

MEETING REPORT
UTAH WOLF WORKING GROUP (WWG)
Meeting #14
31 May 2005
DNR Room 1050; Salt Lake City, UT

PARTICIPANTS:

Trey Simmons, Bill Burbridge, Kirk Robinson, Robert Schmidt, Sterling Brown, Bill Christensen, Don Peay (part), Jim Bowns, Clark Willis, Bill Fenimore, Debbie Goodman (part)

Technical Advisors: Kevin Bunnell, Laura Romin, Mike Bodenchuk

Others: Todd Bingham, Joan Digiorgio, Cindee Jensen, Alan Clark (part), Jim Karpowitz, Allison Jones

Facilitator/Recorder: Walt Gasson - Dynamic Solutions Group, LLC

DECISIONS AND ACTION ITEMS:

The draft April 12 meeting record was approved. It will be posted the web site by June 6.

Walt will get the draft meeting record from today out for review by June 3, 2005.

The WWG rejected all recommendations from the Northeast Regional Advisory Council, except #5, dealing with depredation recovery procedures.

The WWG rejected all recommended language from the Utah Farm Bureau, et al, except for a slight modification of #1, dealing with the latitude and support given to livestock owners, immediate family members and employees of livestock owners to protect the investments and assets.

OPENING REMARKS:

Jim Karpowitz, UDWR Director, urged the WWG to put aside their differences and work toward consensus on the remaining parts of the plan. He noted that the similarity of the recommendations from the Regional Advisory Councils would constitute a strong mandate to the Wildlife Board, and that he was confident that a wolf management plan would be adopted.

REPORT FROM REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS (RACs):

Kevin Bunnell reported on the recommendations from the RACs. Most of the RACs endorsed language recommended by the Utah Farm Bureau Federation, Utah Woolgrowers Association, Utah Cattlemen's Association, Utah Farmers Union, Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, and Utah Agricultural Advisory Board (Farm

Bureau, et al). The most significant exception to this was the Northeast RAC, which added a number of additional recommendations. Copies of both the Farm Bureau, et al language, and the recommendations from the Northeast (NE) RAC were provided.

The group chose to consider the recommendations from the NE RAC and the recommendations from the Farm Bureau, et al. They discussed each one and voted, using the “consensus minus two” rule, on incorporating it into their recommendations to the Wildlife Board. Alternative language would be considered. Vote tallies were recorded.

NE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Accept and integrate into the plan all the Utah Farm Bureau, et al and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife (SFW) proposals.** Rejected on a 4Y-6N vote by the WWG. An alternative proposal was considered, that being the Farm Bureau, et al proposals and #1-3 of the SFW proposals. That alternative was rejected on a 4Y-6N vote by the WWG. A final alternative was proposed in lieu of SFW proposal #1: “In the event that there is a loss in big game hunting opportunity – antlered or antlerless – or decreased age class in male animals because of the effects of wolves on ungulate populations, UDWR would take actions they deem appropriate to correct this situation.” This alternative recommendation was rejected by the WWG on a 6Y-4N vote.
- 2. The plan recognizes the management objectives of the Ute Indian Tribe. The plan must also recognize the Utah DWR big game objectives, and do all it can to achieve those objectives, including the elimination of wolves and their effect on big game.** This recommendation was rejected by the WWG on a vote of 1Y-7N.
- 3. No wolves in Utah if they damage livestock and wildlife populations in any way. If USFWS is going to take care of depredation on livestock, then DWR or someone therein appointed such as a hired gun will have the responsibility of protecting wildlife depredation.** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 0Y-8N. They noted that this was addressed in the Draft Wolf Management Plan.
- 4. Delete sentence 1, paragraph 4, page 35 in its entirety, which deals with “predator management” similar to cougars and bears. We’re not managing predators.** . The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 0Y-8N.
- 5. Depredation recovery procedures should be no more restrictive than the current cougar and bear programs.** The WWG approved this recommendation on a vote of 8Y-0N. They noted that Kevin Bunnell should provide clarification to the Wildlife Board on this recommendation.
- 6. Costs of the plan should not be put on sportsmen and/or their funding sources, including the UDWR.** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 2Y-6N.
- 7. For those who want to see wolves, “go north, young man.”** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 0Y-8N.

FARM BUREAU, ET AL RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **To minimize depredation and “prevent livestock depredation,” as quoted in H.J.R. 12, livestock owners, immediate family members and employees of livestock owners should be given full latitude and support to protect the investments and assets of their operation – livestock.** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 5Y-5N. An alternative was proposed: “To minimize depredation and ‘prevent livestock depredation,’ as quoted in H.J.R. 12, livestock owners, immediate family members and employees of livestock owners should be given adequate latitude and support to protect the investments and assets of their operation – livestock. This language was approved by the WWG on a vote of 10Y-0N.
2. **The Draft Utah Wolf Management Plan should be altered to allow livestock owners, immediate family members and employees of livestock owners to lethally control wolves on both private and public lands when wolves are harassing, in the act of killing or experience confirmed loss of livestock. Livestock owners should not be required to obtain a permit to protect livestock.** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 6Y-4N.
3. **After depredated livestock has been investigated by proper authorities, livestock owners should be fully compensated for cases where wolves are the “possible,” “confirmed,” or “probable” predator. A compensation program should also include a multiplier effect to account for missing livestock.** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 5Y-5N.
4. **Livestock owners should not be required to obtain a permit or participate in training prior to protecting their investments. As such, Livestock owners should not be required to follow specific non-lethal control measures prior to using lethal controls to protect livestock. .** The WWG rejected this recommendation on a vote of 5Y-5N.

NOTE: Jim Karpowitz will ask the Wildlife Board for clarification on wolves and prey items (i.e., elk and moose) in the Predator Management Policy.