
Section 17 N2NE4
Section 23 E2NE4
Section 24 SW4NW4, NW4SW4, SE4SW4
Section 25 W2NE4, NE4NW4

Less the following tract in Secs 24 and 25: Beg at the N ¼ cor. of said Sec. 25 and running th. E 687.7 ft.; th S. 43 deg. 10' E. 826.8 ft.; th. S. 348.2 ft. to the pt. of beg., containing 15 acres more or less.

Encumbrances

Minerals

The Special Warranty Deed (see Appendix A) states that all mineral interests were conveyed from the Nature Conservancy to the Division of Wildlife Resources in 1991 subject to the reservations and limitations set forth in Exhibit B attached in the Special Warranty Deed. Such reservations and limitations include an undivided 75 percent mineral interest, leaving only 25 percent of the actual mineral rights being transferred to DWR ownership.

Water Rights

Water user claim number 01-7, located on the Nash Wash WMA, was conveyed and assigned to

the Division of Wildlife Resources in the Special Warranty Deed. All other water use claims mentioned in the deed are part of the Book Cliffs-Little Creek WMA. Water right 01-7 has a priority date of December 26, 1912 and calls for one second-foot of water out on Nash Wash from April 1 to November 1.

Easements

Numerous Easements and Rights-of-Way were listed as exceptions in Exhibit C of the Special Warranty Deed, for a complete list, please see Appendix A. Several are summarized as follows:

A Right of Way Agreement dated August 7, 1972 between the Cunningham's and Grand Gas Corp., granting the right to construct, operate, and maintain a pipeline across Parcel 3. It was later assigned to Nicor Exploration Co.

A Surface Damage and Easement Agreement dated January 27, 1978 between Cunningham Ranches, Inc., and the Anschutz Corp. granting the right to use an existing road crossing Parcel 3, and to construct a new road and appurtenant facilities across the N2 of Sec. 17, T 20 S., R 21 E in Parcel 4.

There are three Rights of Way Easements dated August 13, 1978 by Cunningham Ranches in favor of Northwest Pipeline Corporation granting the right to select the route for and to construct, operate, and maintain a pipeline and related facilities, over, under, and through the following three areas; W2NE4 of Sec. 23, T 20 S., R 21 E. in Parcel 3.; NE4NE4 of Sec. 23, T 20 S., R 21 E., in Parcel 3; SE4NE4 Sec. 23, T 20 S., R 21 E., in Parcel 3. Each easement was 60 feet in width.

A Right of Way Easement dated November 19, 1981 executed by Cunningham Cattle Co. in favor of Northwest Pipeline Corp., granting a right of way and easement to locate, construct, operate, and maintain a pipeline with appurtenances thereto, over land and up conditions therein set forth.

In addition, there is a reservation of an easement (Special Warranty Deed, Exhibit B) for the purpose of ingress and egress for the Cunningham family. The reservation begins as follows:

“A reservation of an easement for the purpose of ingress and egress in favor of William W. Cunningham, Joyce A. Cunningham, Gregory Cunningham, Caroline Litfin, and Leslie Heikes for the terms of their respective individual lives, over, and on and across the property (excluding any buildings and fixtures) for the purpose of recreational enjoyment of the property such as visiting, camping, picnicking, or horseback riding....”

Rights- of -Way

Right of Way UTU-65511 allows a surface laid pipeline across BLM lands from EPS resources

#15-2 to the ranch facilities (T20 R21 S 15 S2NW4). The ROW is 10 feet wide by 1,400 feet long, containing 0.32 acres.

Grazing

State and federal grazing permits or leases from Bureau of Land Management and State of Utah, Division of State Lands and Forestry as purchased by The Nature Conservancy from the Cunningham Cattle Company were transferred to the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in the sale (Appendix B)

Livestock grazing does not occur on the WMA in order to protect habitat for wintering big game.

Other Leases and Agreements

The dwelling and structures at the Nash Wash WMA are leased in exchange for facility maintenance and farm work. The DWR maintains the use of the bunk house and double-wide trailer. The lease is valid for a term of one, three, or five years.

Land Acquisition History

Acquisition Dates

An installment land purchase contract was entered between the UDWR and The Nature Conservancy on April 15, 1991 to purchase the Nash Wash WMA and Book Cliffs-Little Creek WMA (Appendix B). The contract originally stated that the purchase would be through two installments. The title insurance for the first transaction was made effective on April 30, 1991 (Appendix C). In June 1993, an amendment to the Land Contract modified the purchase schedule to allow the DWR to purchase the property in four separate transactions (Appendix D). The Nash Wash WMA property was included in the first transaction.

Previous Owners

The Utah Department of Natural Resources purchased the property from The Nature Conservancy. Prior property owners were the Cunningham Cattle Company, including William (Bill) and Joyce Cunningham and their children.

Mechanism of Purchase

Funding for acquiring this property came from Federal Aid Grant W-148-L, Bookcliffs Wildlife Habitat Acquisition (Appendix E). The acquisition included Fee Title Land along with BLM and SITLA AUMs on the Cunningham, Graham, and Cripple Cowboy ranches. Federal aid accounted for 75 percent of the funding. The remaining funds came from UDWR restricted match, Big Game Enhancement Fund, Desert Bighorn Sheep Project Fund, RMEF cash donation, and Utah Wildlife Federation donation.

Historic Uses of the WMA

Ranching

Bill and Joyce Cunningham provided an oral history of the Cunningham Ranch on August 3, 1994. They stated that Nash Canyon got its name from a man named Mr. Nash, a shepherd or surveyor, who first settled the area in the early 1880's. For the next decade people moved in and out of the area fairly quickly. A cattleman named Bill Land came to the area for a few years and built the rock house in Nash Canyon. The rock house was later completed in the late 1880's by Harry Bogert, a buffalo hunter. It was in 1912 that the Cisco Ranch was homesteaded by a man named Oscar Turner, Bill Cunningham's great uncle. The present ranch house is one that was built at the time of the homestead. The other original home burnt down in 1986. The original homestead was 160 acres and included alfalfa fields, shade trees, and fruit trees.

The ranch was historically used for cattle grazing. Challenges to local ranchers during early settlement times included interactions between livestock and wolves, as well as hard winters. Other conflicts arose between cattlemen and sheepmen. Before 1934, grazing allotments were nonexistent and stockgrowers roamed anywhere at will, which led to rampant overgrazing. In addition, there was competition for vegetative resources from feral horses that roamed the area. Bill Cunningham's parents purchased the ranch in 1927. They continued to run cattle, and by 1970, after Bill took over the ranch, enough grazing allotments had been purchased to get a total pasture size of 250,000 acres on which he was allowed to run 900-1,000 cow/calf pairs. The Cunningham's continued the cattle operation until the property was sold to The Nature Conservancy in 1991.

In addition to running cattle, the Cunningham's lived a self-sufficient life by planting fruit and nut trees, growing a vegetable garden, planting berries, and raising milk cows, sheep, chickens, and pigs. All irrigation for gardening on the ranch was done through a gravity flow system until 1953 when a pressure pump was installed. Water for the fields was diverted from the Nash Creek stream bed and transported by ditch to the fields, until a pipe and concrete diversion was constructed in the 1980's.

Wildlife

Wolves and bears were often considered a major threat to stockgrower's until the mid-1920's. During that period there was a concentrated effort to eradicate predators. Bounties were offered for coyotes and lions, and bears were chased, trapped, and shot. Also during that time, increased forage for deer from hay production and transition of vegetation on the range resulted in an increase of deer, which had been a novelty during the 1920's. By the 1950's, the Cunningham's gave up hay production because they were unable to compete with the large numbers of deer. They did not resume hay production after deer numbers started to decline to a sustainable number in the mid 1980's. In the early 1960's, elk were first observed on the mountains near Nash Wash and they have steadily been increasing since.

Purpose of UDWR Ownership

Federal Aid Grant

The Cunningham Ranch purchase was funded by Federal Aid Grant W-148-L. The Grant was issued as part of a project to purchase five private ranches in the Book Cliffs. The project is referred to as the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative. The Cunningham Ranch itself does not fall within the jurisdiction of Vernal District of the BLM or the Northeastern Region of the DWR and is therefore not pertinent to the Initiative. However, the objectives of the Initiative for which this project was funded are as follows.

To acquire privately owned lands in the area covered by the Initiative to protect critical wildlife habitat, to re-establish and enhance native fisheries, and to assure public access and recreational opportunities for future generations.

Establish the Bookcliffs within the Vernal District of the B.L.M as a multiple use showcase area with emphasis on management of unique ecological values.

To emphasize cooperative management for wildlife riparian habitat, enhance water quality, fisheries' potentials, and recreational opportunities. Other uses such as livestock grazing and oil-gas exploration production would continue in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Develop with the assistance of all interested parties a coordinated resource management plan to define the specific management objectives and methods of implementation.

Seek Congressional designation as the Bookcliffs National Conservation Area.

Key Wildlife Species occurring on the WMA

The Division of Wildlife Resources sought the purchase of the Cunningham Ranch for its high-quality big game habitat. The area of the ranch encompassed by the Nash Wash WMA in particular provides some of the best winter range for mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) on the Book Cliffs unit. In addition, the northern portion of the WMA provides crucial winter habitat for Rocky Mountain elk (*Cervus canadensis*), and the southern end of the WMA consists of crucial year-long habitat for pronghorn antelope (*Antilocapra americana*). Habitat for Rocky Mountain bighorn (*Ovis canadensis*) sheep exists on the property; however, bighorn are currently removed from the area due to the presence of domestic sheep.

The WMA also provides habitat for the chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*), Rio Grande turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo intermedia*), and a small population of California quail (*Callipepla californica*).

Other important wildlife species include mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), waterfowl, shore birds, owls, golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), wintering bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and a variety of species of bats, reptiles, and amphibians.

Wildlife common to the Cisco desert, but not necessarily on the WMA include;

(Fauna of Southeastern Utah and Life Requisites Regarding their Ecosystems)

Amphibians: tiger salamander, great basin spadefoot, great plains toad, red spotted toad, woodhouse's toad, canyon tree frog, northern leopard frog

Reptiles: collared lizard, long-nosed leopard lizard, short-horned lizard, sagebrush lizard, eastern fence lizard, tree lizard, side-blotched lizard, western whiptail, night snake, striped whipsnake, pine snake, western terrestrial garter snake, western rattlesnake

Birds: turkey vulture (summer), golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, rough-legged hawk (winter), ferruginous hawk, swainson's hawk (summer), northern harrier, bald eagle, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon (endangered), American kestrel, rock dove, mourning dove (summer), long-eared owl, great horned owl, common nighthawk (summer), white-throated swift (summer), black-chinned hummingbird (summer), broad-tailed hummingbird (summer), eastern phoebe, say's phoebe, ash-throated flycatcher (summer), eastern kingbird (summer), western kingbird (summer), horned lark, cliff swallow (summer), barn swallow (summer), bank swallow (summer), northern rough-winged swallow (summer), tree swallow (summer), violet-green swallow (summer), scrub jay, common raven, pinyon jay, black-billed magpie, black-capped chickadee (winter), mountain chickadee (winter), white-breasted nuthatch, canyon wren, rock wren, house wren (summer), mountain bluebird, American robin, water pipit (winter), cedar waxwing (winter), loggerhead shrike, European starling, yellow-rumped warbler (transient), yellow warbler (summer), western tanager (transient), black-headed grosbeak (summer), lark sparrow (summer), dark-eyed junco (winter), song sparrow, savannah sparrow (summer), rufous-sided towhee, vesper sparrow (summer), brewer's sparrow (summer), chipping sparrow (summer), red-winged blackbird, brewer's blackbird, northern oriole (summer), western meadowlark, yellow-headed blackbird (summer), lesser goldfinch, American goldfinch, house finch, evening grosbeak (winter), rosy finch (winter), house sparrow

Mammals: montane shrew, pallid bat, California myotis, little brown bat, western pipistrelle, townsend's big-eared bat, coyote, gray fox, raccoon, long-tailed weasel, badger, striped skunk, spotted skunk, white-tailed antelope squirrel, white-tailed prairie dog, rock squirrel, least chipmunk, botta's pocket gopher, Ord's kangaroo rat, plains pocket mouse, desert woodrat, brush mouse, deer mouse, western harvest mouse, house mouse, Norway rat, black-tailed jack rabbit, white-tailed jack rabbit, desert cottontail

Public Recreation Opportunities

All activities occurring on Division lands are managed under the direction of Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands. This rule discusses approved uses, prohibited activities, and the process for applying and receiving the various permits required to use Division lands. The Division will work with WMA visitors to ensure that all activities are in compliance with this rule. This rule can be found at <http://wildlife.utah.gov/fishing-in-utah/guidebooks/46-rules/rules-regulations/961-r657-28-use-of-division-lands.html>

As mule deer are transitioning from summer to winter habitat during the rifle season, there is often opportunity for limited entry mule deer hunters to harvest trophy mule deer at Nash Wash. Following the hunt, in the late fall and early winter, the mule deer can often be viewed at relatively close distances as the distracted bucks display their dominance during the rut. The opportunity to see trophy class bucks during the rut has led to an annual mule deer viewing day sponsored by the UDWR. The mule deer wintering on the WMA also bring several hundred shed antler gatherers to the area in the early spring.

In addition to mule deer, there is also opportunity to hunt upland game such as chukars, which often use the surrounding cliffs as habitat. There has also been opportunity to harvest Rio Grande turkey, cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus* spp.), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), and the occasional California quail on the property.

For those not interested in hunting, there are opportunities to view an abundance of wildlife. The UDWR hosts an annual bat viewing day during the summer. Big-free tailed bats (*Nyctinomops macrotis*) dwell in the mesa verde sandstone and come to hunt and get water at the ponds on the WMA. Townsend's big-eared bats (*Corynorhinus townsendii*) are also readily seen using the on-site buildings. Up to 11 different bat species have been seen using the ponds on the WMA. In addition to bats, numerous raptor species may be seen on the property including eagles, falcons, and owls. Predator species frequenting the property include cougar, bear, coyote (*Canis latrans*) and bobcat (*Lynx rufus*).

An additional recreation opportunity is to hike or ride horses on a historical unmaintained horse and cattle trail that begins at the old rock house. It is advised that hikers/riders do not continue more than two miles on the trail. The first two miles follows a closed road that terminates at an old gas well site where Nash Wash creek springs emerge. From this point, the trail becomes very treacherous winding up steep cliffs eventually terminating approximately 17 miles into the Bookcliffs Roadless Area near She Canyon.

Conservation Partners Involved in Aquisition

The Nature Conservancy, U.S.F.W.S., Big Game Enhancement Fund, Desert Bighorn Sheep Project Fund, RMEF cash donation, and Utah Wildlife Federation donation.

PROPERTY INVENTORY

Existing Capital Improvements

Roads

The Nash Wash (Cunningham) county road leads to the property. There is also a division maintained road that leads to the ranch house. This road is for administrative access only and is blocked by a locked gate.

Fences

Numerous fences occur on the property including pasture fences and corrals.

Facilities

Several facilities associated with the Cunningham Ranch remain on the WMA. This includes a ranch house, doublewide trailer, two bunkhouses (including the old school house), garage, stable, calving barn, generator shed, solar battery and inverter shed, equipment shed, chicken, and two wooden storage sheds

The ranch house, according to Mr. Cunningham was built in 1912 and remodeled in 1949. The exterior walls are concrete block covered with stucco, and the roof is covered with asphalt shingle. It is a four bedroom house, located in Section 15, T 20 S R 21 E. It is the primary facility. The main floor contains a well equipped kitchen, a laundry room, a living room, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a large dining room. The floors are hardwood, and the walls are plastered. The main floor is approximately 2,150 square feet. There is also a partial basement that is approximately 500 square feet. It contains a family room, a bed room, and a storage room. A majority of the appliances in the house are gas operated, excluding the refrigerator/freezer and swamp cooler.

The doublewide trailer is a three bedroom house that serves as secondary housing. It contains a fully equipped kitchen with oven/range, refrigerator, dishwasher, washer and dryer hookups, living room, dining area and two bathrooms. It is approximately 28' X 60' and 1,620 square feet. The exterior is wood framed with wood siding and an asphalt roof.

The bunkhouse serves as an additional housing facility. It contains a fully equipped kitchen, oven/range and refrigerator, one bedroom, one bathroom, and is heated by natural gas.

The garage is a five room storage/garage facility. It is approximately 1,400 square feet (28' X 50') constructed with a wood frame, wood siding, and asphalt shingles. It has a 12' x 12' cellar.

The school house or small bunkhouse is a sleeping quarter that is not presently used. It is 20' x 30' or 750 square feet. It has one bedroom, one bathroom, a living room, kitchen, and storage area.

The stable is 18' x 114' or 2,052 square feet. It has a concrete foundation, wood floor, cinderblock walls, and an asphalt roof. It has an accompanying corral.

There is an old chicken coop that is used intermittently. It is a wood framed building with a concrete foundation, concrete floor, and asphalt roof, containing approximately 436 square feet.

There is a calving barn/ milk barn that is used as a small storage facility. It is 1,764 square feet with concrete floor, wood siding, and metal roof.

The generator shed is 12' x 21' and 252 square feet. It has a concrete foundation and floor with steel siding and a steel roof. It is a one room shed that contains one natural gas powered electric generator and one diesel powered generator (installed in 2013).

The cistern/ water pump house is 6' x 8' and 48 square feet. It has a concrete foundation, concrete block floor, and frame and roof.

There is one red concrete solar battery and inverter storage shed.

There are two wooden storage sheds. One is 12' x 8' with a concrete floor, wood siding, and asphalt roof. The other is 14' x 8' with a wood floor, wood siding, and metal roof.

There is also an equipment shed located in the pastures south of the main house. It is 16' x 50' (960 sq ft) with a dirt floor, wood siding, and asphalt roof.

Water Rights

The Nash Wash WMA includes surface water right 01-7 located in Sec 15 T 20 S R 21 E SLBM. The source of this water right is Nash Wash and has a flow of 1.0 cfs. Uses include irrigation from April to November with an allowance of 183.92 acre-feet (45.98 acres), as well as a year-long domestic use for .90 acre-feet (2.000 EDUs).

Water Developments

A spring and the Nash Wash drainage supplies water for irrigation. Water flows down Nash Wash from the spring and other precipitation events to a concrete diversion ditch located above the ranch. The open ditch transports water to a large silt trap. From the silt trap, the water flows down the ditch about one-half mile to a head gate diversion that can be opened to take water back to Nash Wash. Just beyond the head gate is a wooden silt trap built of ancient redwood planking that is approximately 50 feet long and 6 feet deep. Approximately 100 feet beyond the

silt trap is a metal sand trap constructed out of a culvert which has a head gate which returns water to Nash Wash to allow for the trap to be cleaned. Approximately one and one-half feet below the water level in the sand trap there is a screened pipeline. The pipeline takes the water about 1500 feet where it is collected in a 5,000 gallon cistern to be used for the main yard and facilities. The remaining water exits the metal sand trap and continues down the ditch to irrigate all the fields.

Wood Products

Wood products are limited; however, mixed stands of juniper (*Juniperus spp.*) and pinyon pine (*Pinus edulis*) are located along draws and on ridge tops. Wood products are managed according to Administrative Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands. Harvest of wood products for firewood, fence posts, or Christmas trees will be considered as a management tool if needed. There is also sparse cottonwood trees located along Nash Wash but they should be propagated and preserved for their wildlife and aesthetic value. Fruit and ornamental trees on the property should remain for their historical significance and wildlife value but may be cut-down for safety and facility maintenance purposes.

Cultural Resources

Cultural Resource Report No. U97-24 was done in 1997, by Baseline Data Inc., of the Nash Wash and Bull Canyon areas about 4 miles west of the Cunningham Ranch in Grand County, Utah. However, a majority of the survey occurred on properties outside of the WMA. Nonetheless, this study and previous research lead to the identification of nearby cultural resource sites including prehistoric artifacts and historic structures and items, some of which are eligible for the National Register. Findings include lithic scatters (100+ secondary and tertiary flakes), and a previously unrecorded historic homestead and corral (the ranch house). Isolated items included a complete beer bottle and nearly complete projectile point.

Other cultural resource surveys were completed for the Nash Wash Prescribed Burn, Elk Resources 14 Cisco Dome Wells, Nash Wash Revegetation, and Nash Wash WMA Fire Rehab. A total of six sites have been documented and both prehistoric and historic sites have been recorded. Approximately 80 percent of the WMA has not been surveyed.

The old Cunningham ranch still contains historical farming equipment including buck rakes, buck forks, discs, and a Mormon derrick. Remnants of a 1915 Model T is also on the property.

Sensitive Species

A review of the Utah Natural Heritage Program database (as updated January 03, 2013) indicated that two state sensitive wildlife species have been documented within a two-mile buffer of the WMA. The two species are ferruginous hawk, and white-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys leucurus*). Also listed within the buffer of the WMA were several occurrences of golden eagle.

Other sensitive species found on the WMA that were not listed in the heritage database include big free-tailed bats and Townsend's big-eared bats. Big free-tailed bats can be found in the Mesa Verde sandstone and often use the pond on the property. Townsend's big-eared bats are currently roosting in some of the buildings. Kit fox are also very likely to occur within two miles of the WMA.

Important Fish and Wildlife Habitats

Nash Wash provides crucial winter habitat for mule deer which forage in the sagebrush openings and cultivated fields and take hiding and thermal cover in pinyon-juniper stands. The higher elevation habitats extending deeper into the Book Cliffs also provide crucial year-long habitat for elk. Elk occur rarely on the WMA but can be seen in the fields during spring green up and often use the upper pond when it is cleaned and properly functioning. Substantial year-long habitat for rocky mountain bighorn sheep exists along the cliff faces in open areas free of cover where predators could be lurking, that have suitable grasses, forbs, and shrubs for grazing. Bighorn sheep are not seen on the WMA itself but may be located in nearby Bull Canyon. If bighorn sheep are located near Nash Wash this should be reported immediately due to the presence of domestic sheep in the area. In the lower elevations, pronghorn use the open desert with its rolling hills and valleys to fawn and raise their young throughout the remainder of the year. An occasional pronghorn may be seen on the property, but they typically remain south of the WMA. The desert landscapes also provide quality habitat for small mammals such as the white-tailed prairie dog, which burrow into the soils and forage on grasses. Predators to the prairie dog such as the golden eagle and peregrine falcon can be seen nesting in the cliffs near Nash Wash. Upland game also use the WMA; crucial year-long habitat for Rio Grande turkeys is located along Nash Wash and turkeys have roosted in mature trees near the ranch house, and chukar partridge use the cliffs and lower elevation vegetation as year-long habitat.

General Condition of Habitats

Habitat types include sagebrush/greasewood bottoms, pinyon/juniper forest, agricultural pasture, and willow/tamarisk/cottonwood riparian. The sagebrush/greasewood bottom is composed primarily of greasewood (*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*). The basin big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata tridentata*) is receiving light use and Wyoming sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata wyomingensis*) is receiving heavy use by wintering mule deer. Browse utilization transects from 2012 of Wyoming big sagebrush in the Nash Wash/Horse Pasture area demonstrate very high use with a majority of the plants being severely hedged with utilization near 90 percent. The transect data also discloses that there is little to no recruitment with over 50 percent of plants being decadent and total cover of sagebrush being less than 10 percent. The pastures are composed primarily of alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*). The understory in the pinyon/juniper forest is nonexistent. Riparian areas are primarily willow (*Salix* spp.) with tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.) (although the tamarisk leaf beetle has caused significant declines) and sparse cottonwood (*Populus deltoids*)

and boxelder (*Acer negundo*).

The division's range trend program monitors habitat conditions statewide by sampling permanently placed vegetation transect's that have been established in key areas. Transects are read on a 5-year rotational schedule based on the Division's five administrative regions. One of these transects is located just south of the Cunningham Ranch: West Horse Pasture Trend Study No. 10-16. This trend site, last monitored in 2010, indicates that the key browse species, Wyoming big sagebrush, is mostly mature and decadent with minimal recruitment. Utilization has been a mixture of moderate to heavy hedging. High amounts of cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) on the site may be preventing establishments of seedlings and young plants. Perennial grasses and forbs are not common and have been shown to be decreasing. Cheatgrass has dominated the area. Statewide range trend data and digital photographs for specific sites can be found at the following website:

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/range>

Habitat Limitations

Open sagebrush stands in the bottoms of Nash Wash are heavily utilized by mule deer during the winter months. These stands are showing a decrease in density and vigor of browse. Revegetation is difficult due to invasion of weeds such as cheatgrass and the minimal and unpredictable amount of water available in the Cisco desert. Lack of water and invasive species such as the tamarisk are also having a negative effect on riparian vegetation along the creek, especially on the health of important species such as cottonwood trees. Even cultivated fields are not producing to their full potential due to limited resources (natural and personnel) and the invasion of a variety of weed species including white top (*Cardaria draba*), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), knapweed (*Centaurea repens*), morning glory (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). Additionally, there has been a lack of natural disturbance necessary to retain diverse healthy stands of forage and cover for wildlife.

High-quality browse is most limiting for mule deer in Nash Wash. To increase both the quantity and quality of forage, habitat projects are necessary. However, such projects require ideal moisture conditions to be successful due to the necessity of seeding to increase diversity and production. These projects also often require chemical treatments to reduce the threat of non-native species invasion frequently involving follow up treatments. Habitat treatments over the past decade have focused on reducing greasewood and cheatgrass density to decrease hazardous fuels and improve forage quality and quantity. Historical agriculture fields that are no longer irrigated have also been drill-seeded to improve range production for wildlife forage.

The idea of stocking Nash Wash with native Colorado River cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii pleuriticus*) was explored through the Aquatic Section and it was determined that Nash Wash did not have a sustainable flow to support a fishery.

Human Use-related Problems

During hunting season there have been issues with hunters shooting at animals within a very close distance of the ranch facilities. This poses a risk to division property and personnel. Additionally, due the remote location of Nash Wash, there have been a few poaching cases.

During winter months, there is often a lot of vehicle traffic from oil and gas field workers, wildlife viewers and antler gatherers. Disturbance to wildlife, especially deer, during this time can cause wildlife to move to less desirable habitats and also lead to an increase in winter mortality due to stress. Damage to roads can also occur during the winter months when roads are wet and easily rutted.

Human-caused fires have resulted in severe damage to quality deer browse. Fire leads to an increase in annual invasive species and when coupled with minimal water received in the desert, reestablishment of quality forage is difficult to achieve and takes a very long time.

One of the BLM fences on the eastern side of the property from the Horse Pasture Wash junction to the rim of the Book Cliffs is in really poor shape which has resulted in trespass livestock.

Adjacent Land Uses and Potential Impacts

The Bureau of Land Management owns a majority of the property adjacent to Nash Wash with one 20-acre private piece on the south end. The surrounding land uses are governed primarily by the BLM's Grand Resource Area's Resource Management Plan (1985), which is written for multiple uses. This plan is now incorporated into the Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (2008).

The WMA falls within the Cisco BLM allotment managed under the Grand Resource Management Plan (1985) and the Cisco Desert Allotment Management Plan. In 1994, there was an amendment to the plan (EA #UT-068-94-047) which revised the allocation of livestock animal unit months (AUMs). This plan reallocated 56 percent of the AUMs from livestock to wildlife (deer and antelope). Livestock grazing was suspended in the Horse Pasture-Nash Wash area of the allotment to protect critical deer winter range and reduce competition for forage and space as well as increase the antelope herd. The livestock on the remainder of the Cisco allotment consist of domestic cattle and sheep, which graze the allotment in the winter and spring (November-May) for total active AUMs of 5,607. To minimize trespass resulting in browse reduction and potential interactions between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep, fence maintenance should be a priority.

Over 50 stock watering ponds have been constructed to hold water from springs and washes to provide water for livestock (water is trucked in on dry years).

The WMA is also part of the Cisco Dome Oil and Gas Field, which is combined with the Greater Cisco Field. The Cisco Dome field contains approximately 223 oil and gas well sites that are in a variety of stages including the location being abandoned, the well being plugged and abandoned, shut in, or producing. Wells have been developed in this area since the mid-1920s and production is ongoing. Activities associated with the production and maintenance of this field are year-long, however exploration activities are generally restricted in the winter for deer protection. There is some vehicular traffic during the winter on the county and access roads which may cause some disturbance to mule deer. As new wells are developed there are risks for habitat fragmentation.

The Division will pursue exchanges and conservation easements with private landowners, municipalities, counties, and other state and federal agencies that block up land, improve public access, and preserve critical wildlife habitats. This would include lands adjacent to or within the WMA, as well as parcels throughout the county outside of the WMA that would meet the same objectives.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The acquisition and management of this property is consistent with the resource goal outlined in UDWR's Strategic Plan (2005-2013) which follows:

Resource goal: Expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: Protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2014.

Objective 2: Increase fish and game populations to meet management plan objectives, and expand quality fishing and hunting opportunities.

Objective 3: Conserve sensitive species to prevent them from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

Furthermore, UDWR's constituency goal has relevance since the public road through the property serves consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife users who are drawn to the area because of its scenic beauty, recreational and wildlife viewing opportunities. Additionally, the Division provides wildlife viewing days for the public. Constituency goals outlined in UDWR's Strategic Plan are as follows:

Constituency goal: Achieve broad-based support for division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

Objective 1: Increase public awareness of wildlife as a quality-of-life issue in order to expand our support base and achieve stable funding.

Objective 2: Improve communications with wildlife organizations, public officials, private landowners and government agencies to obtain support for division programs.

Objective 3: Expand programs to recruit and retain young hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers.

Wildlife Action Plan (Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy or CWCS)

The most recent Wildlife Action Plan, also known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS), was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and approved in 2005. This plan is effective until 2014 or when revisions are needed. The CWCS provides a framework for planning, cooperation, coordination, and implementation of conservation activities throughout the state. This plan is composed of the following major elements:

- Approach for including the public, partners, and stakeholders; addresses the mission and authority of partners
- Outlines the effort to coordinate the CWCS with other plans
- Identifies species in greatest need of conservation and provides information about the abundance, distribution, and threats to these species
- Discusses plans for monitoring and determining conservation success.

Imperiled native wildlife species are ranked according to conservation need. Tier I species are wildlife that are of the greatest conservation concern (very high concern). Tier II species are species of “high concern” and Tier III species are wildlife that are imperiled, rare, linked to an at-risk habitat, or for which there is little information. Tier III species are otherwise referred to as species of “moderate concern”.

The Nash Wash WMA provides potential habitat for the following Utah Sensitive Species:

(Species Accounts- Table 6.1, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy)

Ferruginous Hawk (Tier II) - Nests in the ecotone between pinyon-juniper and shrubsteppe habitats. Threats include nest abandonment even with low human disturbance, nest site reduction from removal of natural nesting areas, loss of habitat and disturbance to breeding grounds from oil and gas extraction activities, destruction of preferred habitats due to chaining, timber harvest, fire management, and livestock grazing.

Bald Eagle (Tier I) - Mature at 4-6 years old with a lifespan around 30 years. Threats include loss of lowland riparian habitats for nesting and roosting habitat, and nest and

roost abandonment from excessive human disturbance.

Mule Deer (Tier III) – Mule deer are browsers that primarily eat shrubs and other woody material, although grasses are also consumed. Threats include recent population declines, and loss of lower elevation winter range.

Kit Fox (Tier II)- Inhabit deserts and semi-arid regions. General threats include indiscriminate trapping, bioaccumulation of rodenticides, and expansion of coyote and other competitors into kit fox habitat resulting from artificial water sources.

Big Free-tailed Bats (Tier II) - Inhabit rugged rocky environments and sagebrush flats. Require tall cliffs for roost sites. General threats include pesticide use in foraging areas and their limited distribution.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat (Tier II) – These bats are often found in scrub communities and pinyon-juniper habitats, with maternity colonies in warmer portions of mines, caves, and buildings. The species occurs statewide and is moderately common but is thought to be declining. Threats include human disturbance (especially to maternal colonies), mine closures, and a lack of information.

White-tailed Prairie Dog (Tier II) – Commonly occupy lower dry habitats. Colonies spend much of their time in underground burrows, often hibernating during the winter. Diet is composed of grasses and bulbs. Threats include disease (outbreaks of sylvatic plague), rodenticide and agricultural control measures, habitat loss and fragmentation from energy and urban development, and recreational shooting.

Great Plains Toad (Tier III) - Inhabits prairie grasslands and dry, bushy areas. Its population size and trends are unknown. General threats include a lack of information and development (agricultural, municipal, and utility development). Surveys in Southeastern Utah are needed.

Please note, not all species with potential habitat at Nash Wash have been seen or documented on the WMA.

In addition to sensitive species, key habitats are described in the CWCS in order to target habitat restoration and conservation activities to address associated threats and problems.

Two key habitats for species of greatest conservation need (Chapter 7 of the Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy) occur on the WMA:

Shrubsteppe- named after the habitats most abundant plant, sagebrush, and “steppe” meaning large dry grassland with few or no trees. On Nash Wash this habitat is very important for wintering mule deer (Tier Three species- of moderate concern) which rely on the sagebrush for forage. This habitat is in poor condition statewide with sagebrush

plants losing health and vigor. Threats include brush eradications, development, drought, energy development, fire cycle alteration, improper grazing practices, improper OHV use, and invasive plant species.

Lotic- refers to habitats with bodies of flowing water. These habitats occur in less than 0.1 percent of Utah's land area. Lotic habitats provide food and cover to diversity of wildlife. Threats include channelization, drought, energy development, environmental contamination, improper grazing practices, improper OHV use, invasive animal species, invasive plant species, nutrient enrichment/sediment loading, and water development.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Property Management Objectives

The existing capital improvements will be protected by providing maintenance and improvement schedules.

Habitat Management Objectives

Wildlife habitat will be managed to increase its functionality, appeal, availability and use by all wildlife species. Habitat management will be consistent with sound ecological principles and wise land use practices.

Existing deer winter range will be protected from deteriorating and wildlife habitat will be enhanced.

STRATEGIES FOR PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Development Activities

Establish Property Boundary

Survey Needs

The section of lands acquired from SITLA in 2013 may need to be surveyed.

Boundary Fence Needs

No boundary fencing currently exists, however it is not needed. Adjacent BLM allotments have been fenced to keep livestock from grazing within the WMA and surrounding area. The Division and lessee on Nash Wash have periodically done repairs to the allotment fence to keep livestock off the WMA.

Livestock Grazing Plan

There will be no livestock grazing on the WMA. A majority of AUMs (56 percent) for the surrounding Cisco BLM grazing allotment have been transferred from livestock to wildlife. Grazing has been suspended in the Horse Pasture-Nash Wash portion of the allotment in order to protect critical deer winter range.

However, the Division reserves the right to use prescribed grazing on the WMA to reach habitat objectives. Prescribed grazing may result in permits being issued to a grazer outside of the competitive bid process in order to find willing parties that are able to follow a prescribed grazing plan.

At times, trespass livestock are found on WMA's due to poor fencing and/or gates being left open by visitors. Occurrences of trespass livestock will be handled by Division personnel according to guidelines outlined in the Division's Land Use Rule, R657-28-10, and in the Division's livestock trespass policy, W3TER-2.

Sign Needs

One large sign indicates the southern property boundary along the county road. Numerous small signs are also in place along the county road when the WMA boundaries are crossed. Additional signage is needed where the county road crosses the property boundary in Section 16 T 20 S R 21 E. This section was acquired in 2013. Signs are also needed indicating no hunting within 600 feet of facilities.

Develop Public Access Plan

Public access to the WMA is available on the Nash Wash (Cunningham) county road. This road is maintained by Grand County and will remain open for public access throughout the year; however, access may be limited during winter months. The road leading to the main ranch house and facilities will remain closed to the public. Vehicles, including off-highway vehicles (OHVs) are only allowed on the county road. Any other two-track roads throughout the WMA are closed. No new roads are planned for the property at this time. Vehicles may not leave the road for retrieval of big game or antlers

There is parking at the old rock house homestead. A hiking/horse trail commences at this point. This trail allows access to the roadless area; however, it is unmaintained and is recommended for very experienced riders only. All others should turn around after approximately two miles.

The facilities are not available to the public, but camping is allowed. Camping is limited to 14

consecutive days unless otherwise posted and/or a special use permit has been obtained from the Division authorizing a different term. The Division reserves the right to designate camping areas or close camping to protect resources on the Property. There is no garbage collection available (pack it in, pack it out), and no firewood cutting is allowed. Certified weed free hay is required for livestock. Additionally, there is no hunting allowed within 600 ft of ranch facilities.

Annual Maintenance Activities

Fence Maintenance

Unnecessary fencing should be removed. Fence patrols should be completed every year after flood season to ensure fences are still in working order. Fence maintenance will be completed annually by lessee, DWR maintenance crew, and DWR seasonal.

All fences constructed on the property will be four strand barb or smooth wire fences no higher than 42 inches. Strand spacing will also reflect best management practices recommended for wildlife friendly fences, i.e. first strand (bottom-most) will be at least 18 inches off the ground, and the distance between the third and fourth strand (top-most) must be at least 12 inches. Pole fences or jack-leg fences are also acceptable, so long as they meet the minimum requirements for wildlife passage. Net wire fences will not be constructed and where they already exist, should be considered for future replacement.

Road Maintenance/Closures

Gates controlling access to the facilities should remain in working order. The road to the facilities should be maintained annually by lessee and DWR maintenance crew.

Parking Areas

The parking area and trailhead near the old rock house homestead in Section 17 needs to remain in working order. Maintenance will be completed by lessee and DWR maintenance crew.

Noxious Weed Control

Property will be surveyed annually to detect the presence of noxious weeds. Weeds will be controlled using approved methods, including herbicide. Weed removal will be completed by lessee, DWR maintenance crew, and DWR seasonal. The following noxious weeds have been found on the property:

Class B: Noxious weeds not native to the State that have a moderate population and are generally thought to be controllable in most areas.

Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*)

Russian Knapweed (*Centaurea repens*)
Hoary Cress (whitetop) (*Cardaria draba*)

Class C: Noxious weeds not native to the State that are found extensively in the State and are thought to be beyond control with statewide efforts generally being towards containment of smaller infestations.

Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*)
Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)
Salt Cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*)

Invasive weeds found on the property include cheatgrass and burdock (*Arctium spp.*)

Certified weed free hay is required for livestock on the property.

Sign Replacement

Signs should be in place where the county road crosses the property boundary. Signs should be legible and free of bullet holes. All signs on the property should follow GLN-22 DWR signage guidelines. Sign maintenance will be completed by DWR seasonals.

Maintenance of Water Developments

Water system should be free of sediment. All silt traps and pipes should be clear and working. Pump house should be checked and any unsanitary items removed (i.e. dead rodents). Pumps should be working. Water system should be winterized. Ponds should be cleared out and free of sediment. Maintenance will be completed by lessee and DWR maintenance crew.

Facilities

Water and heating systems should be in working order. Natural gas delivery system should be evaluated and working with appropriate utilities. Solar energy system should be functioning. Generators should be in working order. Facilities should be painted when needed. Winterization of facilities needs to be completed annually. Facility maintenance will be the responsibility of lessee and DWR maintenance crew.

Compatibility of Proposed Uses with Local Government Planning and Zoning

The property is zoned RG, Range and Grazing District by Grand County. RG is designed to accommodate agriculture and agriculture-related and low density residential development uses in those parts of the county with limited public services. All development in the RG district is subject to the lot design standards in Article 5 of the Grand County Land Use Plan.

STRATEGIES FOR HABITAT MANAGEMENT

Habitat Improvement Plan

- Enhance habitat in fields by disking and seeding
- Use prescribed fire and reseeding
- Enhance riparian habitat in Nash Wash and ponds
- Irrigate fields to improve habitat and provide water right
- Enhance cover and windbreak
- Accomplish rangeland seedlings in pasture fields
- Control pinyon-juniper encroachment
- Other habitat improvement projects may include but are not limited to: shrub planting, chemical control, water developments, tree plantings, willow plantings, and fencing enclosures

Habitat improvement projects for this property will be considered on an individual basis as proposed through existing forums, i.e. Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD) and Division's Habitat Council. Proposed projects must meet the objectives defined in this Habitat Management Plan, UDWR's Strategic Plan and the Wildlife Action Plan. Implementation of projects will take place only after these criteria have been satisfied.

Habitat improvement projects should be designed to benefit the largest diversity of wildlife possible and should consider their impact upon all other species, especially sensitive species identified in the Wildlife Action Plan. It is expected that the focus of habitat improvement projects in the near future will target mule deer and upland game.

Access Management Plan

(See "Strategies for Property Management" above)

Fire Management Plan

Due to the abundance of cheatgrass on the property and its ability to out-compete native species and reduce browse, wildfires will be suppressed on this property. Any fire in the riparian area

will be suppressed to protect cottonwood trees. Any prescribed burns on the property will be under close supervision of qualified fire personnel. All activities dealing with wild and prescribed fire will be coordinated with the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (DFFSL) according to guidelines established in the Memorandum of Understanding (2005) between DWR and FFSL.

Day-use campfires are allowed in enclosed fire pits, but cannot be unattended, and adequate provisions must be taken to prevent the spread of fire (R657-28). The Division reserves the right to ban open fires to protect valuable wildlife habitat on the WMA, such as during extremely dry weather when risk of wildfire is most severe.

Wood Products

Wood products are limited; however, mixed stands of juniper and pinyon pine are located along draws and on ridge tops. Wood products are managed according to Administrative Rule R657-28, Use of Division Lands. Harvest of wood products for firewood, fence posts, or Christmas trees will be considered as a management tool if needed.

Compatibility of Proposed Plans with Local Government General Plans and Zoning and Land Use Ordinances

The property is zoned RG, Range and Grazing District by Grand County. It is designated to accommodate agricultural and agriculture-related uses in those parts of the county with limited public services.

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED USES

This property was purchased as part of the Book Cliffs Conservation Initiative for the purpose of maintaining and improving fish and wildlife habitat and providing sportsman access to the Book Cliff's roadless area. The Nash Wash WMA will be managed to promote, propagate, and enhance wildlife habitat and hunting opportunities. The primary goal is the preserve, enhance, and protect mule deer winter range. The Division will allow for and provide wildlife-related recreational activities which are consistent with the goals of this plan.

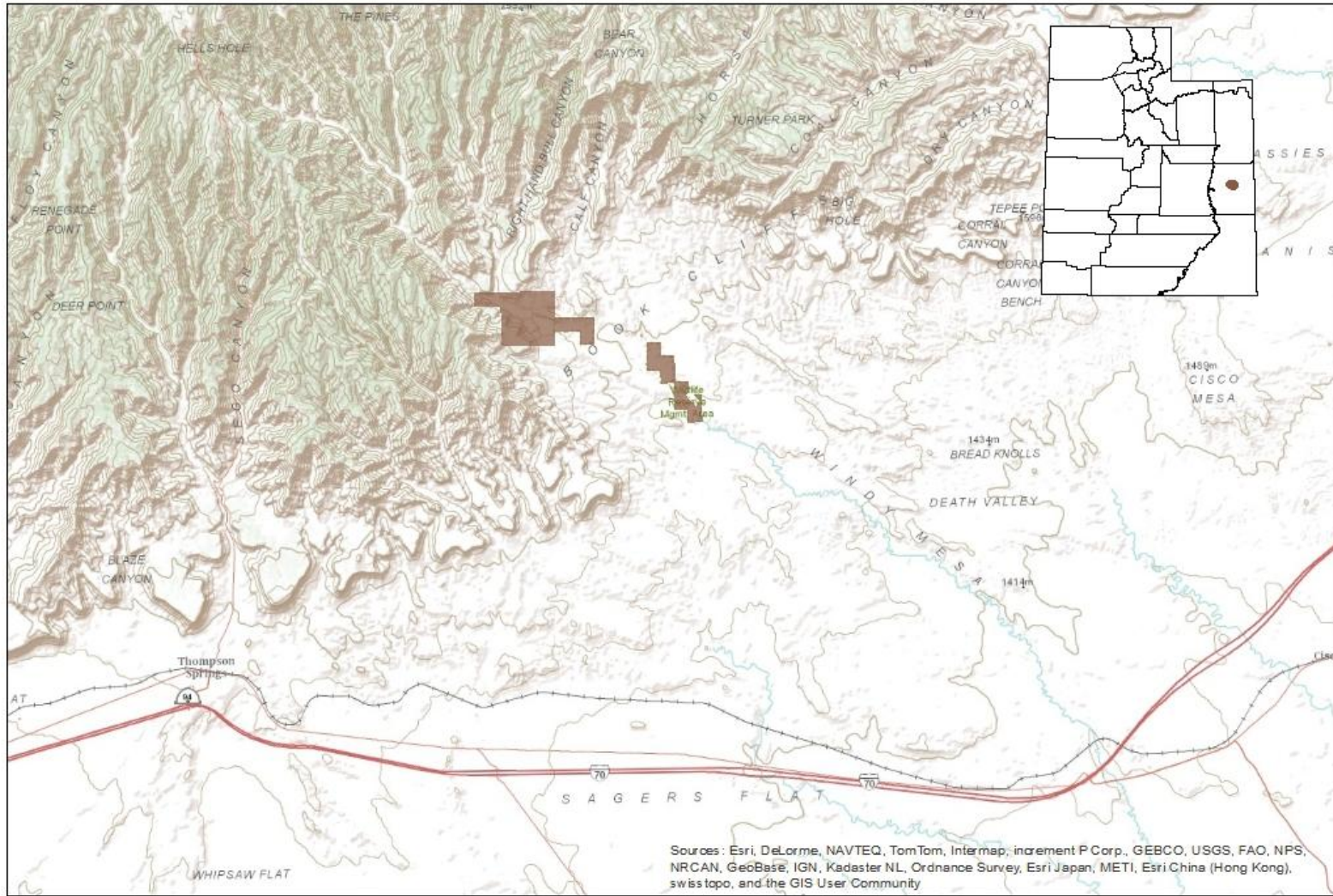
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Southeastern Region Habitat section, district wildlife biologist, and district conservation officer will be responsible for monitoring the overall success of this plan. Appropriate sections and staff will provide expertise as required. The habitat maintenance specialist will monitor the needs and effectiveness of physical facilities and improvements. A regional team will amend this plan as needed.

ATTACHMENTS

Map 1 – Nash Wash WMA, Location
Map 2 – Nash Wash WMA
Map 3 – Nash Wash WMA, Facilities
Map 4 – Nash Wash WMA, Road Map

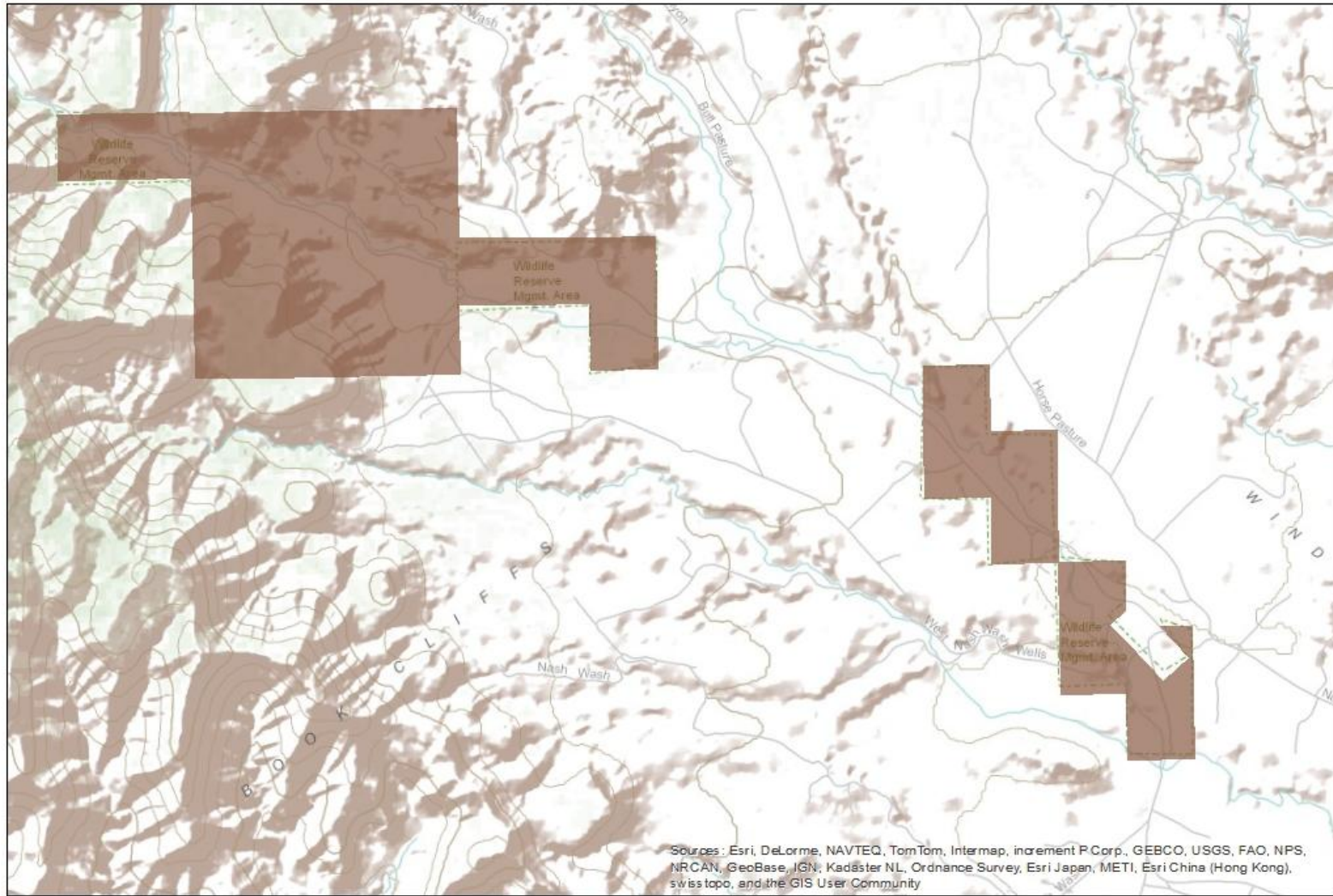
Appendix A Special Warranty Deed
Appendix B Land Purchase Contract
Appendix C Title
Appendix D Contract
Appendix E Initial Grant



 Nash Wash WMA


Nash Wash Wildlife Management Area



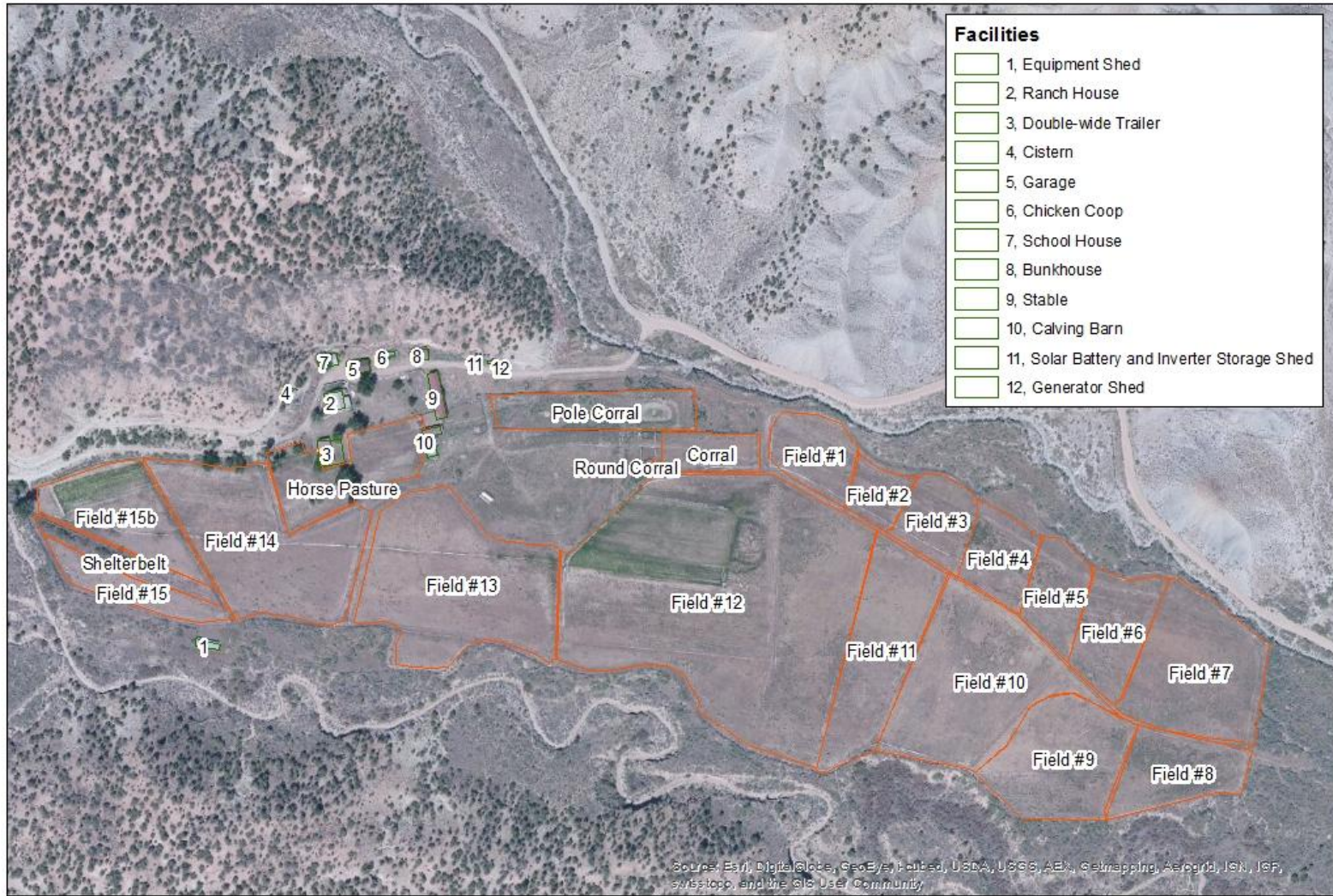


Nash Wash Wildlife Management Area

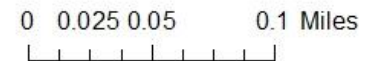


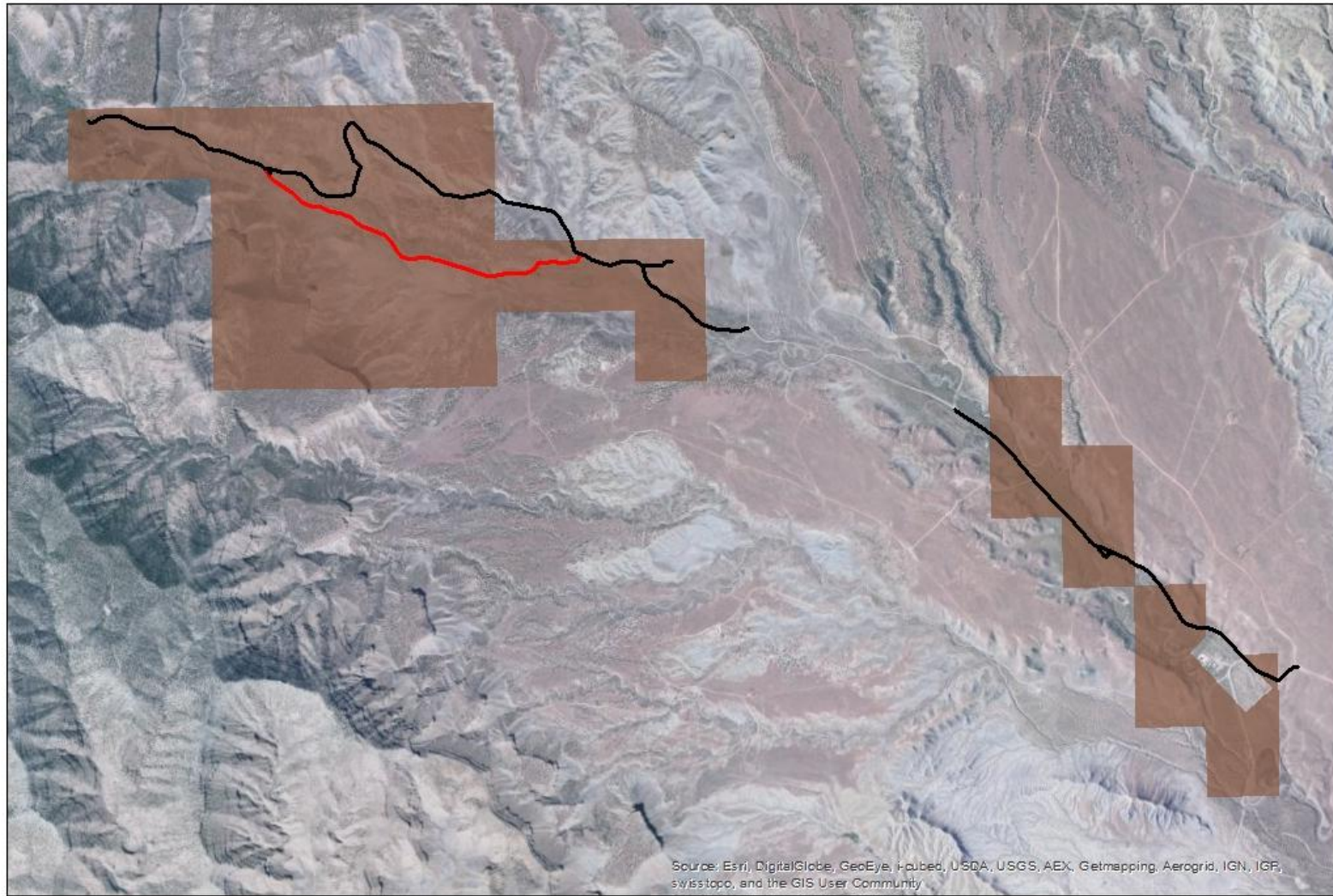
 Nash Wash WMA





Nash Wash Wildlife Management Area





Nash Wash Wildlife Management Area

