

Utah Wildlife Board Work Session

May 1, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
AGENDA

Thursday, May 1, 2014, 9:00 a.m.

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR Forms Rule Amendment
– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 6. R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment
– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 7. R657-13-7 Fishing with More Than One Pole Rule Amendment
– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 8. R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment
– Jordan Nielson, AIS Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014
– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014
– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2014
– Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Donation of CWMU Vouchers
– Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 13. Wild Horse Issue/Discussion
– Southern Region – Kevin Bunnell Regional Supervisor | ACTION |
| 14. Stipulation and Order
– Greg Hansen, Attorney | ACTION |
| 15. Other Business
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Motions

Following is a summary of Wildlife Board motions directing the Division to take action and the response to date:

Spring 2013 – Target Date – Preference Point Presentation

MOTION: I move that we ask the Division to give a presentation on the preference point system relative to the new 30 unit deer plan.

Assigned to: Judi Tutorow / Lindy Varney
Action: Under Study
Status: Final update to be presented June 5, 2014
Placed on Action Log: June 6, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Premium Limited-entry deer tags

MOTION: I move that we have placed on the action log that the Division look into a premium limited entry deer tag similar to the premium limited entry elk tag.

Assigned to: Bill Bates/Judi Tutorow
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: May 3, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Mineral Mountain Range

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to study the issues and concerns of making the Mineral Mountain Range (west side of Beaver unit) a limited entry buck deer unit and that it be discussed during the revision of the deer plan with the Deer Management Committee. This is to be placed on the action log.

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: December 6, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Additional muzzleloader Pronghorn hunting opportunity

MOTION I move that we ask the division to study additional muzzleloader pronghorn hunting opportunity as presented in the November RAC meetings by Mr. Zundel. This is to be placed on the action log.

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: December 6, 2012

Late Fall 2013 – Target Date – Non-Resident Sheep Permit Quota

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to prepare a sheet for the Board and the NRO RAC that shows the sheep unit grouping and permit percentage rules that were passed (by the board) last year – and subsequent total permits and breakout between OIAL, conservation and convention permits, for each sheep species and each unit group.

Assigned to: Bill Bates
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: May 2, 2013

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Hunting Turkeys with Falcons

MOTION: I move that we put the hunting turkeys with falcons proposal on the action log for consideration when the Upland Game Guidebook comes up for review.

Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: June 9, 2011

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Additional Benefits for Limited-Entry turkey tag holders

MOTION: I move that we have placed on the action log that the Division look into the possibility and feasibility of a limited entry turkey permit holder who is unsuccessful to turn in their limited entry tag and purchase a general season tag.

Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: May 3, 2012

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Group Applications for Limited-Entry turkey permits, sage-grouse and sharp-tail grouse permits.

MOTION: I move for the DWR to present a proposal to the RACs that group applications be allowed for the limited entry turkey, sage-grouse, and sharp-tailed grouse hunts.

Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: June 4, 2013

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Use of 28 gauge shotgun for taking Wild Turkeys

MOTION: I move that we place on the action log the request for use of a 28 gauge shotgun for turkeys.

Assigned to: Jason Robinson
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending
Placed on Action Log: June 4, 2013

Summer 2014 – Target Date – Fish Surveys (2 motions)

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to place on the action log the two questions from the SRO RAC concerning the next fisheries survey, and that both questions be included in the next survey.

Question 1 – To include in the next fisheries survey a question regarding instating an 8 fish limit statewide.

Question 2 – To include in the next fisheries survey a question regarding the taking of catch and kill species by spear fishermen in all waters where it applies.

MOTION: I move that we ask the division to place on the next survey questions concerning the 3-day possession limit and processed fish in order to obtain public input.

Assigned to: Drew Cushing
Action: Under Study
Status: Pending

Placed on Action Log: November 7, 2013

Fall 2014 – Target Date – Management Buck Tags on the Book Cliffs

MOTION: I move that the Division be asked to review the buck management tags on the Book Cliffs. People are always reporting the presence of big two and three point bucks in that area. Perhaps these permits could be given to youth. This is to be addressed during the revision of the Deer Management Plan in 2014.

Assigned to: Bill Bates

Action: Under Study

Status: Pending

Placed on Action Log: December 1, 2011

Fall 2014 – Target Date – Goat Seasons

MOTION: I move that we add Ben Lowder's request to extend the goat hunt season to the action log and have the Division evaluate the hunt structure and report on their findings at the same time next year.

Assigned to: Bill Bates

Action: Under Study

Status: Pending

Placed on Action Log: December 5, 2013

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 9, 2014, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Revised January 8, 2014

Thursday, January 9, 2014, Board Meeting 9:00 am

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Presentation on Highway Deer Mortality
- Daniel Olson, Utah State University | INFORMATION |
| 6. R657-27 Licensing Agent Procedures Rule Amendments
- Phil Gray, Business Analyst | ACTION |
| 7. R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Rule Amendments
- Jordan Nielson, AIS Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. R657-43 Landowner Permits Rule Amendments
- Regional Wildlife Biologist | ACTION |
| 9. R657-10 Cougar Rule Amendments
- John Shivik, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Certification Review Committee – Recommendation
- Staci Coons, CRC Chairman | ACTION |
| 11. Bucks, Bulls, OIAL Season Date Corrections
- Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Other Business
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | CONTINGENT |
| • Winter WAFWA Report | |

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 9, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

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

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 5, 2013 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) R657-27 – License Agent Procedures Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-27 License Agent Procedures Rule Amendments as presented.

4) R657-60 – Aquatic Invasive Species Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Rule Amendments as presented.

5) R657-43 – Landowner Permits Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-43 Landowner Permits Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

6) R657-10 – Cougar Rule Amendments (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-10 Cougar Rule Amendments as presented by the Division at all the RAC meetings with the understanding that depredation is not included in the harvest objective. The Division will present a progress report every 3 years to the Wildlife Board in conjunction with the Cougar Recommendations.

7) CRC Recommendations (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Certification Review Committees' Recommendations for Carl Wilson's nuisance COR to include bats.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Certification Review Committees' Recommendations for Richard Williams's COR request for commercial growing of black tiger prawns and Malaysian river lobster as presented by the Division and as contained within the documentation.

8) Bucks, Bulls, OIAL Season Date Corrections (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Bucks, Bulls, OIAL season date corrections as presented.

9) Other Business (**Contingent**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the stipulation orders for Bruce Spencer and Cory Spencer as presented by the Division.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
January 9, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/14-1-9.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

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

RAC Chairs Present

Southern – Kevin Bunnell
Southeastern – Kevin Albrecht
Central – Gary Nielsen
Northern – Robert Byrnes
Northeastern - Carrie Mae Messerly

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks	Phil Gray	Karen Caldwell
Rory Reynolds	Jordan Nielson	Mike Styler
Mike Canning	John Shivik	Dax Mangus
Staci Coons	Judi Tutorw	Randy Wood
Thu Vo-Wood	Lindy Varney	Robin Cahoon
Kevin Bunnell	Justin Shannon	Troy Davis
Justin Dolling	Dean Mitchell	Justin Robinson
Boyde Blackwell	John Fairchild	Covy Jones
Chris Wood	Greg Hansen	Scott McFarlane
Roger Wilson	Kenny Johnson	Mike Styler
Bill Bates	Martin Bushman	

Public Present

John Young, Young Bros. Livestock	Mike Linnell, FWS
Spencer Gibbons, UT Farm Bureau	Daniel Olson, USU
Tonia Fuller, UT Wool Growers Assoc.	Bret Selman
Dan Cockayne, UT Houndsmen Assoc.	

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

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:14 – 00:02:40 of 03:09:26**

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the agenda.

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:02:42 – 00:03:13 of 03:09:26**

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the December 5, 2013 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

- 3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) None.
- 4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:03:24 – 00:29:30 of 03:09:26**

Greg Sheehan summarized the ongoing Division projects; the WAFWA meeting; the Blue Ribbon visit to Lee Kay; the results of bald eagle deaths and the upcoming Bald Eagle Day; and the upcoming legislative session and several bills the Division is supporting.

- 5) Presentation on Highway Deer Mortality (**Informational**) **00:31:53 – 00:58:00 of 03:09:26**

Daniel Olson from Utah State University presented the findings on highway deer mortality.

He will send Staci Coons a copy of the presentation to disburse to interested parties.

The Board wanted to know if the data collected showed any benefits; indication for concern with human fatalities and injuries; or correlation to seasons.

- 6) R657-27 License Agent Procedures Rule Amendments (**Action**) **00:58:03 – 01:07:01 of 03:09:26**

Phil Gray presented rule amendments for License Agent Procedures R657-27.

Board Questions 01:03:02 – 01:04:56

Jake Albrecht expressed concern about technology accessibility in rural areas. Phil Gray assured the Board there would be no loss of current licensed agents since they are already set up with the required equipment.

RAC Recommendation 01:04:58 – 01:06:30

All RACs except Northeast unanimously passed R657-27 License Agent Procedures Rule Amendments. Northeast RAC failed to have a quorum of RAC members in attendance; however, they all agreed to move forward with the rule amendments.

Board Discussion 01:06:30 – 01:07:01

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-27 License Agent Procedures Rule Amendments as presented.

- 7) R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Rule Amendments (**Action**) **01:07:03 – 01:26:00 of 03:09:26**

Jordan Nielson presented R657-60 Invasive Species Rule Amendments.

Board Questions 01:16:51 – 01:19:02

Sampling of water bodies is done annually and more often – once a week or once a month – through Bureau of Reclamation or Water Conservancy.

Water quality (high calcium content) is a factor in their survival rate and ability to spread rather than elevation or temperature.

RAC Recommendation 01:19:12 – 01:20:19

All RACs except Northeast unanimously passed R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Rule Amendments. Northeast RAC could not take any motions since they failed to have a quorum of RAC members in attendance; those in attendance did agree to move forward with the rule.

Board Discussion 01:20:25 – 01:26:00

The Division is working on funding, cooperative partnerships, manpower, and other details to enable checkpoints at all major Utah highway borders.

The following motion was made by Bill Fenimore, seconded by Mike King and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Rule Amendments as presented.

- 8) R657-43 Landowner Permits Rule Amendments (**Action**) **01:26:47 – 01:31:39 of 03:09:26**

Scott McFarlane presented R657-43 Landowner Permits Rule Amendments.

RAC Recommendation 01:30:16 – 01:31:16

All RACs except Northeast unanimously passed R657-43 Landowner Permits Rule Amendments. Northeast RAC failed to have a quorum of RAC members in attendance, but did agree to move forward with the rule.

Board Discussion 01:31:10 – 01:31:39

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-43 Landowner Permits Rule Amendments as presented by the Division.

9) R657-10 Cougar Rule Amendments (**Action**) **01:31:43 – 02:47:00 of 03:09:26**

John Shivik presented R657-10 Cougar Rule Amendments. He did not present this to the Southeast and Northeast RAC. Regional managers, Dax Mangus and Guy Wallace, presented the rule amendments to their respective RAC.

Board Questions 01:38:50 – 01:45:45

The Board expressed concern about the issuance of these permits and the potential for rampant takes of cougars. To deter this action, no incentives are given for the permits. Ranchers cannot keep the cougar; there has to be historical documentation of depredation issue; they have to work with Wildlife Services and the Division.

The take through this permit program will be counted toward the quota; however, takes from Wildlife Services do not count against the quota.

The program does not negate the depredation program.

If there are any usable cougar hides, the Division will sell them at auction. Otherwise, the Division will dispose them.

Public Questions 01:45:51 – 01:48:34

Public questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendation 01:48:36 – 02:07:54

Southern RAC unanimously passed R657-10 Cougar Rule Amendments.

Southeast RAC unanimously accepted new definitions of cougar rule amendments, but also unanimously rejected the landowner depredation amendments as presented.

Central and Northern RAC passed the rule amendments with varying dissent and provisions.

Northeast RAC could not take any motions since they failed to have a quorum of RAC members in attendance. Those present were in favor of the proposal.

Mike Linnell from Wildlife Services provided the Board their perspective on the cougar issue. He also added an explanation about the 72 hour rule.

Bill Bates read the 72 hour rule to help clarify the board's concerns. More discussion ensued.

Public Comments 02:07:56 – 02:21:12

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 02:21:18 – 02:47:00

Chairman Albrecht summarized the RACs recommendations and asked Martin Bushman for input on quotas. John Shivik and the Board tackled this topic at length.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve R657-10 Cougar Rule Amendments as presented by the Division at all the RAC meetings with the understanding that depredation is not included in the harvest objective. The Division will present a progress report every 3 years to the Wildlife Board in conjunction with the Cougar Recommendations.

10) CRC – Recommendations (Action) 02:47:22 – 02:59:00 of 03:09:26

Staci Coons presented the Certification Review Committee's recommendations.

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Certification Review Committees' Recommendations for Carl Wilson's nuisance COR to include bats.

The Board asked Mr. Williams for an explanation and details of his request.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Certification Review Committees' Recommendations for Richard Williams's COR request for commercial growing of black tiger prawns and Malaysian river lobster as presented by the Division and as contained within the documentation.

11) Bucks, Bulls, OIAL Season Date Corrections (Action) 02:59:05 – 03:03:11 of 03:09:26

Justin Shannon presented the corrected season dates for the Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Buks, Bulls, and OIAL season date corrections as presented.

12) Other Business (Contingent) 03:03:12 – 03:09:26

Martin Bushman presented stipulation orders for Bruce Spencer and Cory Spencer. He requested Bruce Spencer's suspension end, effective today January 9, 2014. Cory Spencer's suspension would be reduced to two years and three months, starting October 10, 2013, to January 9, 2016.

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the stipulation orders for Bruce Spencer and Cory Spencer as presented by the Division.

Meeting adjourned.

**SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
APRIL RAC MEETING**

1. WILDLIFE LICENSE, PERMIT & COR FORMS RULE AMENDMENT R657-45

SRO: **MOTION:** To accept the rule amendment as presented with the exception that people serving in the military or on religious missions be exempt from purchasing a hunting license in order to buy a point in drawings.
VOTE: 8 in favor, 2 opposed

SERO, NERO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the rule amendment as presented by the Division.
VOTE: Unanimous

NRO: **MOTION:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR Forms Rule amendment with the inclusion from deleting -3(2) senior and veteran. The intention is to allow multi-year licenses for seniors and veterans at the discounted rate.
VOTE: Unanimous

2. UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM RULE AMENDMENT R657-67

ALL REGIONS:

MOTION: To accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous

3. FISHING WITH MORE THAN ONE POLE RULE AMENDMENT R657-13-7

ALL REGIONS:

MOTION: To accept the Fishing with more than One Pole Rule Amendment as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous.

4. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTERDICTION RULE AMENDMENT R657-60

ALL REGIONS:

MOTION: To accept the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous.

5. BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

- SRO:** **MOTION:** To accept the 2014 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations as presented. Clair Woodbury seconded. Motion amended.
AMENDMENT: To provide an additional 10 any weapon bull elk permits on the southwest desert unit.
VOTE: 8 in favor, 2 opposed
SECOND AMENDMENT: That there be no increase in trophy buck permits on the Paunsaugunt and Henry Mountain units.
VOTE: 6 in favor, 4 opposed
VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Unanimous
- SERO:** **MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented, except that the number of mature bull permits on the Central Mountains-Manti unit remain at 430, which was the number approved in 2013.
VOTE: Unanimous
- NERO:** **MOTION:** to amend the DWR proposal with the proposal presented by Troy to adopt the Division's recommendations with three changes:
-all Paunsaugunt trophy buck deer tags stay the same as 2013
-all trophy buck deer tags on the Henries stay the same as 2013
-all Central Mountains-Manti bull elk tags stay the same as 2013
VOTE: passed 7 to 3
- NRO:** **MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous
- CRO:** **MOTION:** To accept the Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.
VOTE: Passed 7-1

6. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

- SRO:** **MOTION:** To accept the antlerless permit recommendations as presented.
VOTE: 6 in favor, 4 opposed

SERO, NERO, NRO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.
VOTE: Unanimous

7. ANTLERLESS CWMU VOUCHER/PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

SRO, NERO, NRO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless CWMU voucher/permit recommendations for 2014 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

SERO:

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.

VOTE: Passed with Blair Eastman and Sue Bellagamba abstaining, due to conflicts of interest.

8. WILD/FERREL HORSES

SRO:

MOTION: To support and endorse the Wild Horse proposal as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver City Center, Beaver, UT
April 08, 2014 5:00 p.m.

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. WILDLIFE LICENSE, PERMIT & COR FORMS RULE AMENDMENT R657-45

MOTION: To accept the rule amendment as presented with the exception that people serving in the military or on religious missions be exempt from purchasing a hunting license in order to buy a point in drawings.

VOTE: 8 in favor, 2 opposed

3. UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM RULE AMENDMENT R657-67

MOTION: To accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

4. FISHING WITH MORE THAN ONE POLE RULE AMENDMENT R657-13-7

MOTION: To accept the Fishing with more than One Pole Rule Amendment as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous.

5. AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTERDICTION RULE AMENDMENT R657-60

MOTION: To accept the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous.

6. BUCKS, BULLS & OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

MOTION: To accept the 2014 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations as presented. Clair Woodbury seconded. Motion amended.

AMENDMENT: To provide an additional 10 any weapon bull elk permits on the southwest

desert unit.

VOTE: 8 in favor, 2 opposed

AMENDMENT: That there be no increase in trophy buck permits on the Paunsaugunt and Henry Mountain units.

VOTE: 6 in favor, 4 opposed

VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: Unanimous

7. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

MOTION: To accept the antlerless permit recommendations as presented.

VOTE: 6 in favor, 4 opposed

8. ANTLERLESS CWMU VOUCHER/PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless CWMU voucher/permit recommendations for 2014 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

9. WILD/FERREL HORSES

MOTION: To support and endorse the Wild Horse proposal as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver City Center, Beaver, UT
April 08, 2014 5:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Brian Johnson Rusty Aiken Clair Woodbury Mike Staheli Layne Torgerson Mike Worthen Harry Barber Mack Morrell Dale Bagley Sam Carpenter Sean Kelly	Giani Julander Lynn Chamberlain Kevin Bunnell Teresa Griffin Riley Peck Justin Shannon Matt Bartley Scott McFarlane Jim Lamb Jake Selby Jason Nicholes Kent Hersey Eric Bond Seth Dekker Dustin Schaible	Jake Albrecht	Dave Black Cordell Pearson Clair Woodbury

Mike Worthen called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. There were approximately 48 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Mike Worthen introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Mike Worthen explained RAC meeting procedures.

Mike Worthen: We'd like to call this meeting to order. We'd ask everybody to please be seated. I'd like to welcome everybody out to this RAC meeting. I'm Mike Worthen. I've been asked to chair this meeting since Dave Black and Clair are missing in action. They called the weakest member to take care of this. So with that we will introduce the members of the RAC, starting with Brian on the end.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson, Enoch, Utah. I represent the non-consumptives.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken, Cedar City, agriculture.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli, Deseret.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson, Richfield, sportsman's representative.

Kevin Bunnell: My name's Kevin Bunnell; I'm the regional supervisor for the Division of Wildlife.

Harry Barber: Harry Barber. I represent the BLM. I'm from Kanab. I'm the Kanab field office manager.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell, Bicknell, agriculture.

Dale Bagley: Dale Bagley from Marysville. I represent an elected official.

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter from Kanab. I represent sportsman.

Sean Kelly: Sean Kelly from Fillmore. I represent the US Forest Service.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you members of the board and the public for being here, and the DWR staff. We'd like to just kind of briefly go over some of the procedures that we'll be following. We will have issues that come forward. There are cards that the members of the public can fill out and submit forward based on the issues that interest you. We will call out those cards. And also, we would ask you to limit your time to three minutes so we don't get here till nine or ten o'clock tonight. Hopefully we won't be that long in this meeting. First off we'd like to have a report from Kevin Bunnell with the Division of Wildlife on the Wildlife Board meeting and ask him to also give the regional update.

**Wildlife Board Update and Regional Update:
-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks Mike. It's been a while since we've been here but if you'll remember on March 10th was the last RAC meeting and the subsequent Board Meeting was the first week in January but it was one that was fairly quick. There was a license agent rule amendment, an AIS rule amendments, some amendments to the landowner permit rule, and a cougar rule amendment. All of which passed this RAC unanimously and were um, there was a little controversy over the cougar rule amendment at the Wildlife Board but in general it was one of the smoother meetings. And so really not a lot of update there.

Kevin Bunnell: As far as the regional update; the first thing I wanted to mention is many of you were aware that there were two men that were killed in a helicopter accident over the weekend, one of them being from here in Beaver. Rubin Venudi and Albert Rubio, I didn't know either of the gentlemen but I know a bunch of you probably did and I just want to pass on condolences to their families and friends for the loss of those two men. Um, secondly I just wanted to mention it will be relevant to what we talk about tonight, we're keeping a close eye on the water situation. Um, you know it's particularly relevant in the southwest desert where there's some other things going on right now that you all are aware of that are have some controversy to them. But just want to let you know that's something that's on our radar screen, it has been for several months and we will watch that closely and if we need to amend what happens here tonight to address that we will. Then just quickly from our administrative services section, a couple of notes, the draw results will be posted May 30th, most of you are aware of that but if not that's the date. The antlerless application and guidebook will be available online, either late May or early June. And the application period will also open in early June. From our aquatics section, they've been

working with a couple of advisory groups to put together new fish management plans for the Boulder Mountain and Fish Lake. Those are both going really well and the results of those efforts will come through this body sometime in the next few months. And then they've been, the aquatics folks have started their gill netting surveys for the year and things look very promising from a fish standpoint. Richard asked me to mention New Castle, Minersville, Panguitch Lake and Otter Creek; they're expecting to be really good fishing this spring so please take advantage of that. And you know they update, when they go out and survey these lakes, usually the day after they're there they'll put an update of that information out on the Division's facebook page. So if you're ever, you know, want updated information on the bodies of water here in the southern region that's a good place to get it. And then, you know, again, in relation to the water conditions, there is a possibility of some emergency regulations coming later this year if conditions get to where we're going to um, any of the reservoirs get down to where they're going to be drained we will liberalize the possession limits and things so that people can take advantage of removing as many of those fish as possible before reservoirs are drained. So be paying attention to that. From our wildlife section, you know the story of the winter's really good transplants. We've been moving animals all around. And our biologists worked very hard and put in a lot of long hours to accomplish that and I want to thank them for their efforts there. Just a quick note from our habitat section. Some of you will remember that last fall as the deer leaving the Paunsaugunt encountered some new fences there along Highway 89. They had fenced that and put some underpasses in and those animals were piling up on the fence and we were concerned what that was going to mean. The story looks much better on the way back. The deer are moving back from the Arizona Strip and they're not piling up on the other side. They seem to be finding those crossing structures and moving through much better than they did on the way down. So I hope that that repeats itself this fall when they migrate south again. And unless there's any questions that's all I have for a regional update.

Mike Worthen: Any questions from the RAC?

Dale Bagley: Is Piute on your list again to be killed this fall or just depending on water conditions I guess?

Kevin Bunnell: Um, yeah. So what Dale's talking about is um, Piute is infested with chubs right now. We've been looking for an opportunity to treat that but we need low water levels to be able to do so otherwise it's hard to get a complete kill. But yes, if we get the conditions to do that this year we'll certainly do it. We're planning on it and hopeful that we'll be able to get it done.

Clair Woodbury: Kevin you said that the deer at the Paunsaugunt piled up going south last year. Did we lose any on that or did they eventually find their way?

Kevin Bunnell: I'm not aware of any... well let me put it this way, we lost much fewer than we have in the past because usually there's a number that are killed there on the highway. So although those deer encountered something new and took a little time to figure out how to get through there I think in general we probably saved a whole bunch of deer compared to what it had been in the past. And maybe Sam or some of those that are familiar with it can comment on that as well.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, I know that we had seven of them get hit that eight jumped the double cattle guard or found their way through the fence. We had a pretty severe flood in there right after that fence was done. It washed a few places out. They were scrambling out there doing repairs and getting all that stuff fixed. Some did get through. About 100 head of deer wintered on the other side, just on the other side of

that fence and stayed there the whole winter, which has never happened before. So it did change the dynamics a little bit on what was going on. But I think in time it's going to be a good one, a good project and successful.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions? Okay, it looks like I jumped over one item, a review and acceptance of the RAC minutes and agenda items. Do we have a motion to accept those?

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion we accept the RAC agenda and the minutes from the last meeting.

Rusty Aiken: And I'll second that motion.

Mike Worthen: Okay we have a motion and a second to accept the meeting. All those in favor raise your hand. Any opposed? Okay, motion carries.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the agenda and previous minutes as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's jump right into item number 5, R657-45, Wildlife Licenses Permits and COR Forms Rule Amendment. And Kevin Bunnell will give that.

Kevin Bunnell: And Mr. Chairman, with your approval let's go ahead and do 5, 6 and 7 together. They're all very short. And Lynn if I could have you advance the slides for me and I'll just cover that from (recording error).

Wildlife License, permit & COR forms rule amendment R657-45 (action) 11:39 to 16:30 of 3:49:20

-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor
(See attachment 1)

Utah Hunter Mentoring Program rule amendment R657-67 (action)

-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor
(See attachment 1)

Fishing with more than one pole rule amendment R657-13-7 (action)

-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you Kevin. Is there any discussion on any of these issues from the public? Okay, do we have any questions or comments from the RAC? Sam?

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, on your mentor program you have to go to the Regional office to apply for that?

Can you do that online? How do they go about doing that?

Kevin Bunnell: I think it can be done, you know what Sam, I'll have to, let me send a quick not and get a response for you before we're done tonight because honestly I'm not sure right now. Giani do you know? I believe that's what it is but I'll double-check that.

Sam Carpenter: We can't set something up through the Internet or anything?

Kevin Bunnell: We may be able to in the future. It's kind of a new thing that we're just trying to figure out, how much demand and everything

Sam Carpenter: Okay, and on the other Rules we were talking about I had, I actually had three different people approach me this year on having either a son or a daughter in the military or serving on a mission that would like to apply for a point, either bonus or the preference point and have the requirement to buy a license in there for these people that are out of the country, won't even be here for a couple of years, if there's any possibility that we can get this where there's an exemption for those people where they can pay for the point, you know, to apply for it without purchasing a permit. You know money's tight for a lot of these people and I just think it would be the right thing to do if they're serving their country or the church, to give them an exemption and allow them to purchase a point where they're not going to be in the country.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, um Sam I've heard that as well. Um, and it's just a relic of the way the Rule's currently written but probably I would imagine the Board could deal with if they chose to. So um, you know if you wanted to include that as a recommendation to the Board to consider that I think that would be appropriate.

Sam Carpenter: I would like to have that as a recommendation to have an exemption for people that are serving through the church or the country. I don't know how you'd have to go about to prove it. I'm sure it wouldn't be very complicated to do that. Do you want me to do that in the form of a motion or what?

Mike Worthen: Yes, do we have a motion? Or, before we do that let's see if there's any more discussion on these 3 issues.

Layne Torgerson: Kevin, I just had one question. Do we know what the cost, has the cost been set for these, 1,2,3,4,5-year licenses?

Kevin Bunnell: It has. And that came, that actually came to the RAC in November of last year. I'm going to try to remember off the top of my head. I think it was an \$8.00 increase on fishing licenses, and a \$6.00 increase on combination licenses, if I'm correct. It's close to that. But then with the multi year licenses, like if a 1-year license was \$36.00 then a 2-year instead of being \$72.00 was like \$70.00 or \$68.00 or something and it went down in increments like that with the, as you went multiple years out.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions?

Rusty Aiken: Have they got a trigger to do a 5-year license to remind you? It's like a drivers license, you know you kind of forget about having to buy one every year.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, that's a good question Rusty. And I don't know but it's a good suggestion.

Brian Johnson: You'll figure it out when you get a ticket.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions or comments from the RAC?

Brian Johnson: How much is a hunting license now? To apply? Yeah, a combination license?

Kevin Bunnell: Currently it's \$30.00. I believe with this license structure it goes to \$36.00. Somebody double-check me on that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions?

Questions from the public:

Mike Worthen: Any comments or questions from the public? Please come forward and state your name and who you're with.

Todd Abelhouzen: Todd Abelhouzen, SFW, St. George. I have another comment later on the deer numbers, but specifically to the mentoring program we've received a lot of phone calls from families that are having a hard time putting their entire family as far as the youth in for the limited entry draws or for the, even for the, well I guess it's mainly limited entry they have to buy a tag for, or they have to buy a license in order to put in for any of the limited entries, so what we would propose for request that maybe we look at somewhere down the line is exempting youth. Because we're trying to encourage hunter recruitment and we're losing so many of our youth up to, you know, 18 years of age they've got so many things that they're doing, if they're not going to get into hunting by then we're going to lose them. So I would suggest that we put together some sort of a proposal or at least some thing to look at in the near future where they exempt youth for putting in for the limited entry draws. And that obviously they'd have to buy a license if they drew a tag. There are several states that you don't even have to buy a license unless you draw a tag, but obviously Utah requires that. But for hunter recruitment I think we need to look at that very closely.

Kevin Bunnell: And Todd, I, just to comment on that. That could certainly be done but it would probably come at a price on the other end. You know we just passed a license fee increase because, you know not just on a whim but because we needed the money to operate. And so that would be a fiscal hit and we'd have to make up for that some way and so there would have to be some give and take to do something like that. And you know there's always trade offs with all of the decisions that we make

Todd Abelhouzen: Yeah, it always comes down to dollars. But you know my feeling is if we don't get some recruitment increases we're going to have some serious issues. I mean just in my home, the only two out of my four daughters even like to go out in the hills. And that's me pushing them. And so I know that the dads that are having a hard time financially putting in for the deer hunt and things like that. So and maybe, you know, maybe we can look at it from a sportsman's standpoint putting together a special fund to help out those types of families or things like that. But I really feel like youth recruitment is a key element.

Kevin Bunnell: And as you know that's something that is high on our list right now as well, is

recruitment and retention of hunter, or sportsman in general.

Sam Carpenter: You're just talking limited entry? Just the limited entry hunts that you want this exception? Or are you talking about all the?

Todd Abelhouzen: Well I believe they have to buy a license to put in for the deer hunt also. So any draw hunt that would include deer, antelope, elk, limited entry deer.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, well that's a lot different than limited entry. Because you know there's the whole spectrum of them out there.

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have a motion from the RAC on, let's do the first one first, on R657-45, Wildlife Licenses? Sam?

Sam Carpenter: Okay, I'll make the motion that we accept the proposal for R657-45 as presented with an exception to allow people serving in military or on a church mission and exemption from buying a permit when applying for a point.

Mike Worthen: Do we have a second? Okay, seconded. It has been moved and seconded. Any discussion? Brain.

Brian Johnson: Yeah I just, I hate to be the guy up here that says, you know as we talk about this, we're talking about \$36.00 a year. Generally the most missions that we're talking about are LDS missions are either going to be 18 months or 24 months. If you plan that right you can buy one license for 2 years, so we're talking about \$38.00. We're also talking about the loss on the other end because there's federal reimbursement of about, I don't know what the percentage is, I think it's about 70 percent of that. Somebody can clear that up. But we get matching dollars on the federal side so that's the reason why the Division said, hey let's make everybody buy a license if they're going to apply for a point because it generates revenue on both ends. And so I just hate to see us open this box and give an exception to this group or this group or this group when it's \$38.00. So that's just ... I mean I'm open to discussion.

Sam Carpenter: Well and that's to include military too. This isn't a church thing. This is . . .

Brian Johnson: I agree. And most military tours of duty are one year or less.

Sam Carpenter: Well they get stationed after they join, some of them are 6 year commitments, four year commitments, 2 year commitments.

Brian Johnson: Absolutely. And they signed on the dotted line; I get that. And I thank them every time I get the chance. I'm just saying they want to buy an point in our state. I mean what's the difference between that and a guy that works on the oil rigs and he's going to miss the hunting season because he works three months on and three months off? I mean I don't know.

Sam Carpenter: I guess they can use vacation.

Brian Johnson: I just hate to open it up.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Any other discussion?

Brian Johnson: I agree 100 percent. I absolutely agree. I just, you know. . .

Mike Worthen: Okay. Any other discussion? Hang on just a minute. If you want to address please come forward and state your name and who you're from?

Mike Clark: My name's Mike Clark. I'm just here for my own self and to make comments. As far as what was brought up about youth and not having to buy a license to apply for limited entry, basically what they were saying is they don't want to hunt unless they can draw the best tags in the state. They don't want to put anything into the kitty unless they draw limited entry. And then, yeah, I'll go then but other than that I don't want to hunt a general hunt or I don't want to pheasant hunt or I don't want to do anything else. And I don't think that's right either. If we're going looking at everybody else has to put purchase a license to apply. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other discussion from the RAC? Do we have a motion on the floor?

Gene Boardman: Gene Boardman, Hinkley, Utah. Since you're talking both comments and questions here at this time about youth; first off, who's youth are you talking about yours or Tom Smith's? Old Tom quit hunting years ago when he forgot or didn't understand that he had to put in for his permit 9 months early. And uh, then the next year he found that he probably wasn't going to draw anyway so he didn't put in that year and he hasn't put in since. He sold his gun. And his kids then didn't get introduced into the hunting tradition. And what we have is just a lot of things here in the state that's against the guys like Tom Smith. Putting in for a tag 9 months before the season opens and then maybe before the number has even been allocated. I think we could shorten this up a lot. I think if we did and made some of these things easier for people like Tom Smith then you wouldn't have the problem of recruiting young hunters that you think that you've got now.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. I think I jumped out of line a little bit by allowing public to comment. You're comments are at the front and now we're doing the RAC discussion. So let's jump back in. Do we have a motion on the table?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes there is a motion still, and a second.

Mike Worthen: And a second. Okay. Any discussion further?

Brian Johnson: Is there any way we can do a motion to accept it as it is and have an amendment to the motion for what you're talking about?

Mike Worthen: You can amend whatever motion you want.

Brian Johnson: It's his motion. I'm just wondering if?

Mike Worthen: Well anybody can amend a motion.

Brian Johnson: I would like to make a motion that our recommendations for letting people that are out of

the country as a standalone amendment to the motion. Not just lump in with this motion.

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have a second on Brian's motion, on his amendment to the motion? Having none the amendment fails. Back to the motion. Any motion? Any further discussion on the motion? All in favor raise your right hand. Any opposed? 2 opposed. Motion passes.

Sam Carpenter made the motion to accept the Wildlife License, Permit & COR Forms Rule amendment as presented with the exception that people serving in the military and on religious missions can be exempt from purchasing a hunting license in order to purchase a point in drawings. Motion seconded. Motion carries: 8 in favor, 2 opposed.

Mike Worthen: Next motion is R657-67, Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment. Okay, do we have any public comment?

Comments from the public:

Brayden Richmond: Can I ask a question on this. On this mentoring program I just want to get a clarification. If you have an adult with a license and the kid is set up on the mentoring and the father passes during the hunt, can the kid still go or is that a license essentially die with the parent?

Kevin Bunnell: I don't know that we've dealt with that. Um, and I guess that there would be some discretion there but I don't know that the Rule addresses that situation. In fact I seriously doubt that it does.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other public comment?

RAC discussion and motion:

Mike Worthen: Okay, any motion from the RAC to accept this or deny it or whatever?

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept Rule number R657-67 as presented by Mr. Bunnell.

Dale Bagley: I second it.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it has been moved and seconded that we accept R657-67, Utah Hunter and Mentoring Program as presented by the Division. Any discussion? Seeing none, all in favor please signify by the right hand. Any opposed? Motion passes.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: The next motion, R657-13-7, Fishing with more than one pole Rule amendment. Any public comment?

Comments from the public:

None.

Mike Worthen: Okay, seeing none, is the RAC ready to make a motion?

RAC discussion and motion:

Rusty Aiken: I'll make a motion to accept the proposal by the Division.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Is there a second? Seconded by Harry Barber. Any discussion? Seeing none, all in favor raise your right hand. Any opposed? Motion passes.

Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the Fishing With More Than One Pole Rule Amendment as presented. Harry Barber seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Bunnell: Mike before we move on, with Mike being new to this role, let me help you out just a little bit and let's. I think there are some new people here to this process so let me just make sure everybody understands how it goes. So there will be a presentation from the Division, which will be a recommendation. Immediately after that presentation there will be an opportunity for questions from the RAC. As soon as we finish questions from the RAC there will be an opportunity for questions from the public. Following that there will be comments from the public. And there's a difference between questions and comments. A question is just to clarify what has been presented, whereas a comment is to take a position on what's being recommended. And then it will come back to the RAC to discuss the issue and make a motion. If you want to comment on anything you any of the guys in a brown shirt here and you'll need to fill out one of these yellow comment card so that we can have it for the record and those will be brought up here and we'll deal with those one by one as we go through each individual item on the agenda. So, thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay we have a recommendation from or a proposal of the R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment. And we have Matt Bartley.

Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction rule amendment R657-60 (action)
-Matt Bartley, Aquatics Invasive Species Biologist 36:49 40:23 to 3:49:20
(see attachment 1)

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the Public:

John Keeler: Are the ports of entry already signed? Are there signs at the ports of entry?

Matt Bartley: We're running port of entry 40 hours a week this season.

John Keeler: But the signs are visible already there?

Matt Bartley: Yeah. So the port of entry signs are up and when we have the port of entry open those signs will be on.

John Keeler: Well the reason I ask is because as you know there's a conflict going on between Cliven Bundy and some cattle and they're worried about them getting into the state going to an auction in Utah. There was a report by some people that the livestock signage at the ports of entry, the port of entry down there, was covered up. KDXU radio in St George reported tonight that they checked with the port of entry and the port of entry says no it's the Quagga mussel sign that's covered up. So if that's the case why is it covered up?

Kevin Bunnell: Um, it's covered because we haven't started.

John Keeler: That's what I asked.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, I think there was some clarification. He was asking, responding to whether we have signs. We do have signs but we haven't started operations at the port of entry yet. As soon as we do those signs will be covered. But that is the sign that is currently covered so that people that were coming through during the winter weren't confused that they needed to stop at the port of entry.

Matt Bartley: Part of the confusion with that was there's a light that blinks that says when this light's on pull over for watercrafts. And people were getting that confused with the lights behind it for when the port of entry was open, so that's why we had it covered up. We have plans for a better light so that confusion isn't anymore.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Are there any other questions from the public?

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: Comments from the public at this time?

None.

Questions from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Seeing none then we will open questions from the RAC.

Dale Bagley: Is the park service helping in your enforcement at all? I mean you say that you need these check points because it's hard to get in on their boat ramps, are they not helping in the enforcement of the Quagga Mussels, or what's going on there?

Matt Bartley: They are helping, however, the park service tape that they have to go through is a lot more complicated, I would say; and they're a lot more restricted on what they can and can't do. For example, just giving them people a flyer, it's a whole process, they're putting up a new sign, is a whole process that is really slow through the park service and we want to be really proactive and make sure that we catch it. But they are working with us, and it's a partnership that we are trying to build, but I think these check points would help us address our needs much better.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions from the RAC? Mack.

Mack Morrell: Going north out of Lake Powell, where's the checkpoint? Is that the head of North Wash

there?

Matt Bartley: So the checkpoint out of Lake Powell, there's going to be one on Highway 89 before you hit Kanab.

Mack Morrell: Coming north on Lake Powell, from Bullfrog? From Bullfrog, yeah.

Matt Bartley: Okay, so there's two potential spots, one that we've run on Highway 95, I believe it is, going north out of that. And then there's another one in Henrysville? Hanksville. That's it. I'm still kind of learning the places, and yeah.

Mack Morrell: What about if you don't put it at the head of North Wash, those people that's going to Colorado go down North Wash and out through Blanding and into Colorado. So I think you ought to put it at the head of North Wash. There's a rest stop right there anyway.

Matt Bartley: Okay. And I think that's part of the problem is finding an adequate space so that you can have those Quagga signs.

Mack Morrell: There's space right there.

Matt Bartley: All right.

Mack Morrell: There's plenty of space.

Matt Bartley: Yeah, we can definitely look into that.

Mack Morrell: Because otherwise you'll miss the Colorado people going.

Matt Bartley: Yeah. So that's out of?

Mack Morrell: Where you come north out of Bullfrog, I can't remember the highway you hit, anyway you get on the main highway right there at the head of North Wash.

Matt Bartley: Okay. Yeah, I'll look into that and see what the feasibility is of that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions from the RAC? Okay, do we have a motion?

Rusty Aiken: I'll make a motion to accept the proposal of the Division.

Layne Torgerson: I'll second that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it's been moved and seconded that we accept the proposal 657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction as proposed. Do we have a discussion from the RAC? Seeing none, all in favor of the motion please signify by the hand. Any opposed? Motion carries.

Unanimous.

Rustin Aiken made the motion to accept the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: The next item is Bucks and Bulls and we have Justin Shannon the big game coordinator to present this from the Division.

Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 (action)

-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator

-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Program Manager 46:28 to 56:52 of 3:49:20

(see attachment 1)

Mike Worthen: Okay. Thank you. Do we have any questions from the public?

Questions from the public:

Mike Worthen: Okay, Donnie would you come forward?

Donnie Hunter: Yeah, my name's Donnie Hunter. I'm representing Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, Iron County chapter. We have some of our members concerned about the increase in the permits on the Zion unit, the desert bighorn sheep. Could we get any explanation of why we're having that increase?

Jason Nicholes: This past fall in November we did a survey of the unit and the population has increased. Ram permits are based on 12 to 15 percent of the total rams counted on the unit. And we increased from 9 permits to 13 permits this year, that's an increase of 4 permits over last year. 13 permits is the minimum that the management plan will allow.

Donnie Hunter: If we're gonna increase those up to that many, we're worried about the quality of the hunt there with the numbers. We might want to split that hunt or something so that we're not all out there at the same time. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other questions from public?

Gene Boardman: On these increases and decreases and so forth, I can understand that things have to increase and decrease. But there's a bunch of permits that are already, have already been given out and a bunch more that's been promised and apparently they didn't have to worry about the increase and decrease for those special permits that the public has to worry about. I'd like somebody to explain that please.

Justin Shannon: Sir, are you referring to the conservation permit program? Okay, just a quick update on our conservation permit program. What we do is we take a small select number of permits and they're actually auctioned off and with that money 90 percent of the revenue comes back to projects or activities that help habitat or mule deer, or elk, or whatever these species are. And so you're right, I mean it is permits that are certainly given but it's with the intent of raising funds to help wildlife.

Kevin Bunnell: Justin, just to add a little bit more. Sir, those permits are based on a percentage so if the public permits decrease, and it drops below the percentage, then those permits automatically decrease as well. And so they see, it's around 5 percent, and so if you drop below where 5 percent means one less

tag then that's an automatic thing that happens.

Gene Boardman: But it's decided before the public permits are ever decided.

Kevin Bunnell: No it's not. It's decided in the same process for next year's, well there is a one year lag but it catches up after one year.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions from the public?

Gib Yardley: I'm Gib Yardley from Beaver. I run cattle on the Cedar Mountain – Panguitch Lake unit and also on the West Dessert. And we're facing some awful droughts out there. And we feel that the elk are getting out of hand out on the West Desert as well as on the mountain, and especially in these drought years and we feel that we should have an increase in the number of cows that we take off and bulls too. There are a lot of big bulls out on that desert. I had 17 in one bunch staying at one of my pastures all winter. Now I can't quite follow this. How many cows are you recommending for taking off of the Southwest Desert? Is that the 365? Is that the total amount?

Justin Shannon: That will be part of my next presentation when I go through all the antlerless stuff. And we can talk about where we're at population (inaudible) with the next presentation.

Gib Yardley: So I'm not supposed to bring up this population deal now huh?

Kevin Bunnell: We'll deal with antlerless tags, the removal of cow elk in the next presentation. So if you can hold your thought until Justin comes and talks about antlerless, he'll present all those numbers and hopefully clarify, make sure everybody has the same understanding and then we'll go into question on that one. Is that okay?

Gib Yardley: Well is this on bulls you're talking about now?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes, this is just on bulls and we increased that by 9 permits on the Southwest Desert.

Gib Yardley: And what about Panguitch Lake?

Kevin Bunnell: It remained the same from last year.

Gib Yardley: Well they're getting a lot more bulls especially out on the Southwest Desert. We think that in this drought and things that them numbers should be increased. We're very sincere about that. We're getting in so much darn trouble on those deserts. We like to get along with the sportsman and we like to see some elk and things but we don't want them and the wild horses to run us right out of business and that's about what's happening right now. We're having a heck of a struggle. And uh, another thing I want all you sportsman to really be aware that Fish and Wildlife Service is trying to bring in them Mexican Wolves up into this country. They're proposing some of that. And if you want to do away with your elk let them, them things will do it. They tell me that before they put them wolves in Yellowstone park they had over 19,000, the biggest elk herd in the world, and now they're down to about 6,000 and they're killing a big share of the fawns so that they can't increase. So we need to really all get together and fight to keep those dog gone Mexican Wolves out of this area. And we've all got to work together on that thing. But uh, we feel that when these droughts come along that the cattelman

take the brunt of it and we like to really take care of our ranges and we voluntarily keep some cows off if we don't have the feed for em, both in the summer country and our winter country. And we feel that in these drought years you should increase these numbers of these elk that you're taking off. And also we're getting more, quite a few more pronghorn antelope out there on the West Desert and I think we ought to increase those numbers a little bit. Thank you very much.

Mike Worthen: Do we have any more questions from the public?

Brayden Richmond: Just a quick question, do we have any idea what kind of habitat damage occurs as a ratio between the wild horses and the elk? Say one elk equals, or one horse equals 10 elk, 15 elk, 50 elk, as far as damage to habitat. We all know the horses are worse. I'm just wondering what the ratio is.

Justin Shannon: Probably the best way to look at that would be from an AUM standpoint. And I think an elk, if I remember right, is about .75 of an AUM. And I can't remember what a feral horse is off the top of my head. I can't remember that. I can look into it but I don't know off the top of my head.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's move on.

Questions from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Are there any questions from the RAC?

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, there was quite a significant decrease in the goat tags. Would you explain that?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, last year we got really aggressive with our goats, and part of it was because we were over on areas like the Willard and the Tushers and things like that. A lot of those mountain goats we got pretty aggressive with transplants last year as well, with taking animals to the Dutton, the La Sals. And so those were animals that we didn't have to take through harvest which is why we can afford to cut permits from 162 to 108 or whatever that number was. So that's a good chunk of that decrease.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, on your premium deer units, the Henrys and the Paunsagaunt, can you tell me where we come up with the criteria as far as the age objective, how that was set and also is the doe to fawn ratios on those units, and the buck to doe ratios?

Justin Shannon: Sure, some of that's in this. Let me get it back to that. Okay, and if I miss any of your questions remind me. The first question was how did we get there. What it is this was decided upon with the statewide mule deer committee. So as the management plan was passed in 2008, essentially what you have is a pendulum if you will of guys that want to hunt every year and guys that want extreme quality. And so the Paunsagaunt and the Henry Mountains fell as those categories for extreme quality. And as they were talking about the side boards that they wanted for quality, they wanted 40 to 50 bucks per 100 does and 40 to 55 percent of those bucks that were harvested to be 5 years or older. So that's the background of it and we've managed it that way for about 6 years. And as far as fawn to doe ratios on the Henrys, I think we were at 60 this year. And on the Paunsagaunt, someone is going to have to help me out with that. The fawn to doe ratio on the Paunsagaunt. 52. So, but was that all of them Sam?

Sam Carpenter: Yeah. That was it. But can you explain 52 to 100 is not really a good ratio. Isn't that kind of an indication that we're barely treading water with that population?

Justin Shannon: It depends on the population. Because, um, and part of my next PowerPoint is going to discuss some of this. It's half the solution. What you're producing is only half the equation; the other half of the equation is what is surviving. And so you're right, in some of these areas 52 would be really poor if you had low survival. If you had a lot of winterkill like you have up north in some of those areas. So it's dependent on survival I guess.

Rusty Aiken: So on the same note, the five year age class, was that a number just kind of picked out of the sky? It's a new program for the Division, right?

Justin Shannon: Yeah. So there's a lot of research that says that mule deer do very, like they get to some maximum ages at about 4 years. But they didn't want to just stop at 4 years, they wanted to kick it an extra year higher and say, okay we want 40 to 50 percent of these bucks to be 5 years or older because age and quality are so highly correlated. And so I don't think, yeah at the end of the day you could say it could have been voted one way or the other to be higher or lower but they landed on that because 4 is really top quality and they just kicked it up a notch from there.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other discussion or questions from the RAC? Having none we will move on to the public comments.

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: Todd Abelhouzen.

Todd Abelhouzen: Actually, your missing RAC member kicked me in the butt and told me I had to come up here. So you can thank my comments to Dave Black. We spent a lot of time on the Panguitch unit, Panguitch Lake unit, and I personally don't hunt there. And the reason I don't hunt there is because similar to my comments, there's a lot of people that are specifically focused on the areas where the majority of the public access is. My concern is we had a very major deer kill off there about 4.5 years ago, 3.5, 4 years ago I guess it was. And we lost a lot of fawns and we lost a lot of does. I'm sure we lost some bucks too with the cold weather. We're also killing or giving 150 doe tags and we've transplanted some deer off there in the last few years which is going to reduce our buck to, or is going to increase your buck ratio because you're taking does off of the mountain. So there's been a lot of factors that have increased our buck to doe ratio on the Panguitch Lake. We also have a population issue. So to me if we're not looking at those factors we've got a real problem on our hands. And to add doe tags and buck tags to a unit that took that significant of a death toll in 2009 and 10, I think they lost some where in the 80, it was significant on the fawns and it was 30 or 40 percent on the does in several areas. So I would suggest that we look closely at that number. I think that it's great that we're managing the deer and it looks like we're managing hunters a little bit. Um, but I'm glad that we're managing units for deer. Panguitch has a high uh, I guess irritability rate, as a lot of units have. I'm sure a lot of people that live in the unit or spend a lot of time in a unit get a lot of complaints. And I know that Dave wrote a letter to the RAC, so I'm sure that you guys all have that. I agree with his comments on that letter as well. So I'd like to really look at that winter die off and the taking of those of the doe tags and the transplants that we've done the last several years.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. The next comment is Wade Heaton.

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton representing Friends of the Paunsagaunt. I want to say right up front before I get cut off because I'm talking too long. I really appreciate you guys and all the time that you spend and all that you do for wildlife. Um, I just want to give you a little update on Friends of the Paunsagaunt. We are still alive and well. We met about a month ago. Had a really good group, we've actually got a little more interest from some sportsman and some people in the area. Um, really a diverse group. Anyway, good meeting. I felt like we came out of there with some good recommendations. The one I want to talk about first is obviously on the Paunsagaunt buck, trophy buck numbers; we've got a little bit of a dilemma. Our average age is obviously well out of the management plan. And I want to give you a little bit of history. Justin talked a little bit about it. Um, a little bit of history, when we first started this, remember we started these two separate triggers. We've got the trigger for the average age for the trophy bucks and we've got the buck to doe trigger for the management bucks. We started doing that when we started the management hunts about 5 years ago. Um, when we originally came up with that idea we wanted to have a 6-year old average. We felt like, you know what, that's the kind of buck, that's the age of buck we want, 6-years old, let's pick a percentage of the bucks killed that we want to be 6-years or older. Um, we had a lot of input from everyone, obviously with the DWR as well. And Anis was pretty adamant that on a free ranging herd there is absolutely no way we're ever going to get to even a 5 year average, let alone 6. 6 is stupid, let's compromise at 5, put our percentages out there and we will never hit it. As Friends of Paunsagaunt group that was our goal. We had just got done cutting permit numbers by 60 percent, if you remember. And so we wanted to have a management plan in place that would make it so that we ride that out and let's see where those 60 percent, or that cut goes. And so that was why we set the management plan the way we did. There was no biology behind it. There was no science. We literally pulled those numbers out of the sky and said let's try it. And they said we'll never get there. And we said, great, that's what we want. Well 4 short years later we're staring down way over objective. And it's not their fault. We believed it just as much as they did. That's just the way it turned out. Um, so we have real heartburn with where we're at. The Paunsagaunt has come a long ways. But we've still got our issues, you know our total population is struggling, our buck to doe ratio, as Justin just mentioned, has been declining these last 4 years. We've got our struggles and even though we've come a long way we don't think we're to the point where we want to start increasing permits yet. And this made up management plan is forcing an increase in permits. And so what we would like to do is we'd like to hold off for now. We propose that there be no increase in trophy tags for the Paunsagaunt for 2014. The statewide mule deer committee is going to meet this summer and there are already some talks, I think some great ideas have come up with ways to address this for the premium limited entry units. And I think we'll see some good common sense solutions to it but in the meantime we don't want to see an increase of 9. Uh, you know we've just got too many issues in front of us and we feel like we've got a little more progress to make before we start opening it up and increasing tags. Um, I think that's about it. Uh, we do want to support the management buck decrease in permits. Obviously I mentioned our buck to doe ratio is suffering and that's the trigger on that. And so we do want to support that, the reduction of 14. Also, we want to support the increase in bull elk tags. Anytime we have elk tag increase on the Paunsagaunt we all like it. So it's a good thing. Anyway, appreciate all the work that's been done on this and there's been a lot of meetings. We met with the DWR and they've been great to work with. Anyway, thanks for your time

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Next is Josh Jennings.

Josh Jennings: Hello. My name's Josh Jennings. I'm representing the , Alton CWMU. First off I just want to say that we do support the proposal from the Friends of the Paunsagaunt. We've got two conflicting numbers here that we've talked about already; about buck to doe ratio is on a steady decline,

but our age objective is saying another thing. Uh, we don't think it's quite the right time to start increasing trophy tags on the Pauns. We do support the decrease in management tags. Um, there's a lot of good things happening on the Pauns. right now. It's growing in the right direction. I'm somebody that lives on the Pauns. I hunt it. Um, and I spend 365 days a year on there. And I like what I'm seeing but it's not time to start jacking those tags up yet. I think with the statewide mule deer committee that's coming up we need to just kind of work with those guys, get us a plan from there but it's not time right now to start increasing tags. Um, I thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Jeremy Chamberlain.

Jeremy Chamberlain: I'd like to thank you guys for all your help in wildlife and the time that you spend away from your family and helping us out. Sorry, my name's Jeremy Chamberlain. I'm representing a landowners association on the Paunsaugunt. One of the things that we need to talk about some of the improvements that are happening on the Paunsaugunt that we feel that we can handle the number of tags that are in place right now. One of the things that the BLM is doing, and in our meetings we include the BLM, but the BLM has got 20 years worth of habitat projects that are already approved. They've started some of them and they're making huge increases in bull hogs, chainings, uh, just different projects that will increase the overall population of our deer herd on the Pauns. So we want to keep raising these deer instead of culling them. Also, we've invited the Forest Service to all of our meetings. The biologists in the Forest Service are also on board. We just need to work through some of the environmental impact studies and NEPA things and they're willing to work with the Fish and Game, with BLM in improving water sources, clearing some of the forest that is kind of over grown up on top up by Tropic reservoir. We've talked to some of the sportsman's groups about predator control. We all know that's an issue. And so these are some of the things that we feel that we have, we're getting our fingers in there, getting our hands involved and we just don't want to go backwards. We feel, I've been working on the Alton CWMU now for 15 years. The last 3 years since, like Wade mentioned, the tags that have been cut by 60 percent the last 3 years, we're seeing a huge increase in the overall quality of bucks, it's phenomenal to see. And so we feel, you know, 9 doesn't seem like a whole bunch but if you take the top 9 bucks off of the Pauns we're looking at 180 bucks again. And uh, we'd really like to see the 9 not involved with the draw this year. We do support the DWR recommendations for the management plan, dropping that from 25 tags to 14 tags. We think that's done a really good job of taking some of the older age class and the non-trophy bucks off of the Pauns. And I think that's it. So, thank you

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Let me remind the groups, if there are 4 or 5 of you in a group, we'd like to limit them comments to 5 minutes per group. So you can kind of divide it up among yourselves if you want to. Randy Johnson.

Randy Johnson: Do you want me to speak on the desert sheep now or will that be later? My comments are on desert sheep. Now? Thank you, I appreciate the time. Appreciate being here. I have a couple of letters there that I'm passing out.

Mike Worthen: Would you state name?

Randy Johnson: Sure, Randy Johnson representing myself and some avid sheep hunters around the state. (see attachment 2). Thank you, I appreciate that Mike. The first letter is from a gentleman in Price, Utah. His name is Adam Hatridge. Dear RAC member. As a person who boasts a lot of time working with Utah's Wildlife Resources I wish to express my concerns regarding an issue that will be covered in

the upcoming RAC meeting. My apprehension stems from several factors I have noticed as well as opinions voiced by outdoor enthusiasts. In the 2014 UDWR permit recommendations the desert bighorn sheep Zion unit tag allocation is proposed to increase from 8 to 12 hunting permits this year. In addition to those 12 permits, the conservation tag, the Utah sportsman tag and the statewide auction tag were also allowed to hunt the Zion unit. All these permits have been filled within the unit since it opened in 2010. I am confident that such an increase will reduce the quality of the hunt with the majority of the tag holders having waited 20 plus years to experience. Aside from the harvesting of a ram the attraction of hunting sheep is largely due to the opportunity to experience solitude in Utah's wilderness. Concentrating 15 hunters and their hunting parties into a single area roughly 5.5 percent of the core DBS habitat in the state will essentially spoil the rare essence of sheep hunting. In addition to the hunter density the core population of the sheep herd and hunting area directly borders the Zion National Park, which attracts on average more than 300,000 outdoor recreators in the month of September alone. Even with the current number of tags allotted hunter conflicts and competition has become an issue on this unit. Since it's creation the Zion hunt has been the most prized DBS tag in the state due to the potential to harvest a mature class 4 rams which is the desire of all sheep hunters. In studying the harvest data provided by the UDWR I noticed patterns that suggest . . .

Mike Worthen: Randy, you got 30 seconds. So you've got to wrap it up.

Randy Johnson: Okay, very quickly, we need to look at the management plan. It's off. If we increase the tags on this unit our experience is going to go, it's going to be trashed gentleman; simple as that. I've spent 25 years on these units. I screamed about the Escalante unit for 8 straight years and warned people it was going to crash. No one listened. It crashed. And what happens with sheep hunting is you try to maintain this many permits the state does, and then when other units crash they want to keep the permits up there so they increase them on other units and then those units ultimately crash. The sad thing about all this, and this is my final comment, it's not going to matter what I say tonight or some of these other groups, or possibly even what the RAC says, in my other job I've worked with politicians for 25 years, senators and representatives, there are other political entities that ultimately are going to make this decision and it won't matter what I say or what you say. But it's sad because we're going to lose quality on a great sheep unit.

Mike Worthen: Thanks. Larry Syrett.

Gary Syrett: Gary Syrett. I represent Garfield Kane County of SFW. And un just say that we support the Friends of the Paunsagaunt in no increase on the Paunsagaunt this year. Another thing that we haven't talked about is the fence that just got put in last year. And we still don't know the impact it's going to have on the herd. We just, we wish that we would wait one year before we look at these increases to see the new management plan go into place and see some of the affects these things have. We support the Division in the decrease in management tags. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Gene Boardman.

Gene Boardman: Gene Boardman, Hinkley, Utah. I have no recommendations on specific numbers of specific units. I do want to push what I've been pushing for a long time, and that's that this age objective bull is no good. Our family messes it up. Like uh, our last bull hunt my daughter who is not a highly experienced elk hunter drew a tag and we as a family are not, well we're big on trophy elk, we set a 350 objective and then at 10 o'clock the first morning we set an objective of any antlered bull. And so like

as I was telling about her, she finally got into the elk. There was some satellite bulls bellowing and a herd bull bellowing. And what she did is what I would do and what most of the rest of the family would do, take the first satellite bull that looked good. And so that messes up your age objective doesn't it? We killed two bulls the same year on the Dutton. My son's was a 7-year-old bull and mine was a 4-year-old bull. The 4-year-old bull was the best bull we've ever killed on the Dutton. And the 7-year-old bull barely broke 300 raw. So let's get away from some of these age objectives. I think it goes the same on the deer. Some of those deer will be really good at 4 years old; some of them will never be any good as far as your 30-inch trophy deer go. And so let's find another way to figure this out and I think it will make it available for more hunters like myself. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Tyler Albrecht.

Taylor Albrecht: Taylor Albrecht. I'm representing SFW Bryce and Garfield. We support the number, or keep the numbers the same on the Pauns for the trophy deer. And we support the lower the tags on the management hunt. Also when the mule deer committee meets we'd like to see velvet bucks included into the management hunt. We believe that they're not doing anything for the herd. For the Henry Mountains, we'd like to keep all the tag numbers the same as what they were in the 2013 season. And that's all, thanks.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. We've got Brayden Richmond.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing the state SFW board. Just echoing what's been said so I'll be quick. We want to support the Division with the exception of the Paunsagaunt, the Henrys, we'd like to leave those permit numbers the same one more year. Coming up on the management plan this year we'd like to just give that a chance to get into that point without increasing that, leaving that alone for one more year. Thanks.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Thank you. Gib Yardley, do you want to talk about antelope in the next, in the next, after the next presentation?

Kevin Bunnell: Were you mostly concerned with antlerless Gib or did you want to talk about bucks and bulls too?

Gib Yardley: Antlerless elk.

Mike Worthen: Let's wait until the next presentation and then we'll have you up. Okay, do we uh, let me go over the four issues that we have. License amendments, or excuse me, concerns about increase on Panguitch Lake deer: concerns about increase permits on the Paunsagaunt deer, and keep it at the same was a suggestion from the public: Zion desert sheep tags, don't increase; and keep tags on the Henry the same. Okay, was there another one?

Kevin Bunnell: Increase bull elk tags on the Southwest Desert.

Mike Worthen: There was a recommendation, okay. Okay, do we have any discussion by the RAC?

RAC discussion:

Sean Kelly: Mr. Chairman, after some of the comments made by the public I had some questions on the Zion sheep hunt. With your permission could I ask a couple of questions? Who knows most about the Zion with the DWR? Jason, remind me, how long is that hunt on the Zion? Is it the same as the others, it's 60 days, roughly?

Jason Nicholes: It is. It's roughly 60 days.

Sean Kelly: How close is that population to being at objective? Is that getting up there?

Jason Nicholes: Um, the management plan for the Zion unit is pretty old. It hasn't been revised in over 10 years and the objective is like 125. We're currently estimating a population to be about 840 sheep.

Sean Kelly: So you're starting to see a lot of foray behavior by males? Are they starting to leave the unit?

Jason Nicholes: We are seeing rams branching out in places. You know we have sightings over towards Kanab over on Smiths Mesa and other places where we'd rather not have sheep.

Sean Kelly: So let me make sure I understand. You've got a fairly dense population right there. You're having movement off of the unit and you have worries of contact with domestics?

Jason Nicholes: We do.

Mike Worthen: Okay we have another question for Jason?

Harry Barber: Just to clarify, within Zion you had that 800 number?

Jason Nicholes: Yes. Yes, within the unit.

Harry Barber: What about outside that unit on your counts?

Kevin Bunnell: That includes that park and the (inaudible off mic).

Harry Barber: Okay. So that's the whole Zion unit.

Jason Nicholes: Right, we counted 261 in the park and 243, 261 outside of the park and 243 outside the park and use a 60 percent sightability.

Harry Barber: And recently, how many were moved?

Jason Nicholes: This winter we moved 26 sheep total.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Sam.

Sam Carpenter: And are we going to continue to move sheep and try to branch these out and kind of use the stock to take to other places that are hurting?

Jason Nicholes: Yes, we are currently planning to do a removal in probably November this coming year. We are working with the park. They're working on an environmental assessment to see if we can remove from inside the park. If we aren't able to remove inside the park we will remove outside the park.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, and I've heard suggestions of splitting the unit into two seasons. Someone suggested that, are you susceptible to some, that kind of action or would that be feasible?

Jason Nicholes: Um, that's totally a social thing, it's doable, definitely.

Kevin Bunnell: Sam, I would say that that would have to happen next year because we've already set season dates for this year.

Harry Barber: The suggestions this evening, maybe getting back to what Sam just asked and then looking at the current numbers versus a change that you're recommending. Would any of that hinges on what the park is currently doing in terms of their NEPA? Aren't they looking at doing some NEPA now that addresses their numbers and whether or not trapping would be allowed in the park?

Jason Nicholes: They are. That is the NEPA, to see if they can approve removal inside the park.

Harry Barber: If that's approved, is there a range or a number of animals that you're looking at or working with them in terms of moving out?

Jason Nicholes: We're looking at moving in the neighborhood of 75 sheep this fall, with at least 50 of those coming from inside the park.

Clair Woodbury: Jason, I have a question also, the concern I'm hearing is the overcrowding of hunters, the 12 to 15 hunters that might hunt that. In your opinion is that legitimate or is there enough area that they can disperse and not be running over each other?

Jason Nicholes: Our hunter satisfaction on that unit is 100 percent with the 11 hunters that we had there last season. Throughout the life of the hunt, I believe we've been on there for 5 years; it's been 100 percent satisfaction. I think an increase of 4 permits won't affect that that much. We are talking about a 2 month long season and certainly not everyone will be out there on opening day.

Sam Carpenter: I'm sorry to keep doing this. This stuff about the sportsman's tag, the governor's tag and the auction tag, is it true that these tags are all getting the rams off of the Zion?

Jason Nicholes: In the past 5 years, the life that we've had this hunt, the conservation permit holder and the sportsman permit holder have harvested on the Zion unit.

Sam Carpenter: And do we take that into consideration?

Jason Nicholes: We have.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions for Jason before we let him sit down?

Rusty Aiken: I've got a question. So if you take 14 or 15 rams is that going to affect the population of

your mature rams?

Jason Nicholes: It will definitely reduce that. Just to give you an example, where we surveyed inside and outside the park I kept that data a little bit different. Inside the park we had a ram to ewe ratio in the neighborhood of the 60's, outside of the park it was 90 rams per 100 ewes outside of the park.

Rusty Aiken: What about mature rams the top end?

Jason Nicholes: 60 percent of those were mature rams.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions for Jason?

Kevin Bunnell: I want to make a comment because we're on this, we did get a call from Adam from the, he said he wasn't going to be able to be here tonight but that the Utah (Unintelligible) the statewide group supports the sheep recommendations from the Division. So I just wanted to get that on the record for the recording.

Clair Woodbury: One more question for Jason on that. So doing some quick math in my head, so the 13 permits, is that what we're talking about, represent about 10 percent of the mature rams?

Jason Nicholes: 12 percent of the total ram population is 13 permits.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions? Okay, any further⁴ discussion before we move into motions? Okay, then we will entertain motions. First off let's take the concern about the increase on Panguitch Lake. Sean, did you have a comment? Okay. Brian.

Brian Johnson: I'd like to make a motion that we pass the Bucks and Bulls as recommended from the Division of Wildlife Resources.

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have a second on that motion?

Clair Woodbury: Second.

Mike Worthen: Okay, seconded. Any discussion? Mack.

Mack Morrell: I would like to make an amendment to the motion that we add ten bull elk to the Southwest Desert because of the drought and the horses. We need to take care of the habitat.

Brian Johnson: Would that be any weapon or how would you like to disperse those?

Mack Morrell: Probably any weapon.

Brian Johnson: I'll second that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it has been moved and seconded that we amend the motion to accept the DWR recommendations on bucks and bulls and the amendment is that we add 10 bulls to the Southwest unit, any weapon. And it has been seconded. All in favor? Okay, the amendment comes first. The amendment

is plus 10 bulls on the Southwest Desert to be hunted by any weapon? All in favor raise your hand. Any opposed? Motion carries. Two opposed.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Now we're back to the main motion of accepting the recommendations of the DWR on Bucks and Bulls.

Rusty Aiken: I'd like to make an amendment to motion, that on the Paunsagaunt and the Henry there's no additional trophy tags increase.

Mike Staheli: seconded.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it has been moved and seconded to accept the amendment of no additional trophy tags on the Paunsagaunt and Henry units. All in favor raise your right hand. Oh, discussion, excuse me. Discussion. Do we have discussion?

Clair Woodbury: With your permission, I know this is kind of Sam's baby over there. I'd like to ask him, as a representative of the general public I'm looking at those numbers and we're significantly over age objective and representing the people that I do they would like to see extra tags. Can you explain the SFW and the Paunsagaunt committee's objective a little better for me?

Sam Carpenter: Sure I'd love to. Back in I think it was 2008 when we did this, we were really struggling for deer back then. We actually formed a committee. Had meetings in Kanab where we went over the stuff Wade brought up in there. And we were told at that time, and I mean adamantly we would never reach this goal using an age objective. They really did not want to do that. So we wanted 6 year old, they wanted to not do it at all. We were able to go through the RACs and the Board and get a compromise and do this for 5 years. And since then, actually we were told that if we manage it that way what we were going to end up doing, this was from the big game coordinator Anis Aoude, he says we were just going to keep reducing our trophy tags and increasing our management tags if we follow this age objective. That was his analysis of where we were going to end up. Well here we are down the road 5 years from there and the total opposite has happened. Right now we're looking at the decreasing buck to doe ratio through the management hunt, which is a success. That's what we put that there for to keep that under control. And the population has never, we're still hurting population wise. We have those two things going against us but the age objective thing that we came up with, like Wade said, we just pretty much just pulled this out of a hat on what we wanted to do. We felt like we wanted 6 year old bucks on the unit. They didn't want to do the age objective and we were able to compromise through the deer plan, the RACs and the Board to come up with this theory. That's one of the reasons I asked the questions, you know, on why we got to the age objective on that. But with the trend the way it is, with the fact that we are this month starting meetings on the deer plan, we would like to throw these extra tags out for this year. The increases on the Henrys, on both premium units and work this out in the deer plan to come up with a better strategy to manage these where now that we've learned the lesson of how this actually works with the management plan and the age objective and have seen some proof of how it is actually is going to work, we would like the deer committee to take that into consideration and come up with a plan to manage these. Our objective on that and our real want is to keep increasing tags. And we definitely want to increase tags. We're not trying to selfishly just Bogart tags. We would like to see increases on both of those units. But with the deer plan coming up the negative trend in buck to doe ration, the negative trend in population that we're seeing on there, we just don't feel like this is the time to start jumping the tags up and having to live with that, you know, going into this plan. Let's wait and

let the deer committee (inaudible).

Clair Woodbury: So in your opinion this would damage what you're trying to accomplish there?

Sam Carpenter: Absolutely, yeah. Nine more premium tags would definitely be a deterrent.

Brian Johnson: I'm just sitting here and I remember some those meeting and it was when we hit these objectives, yeah you can raise tags, you can raise tags because everyone was so hungry to cut the tags at the time we were willing to say whatever we wanted to, whatever we had to to cut the tags. I was at those meetings. And now we've hit those objectives and I'm kind of torn up here and I'm just going to vent my feelings for a second and let the log split where it splits. But we get to the objective and we surpass the objective and now it's time to add tags and we don't want to do that because there's a management plan this year. But we based it on the management plan we had 5 years ago to get us to this. And I'm a firm believer that maybe the people closest to the problem can manage it better. I don't know. I just think that you know 5 years ago what we said was when we hit it we'll add tags. I was at these meeting just like everybody else in this room. You know and at the time I think it was the right choice to cut the tags. I mean you guys have done a great job down there. I'm just confused on we've got some cake and now we're wanting to eat it, which is cool, I'm just want, that's just what I'm hearing.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other discussion? Okay, are we ready to vote on the amendment? Sam? Okay. All in favor for the amendment to not add any trophy deer tags on the Paunsagaunt and the Henrys, raise your hand. 6 in favor. Those against? Four against. Motion carries.

6 in favor, 4 against. Motion carries.

Mike Worthen: Now we're back to the original motion, that of accepting the Bucks and Bulls permit recommendations in 2014 from the DWR. All in favor raise your hand. Any opposed? Okay, the motion is to accept the Division's recommendations on Bucks and Bulls, with the two amendments to increase 10 bulls on the Southwest Desert, any weapon, and to not add any additional trophy buck tags on the Paunsagaunt and the Henrys. All in favor? Opposed? Motion carries.

Unanimous.

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the 2014 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations as presented. Clair Woodbury seconded. Motion amended.

Mack Morrell amended the motion to provide an additional 10 any weapon bull elk permits on the southwest desert unit. Brian Johnson seconded. Amendment carried; 8 in favor, 2 opposed.(Sean Kelly and Layne Torgerson opposed)

Rusty Aiken amended the motion that there be no increase in trophy buck permits on the Paunsaugunt and Henry Mountain units. Mike Staheli seconded. Amendment carried: 6 in favor, 4 opposed.

Amended motion carried unanimously.

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 (action) 1:50:51 to 2:00:26 of 3:49:20

-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator

-Teresa Griffin, Regional Wildlife Program Manager

(see attachment 1)

Mike Worthen: Okay and public questions?

Questions from the public:

Pete Yardley: Pete Yardley, I'm a rancher from Beaver. I'm curious what the cow to calf ratio, what the fawn ratio is on the Beaver?

Justin Shannon: 52 calves per 100 cows on the Beaver.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Go ahead and come up. Did you have a card?

Unnamed: I have a question. Okay, in this area we have two big elk populations. We have them on the south in South Creek area and we have them on the north in the Sulpherdale- Pine Creek area. And I was just wondering what the number of elk would be in the Pine Creek- Sulpherdale area. Could you give me a figure like that?

Justin Shannon: I'll need some help from the regions on some of these sight specific questions.

Unnamed: I would like to know how many elk we have on the Sulpherdale-Pine Creek area. This is the north part of the Beaver.

Riley Peck: The answer to that question will vary depending on the time of year. We get a lot more of the elk coming down in the winter than we have there in the summer. So that, that is a difficult question depending on what time of year it is.

Unnamed: How about during the summer then? When they are on the range with cattle.

Riley Peck: During summer we estimate that there are probably around 400 to 450. Are you talking closer to the freeway to I-70, that corner or how?

Unnamed: I'm talking just above I-70 to the east where the forest would be located. And that goes through the top of the mountain.

Riley Peck: Right, and we're estimating around 400 to 450.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions from the public? John.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. I was originally on that range ride on the Parowan front. There are two antlerless hunts on there. The numbers have been 150 for several years. But we

were told on that range ride that we need to take 500 off of that unit. Have those numbers been discussed or considered? Or has the Division even looked at those numbers?

Justin Shannon: Again, this is probably one better answered by region I would imagine?

Mike Worthen: Okay, somebody from the regional office.

Jason Nicholes: Um, on the Parowan front over the last 5 years we've been removed about 150 deer a year through the hunt. The last 2 years we've been removing roughly 100 deer through the captures and transplant. Again, this year we are anticipating doing both of those. Taking the number up to 500 this year really wasn't considered because of anticipated removal of by the transplant.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other questions? John?

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. Is there any consideration given to the aspen regeneration problem on the Monroe Mountain in these numbers because the last two years there's been decisions made to increase those numbers on the Monroe Mountain and there is a problem there. And as we've discussed it with the working group they wonder why the numbers continue to be grown on the Monroe Mountain. And I see in your numbers that there are increases in antlerless in some of the surrounding units, which they rotate, so I can understand that. But, there is a problem already with the current numbers and yet decisions in the last two meetings have been to increase those numbers.

Mike Worthen: Okay, can somebody from the Division answer that question? Teresa.

Teresa Griffin: Vance is out tonight, he's got a bad back, or he would be here to answer this question. We are issuing I think 160, recommending 160 permits specifically for the Monroe and then we have 150 permits on that complex including the Monroe, Dutton and Plateau. With that being said we do take that aspen regeneration problem into account. In the agreement we have with them once they implement some habitat work then after that work is done we will do, recommend cow reductions.

John Keeler: I thought the number from last year is 90 less.

Teresa Griffin: Specifically from the Monroe but we also have 150 that can also be taken from that unit. And also increased quite a bit on the Boulder and um, a fair amount of permits still on Mt. Dutton.

John Keeler: When the mountain goat unit was made on the Mt. Dutton there was a recommendation to form a working group and I was just wondering what the timeline on that is.

Kevin Bunnell: We've talked about that recently. Probably this summer well get that group together John.

Darrell Yardley: Darrell Yardley, I'm a rancher and I own land out in the Pine Creek area. I just wondered what happened to the deer that were fenced off in Dave Edwards' piece of ground last? He had between 1,200 and 1,500 a night on his property. They were fenced out. What happened to them? Because my son and I when we were out plowing, we're just the valley to the north, he looked out and saw this big herd of deer and he said, dad there must be 300 head of deer in that one herd. And I've seen between 50 and 75 in another little bunch closer to the fields. So I'd like to know what happened to

those deer, where they went.

Mike Worthen: Okay, probably need a local.

Teresa Griffin: We don't have a real definitive answer for that because none of those animals were radio collared. Once it was fenced off we just have to assume that they've dispersed to the south, north and west. We can't say exactly where they've gone.

Darrell Yardley: Okay, we'll have to watch it then.

Teresa Griffin: Yes, absolutely.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other questions from the public?

Pete Yardley: I'm Pete Yardley. I'm a rancher. Kind of a question arose when they told us how many elk we had on the north end. That's less than a 1/10 of the whole Beaver allotment and you've got over 1/4 of your elk on it. Right now we're looking at cuts on our cattle and this is our third time. We've done voluntary cuts. I think we need to do something to help us manage the elk to save our allotments on that end. If we've got over 400 on less than 10 percent of the allotment, and it is in the summer because I have hay fields in the bottom and I do have them in my hay fields in the summer. They don't leave in the summer. They don't stay in the fields all summer but they don't leave that side of the mountain.

Mike Worthen: thank you. Okay, thanks. Any other questions? Go ahead.

Lee R Yardley: I'm Lee R Yardley. I'm a rancher out there too. My biggest questions was the management that you guys do, I'd like to kind of know how that works, how you measure the grass, and how many elk can be in one area? And I was wondering if, if it goes in with the Forest Service management, if we discuss it among the two? Like if we're having cuts with our cows why ain't we cutting wildlife too because they're all on the same range?

Mike Worthen: Okay, can we get a response to that?

Kevin Bunnell: Justin do you want to respond to how management objectives are formed on units and at the statewide scale?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, help me with the question one more time? I apologize.

Kevin Bunnell: So the question was how do we arrive at our management objectives both at the statewide scale and on a unit scale, and is the Forest Service involved with setting those objectives?

Justin Shannon: Okay, so to answer the question, the sum of the statewide plan population objectives, it's all just a sum of individual unit plans. And when we wrote the statewide elk plan we had representation from the BLM and the Forest, our federal partners. And when these unit plans are created as well that's where population objectives are set and there is input from Forest Service and BLM on, not only the population objective but management strategies as well.

Kevin Bunnell: And not only BLM and Forest Service, we try very hard to make sure that the

agricultural community is involved with all of those committees as well. And if you have an interest in being involved with that on the Beaver unit we could certainly make you aware when that's taking place.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions to the Division?

John Keeler: In light that there could be an increase in the drought conditions, what is the process for emergency hunts in case it gets severe?

Justin Shannon: John, thanks for asking that because I meant to talk about that in my presentation. Given some of the situations down here with the drought conditions, and I really am glad that you asked that and I failed to mention that. One thing that Kevin and I, and Teresa talked about over the last several months is things like the snow pack and other things like that that, or the lack thereof down here. And so these recommendations there are pretty good increases in the southern region but this spring we're going to be looking at things like the precipitation and even into the early summer and if conditions warrant we have no problems going back to our Wildlife Board this summer and asking for emergency increases due to drought conditions. And so with these recommendations there are increases but we're more than happy to look at that all spring and summer and monitor that, and that's something that we're willing to commit to do

John Keeler: (Off mic).

Justin Shannon: No, I think it is just communication. You know it's looking at the environmental conditions and seeing what other types of pressures are out there and being responsible. At the end of the day we want healthy rangelands as well. And if we don't have healthy habitats we're not going to have healthy livestock, or elk, or deer. So the range is certainly a condition, if there's drought conditions that we feel are excessive we will take increased recommendations to the Board this summer.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions from the public? Okay, we'll move on to questions from the RAC.

Questions from the RAC:

Brian Johnson: I know that we don't manage elk to a bull to cow ratio but we can all agree that that's somewhat important. So you get a unit like San Juan Elk Ridge, which is a 7 to 8 year old classification, we've got a population objective of 1,300. I've heard that the bull to cow ratio is 2 bulls per 1 cow. And I'm just confused as all get out if we're under objective and we're hunting spikes to try to control that number, which I'm in favor of, what else can be done and what's the end goal? And this isn't the only unit. These units that we do 7 to 8 year old classifications on we're running into this higher bull to cow ratio which you have to do to get to your 7 to 8 year old classification, so I'm not, I understand that. But what's the end game when we hit 3 to 1, or 4 to 1, and we have a herd . . . Well anyways.

Justin Shannon: Yeah. First of all we're not at 2 to 1. No, we're not at 2 to 1. And honestly we're not at 1 to 1. I know that numbers thrown out a bunch as well. But with that said there's certainly a high bull to cow ratio on the San Juan. I don't know. I can model it. I don't know what the model is. But you're exactly right; when you're managing for 7.5 to 8 year olds you have to stockpile bulls. So your bull to cow ratio on that unit is going to be lower than the Manti or the Cache, or one of these. And each unit is different with that. But categorically yes, they have to higher. I don't know what it is off the top of my

head. I can call Guy Wallace tonight and get that number and relay it to you. But I don't know. You try to think of everything before this meeting and that's not one I thought of. But certainly it's not 2 to 1.

Brian Johnson: It's not even 1 to 1.

Justin Shannon: It's not 1 to 1. I wouldn't surprise me if it's close but we're not 1 to 1. And I know because I was the wildlife manager down there and we did model that population year after year. And certainly we have more cows than bulls on that unit. But with that said it's a higher bull to cow ratio than any of the other units that we manage down there, but by design.

Brian Johnson: Okay.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions from the RAC? Okay, Mack.

Mack Morrell: What's the population objective for the Beaver unit on elk?

Justin Shannon: 1050.

Mack Morrell: Are we over on that?

Justin Shannon: What are we? How many elk do we have on that unit? 1,100 on that unit.

Mack Morrell: I've got another question for you? What right do the ranchers have to feed the elk, not only in the winter, and deer in the winter, but summertime also? What right does the wildlife have in the fields?

Justin Shannon: What do you mean by that Mack? What right do wildlife have?

Mack Morrell: Yeah, what right do we have them come in our fields? If they're in their fields what are we going to do about it?

Justin Shannon: Sure, yeah if you're talking like depredation issues where we have deer and elk coming into a landowner's field.

Mack Morrell: I have it in the wintertime but in the summertime I still have deer and these guys in Beaver have elk in their fields. What are we going to do about it?

Justin Shannon: I guess the straightest answer is we want to work with you on it. It's not something that we want to ignore. We don't want to grow our deer or elk populations on the backs of the agricultural community because that's not a healthy thing to do. There's ways to work through those to minimize these damages. Remove some of these animals through hunting strategies all the way swinging the pendulum to Division removal. I mean it's something that we don't take lightly. We don't want to grow these populations on the back of the agricultural community.

Mack Morrell: Well I think we're doing it because when the does raise their fawns in the field, cow elk raise their calves in the field, where else do those calves and fawns know? That's where they're going to come.

Justin Shannon: Yeah, and that's a pattern we need to break. And that's why every time we have these situations where we have public wildlife on private land it's very important that the Division at the local level works with these landowners to come up with a game plan. And there's a lot of unique situations with what landowners are willing to tolerate, what they're not, and there's a whole bunch of tools to deal with those types of situations. And I guess the straightest answer I can give you is working with you at the local level and trying to minimize this damage if we can Mack.

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have any other questions from the RAC?

Harry Barber: Speaking specifically for the BLM in the Kanab field office, I've noticed a couple of comments come up tonight come up about permittees, grass, how measurements are taken, how we go about that. We've done a lot of work in the Kanab Field Office on habitat. Somebody mentioned this evening 20,000 acres sitting on the shelf that we want to do, or 20 years, I'm sorry, a lot more acres than that, but 20 years worth. We've got a butt load of NEPA sitting there already approved so we can go out and do habitat work. But one of the things I ask all my range staff to do is to invite permittees out, invite landowners out, so they can see how we do some of those measurements, they see how we collect. If you guys are looking at getting letters in the mail, you're looking at reductions or something like that, I'd encourage you to get with Forest Service range cons and BLM range cons and go out and look at those things together so that each of you have a better understanding. Particularly when we get farther into this so called drought, that we never seem to get out of, really as it gets worse I'm hoping that the BLM and associated Forest Service offices are working with you guys to go out on the ground and look at those things together.

Pete Yardley: I think we're misunderstanding us getting cut. It's not because of the drought. These cuts are not because of the drought. It's because, I mean, I think part of its management, but it's not so much on our end. We've been trying to do some burns to rehab and that so we've had to go in some other pastures. And then your fence on I-70 held the elk up all one winter, pretty much, on us. And with that, I mean, it's like I said, we've got over 1/4 of the elk on less than a 1/10 the allotment and we're increasing, by his figures, of 100 cows a year on that end and that would be 100 bulls on what they kill. You know I don't know what that percentage would be. I mean we need some help. We want to save our allotment. We took a voluntary 10 percent cut. We've not thrown to the Forest that we'll take a voluntary 20 percent cut until we get back in all of our rotations to try to save it. But we can't save it with 1/4 of the elk on less than 1/10 of the mountain. We're just going to be done. And I think we have a right to run, to be there too. Thank you

Harry Barber: It would be my hope that the DWR, the associated office, that you guys go out and look at those things together. If it's not drought, the drought is certainly going to be part of it, but it's only going to get worse. So I'm hoping that what you do is communicate with those offices, go out together and take a look at it.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Any other questions from the RAC? From the RAC.

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: Okay, having none let's move into the comment period from the public. We have Amy Barker. And those of you that want to make a comment please fill out your card so that we can get you

in a line.

Amy Barker: Amy Barker, USFS. So I'm reading this letter on behalf of Allen Rowley the Forest supervisor of the Fish Lake National Forest, and also on behalf of the ranger districts: I'm Any Barker. I'm the Beaver district ranger: Jason Kling, Richfield district ranger: Bill Barnhurst, Fillmore: and Kurt Robins, Fremont River. (attachment 3) These comments provided by the Forest Service to the 2014 Bucks, Bulls, OIAL and Antlerless Permit Recommendations. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the upcoming discussion and value our relationship with the Division. The Forest Service is committed to assisting the Division in managing for sustainable populations or big game by providing quality habitat that is well distributed across the national forest landscapes. We recognize the necessity for the Division to manage for population numbers that are in balance with habitat conditions and support this effort. We would like to make the following suggestions for consideration: The Fish Lake National Forest is in the process of preparing an EIS to manage a 40,000 acre plus land (unintelligible) to increase the distribution, quality and quantity of aspen habitat. We recommend that the Division consider short-term aggressive antlerless management to help decrease potential impacts to aspen regeneration on Monroe Mountain. This will help insure the success of this large landscape level aspen management project which will help reestablish aspen in the confer dominated landscapes. Regenerating aspen across this landscape with help provide the necessary diversity of coverage and forage that will sustain increased numbers of wildlife through time. As you are aware southern Utah is experiencing drought conditions; approximately 50 percent of normal precipitation levels compared to the northern part of Utah. These drought conditions are likely to have impacts to many species of wildlife and domestic livestock. We recommend that drought conditions on Monroe Mountain and the Beaver Mountain and the potential impacts to livestock operators be considered prior to making any final antlerless and or hunting season recommendations to the Utah Wildlife Board. This will help balance total ungulate use with these drought related conditions. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to working with the state in the future. The Forest Service looks forward to further efforts to manage the diverse landscapes that occur on National Forest lands into joint monitoring opportunities in the future. If you have any questions please contact Ron Rodriguez or Allen Rowley. And I have five copies of the letter so I'll give those to you guys.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Gib Yardley. And I want to remind everybody that this is comments on the antlerless hunts.

Gib Yardley: I see that you've increased the numbers that they want to take on the west desert this year over last. But with the drought and everything we think that we still need to take more cows off. We'd like to recommend 450 cows off the West Desert, and on the Panguitch Lake unit we'd like to see 250 cows taken off, because of these drought conditions. And because you've got to take more off if you're going to hold them steady or else we're going to have such a big increase that we can't feed them. And then I'd also like to say that we don't think we always get an accurate count on these elk and things. A lot of time we've had cattlemen and sheepmen that wanted to go on the counts and they don't stop and pick them up and we think that we deserve that consideration (unintelligible) stop and pick us up and go on these counts. And also I'd like to commend the sportsman that close the gates and take care of the fences. We try to protect these ranges with a rest rotation program and some inconsiderate people cut fences and leave the gates down. If you'll put those gates up and watch those fences we'd certainly appreciate it and we want to thank you that do it. And thank you very much

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Then Lee Yardley.

Lee R Yardley: Well I, pretty much the same questions I had before. But with the ground cover, how do you guys measure the ground cover, the grass that's left from year to year from how many elk you got there? Because like this year we've got a drought and if you guys decide to cut permits, or have to decrease then it's going to take you a year to do that. And where we're taking it this year you guys will be taking it next year. And I just wondered if we could get one of you guys to come to our management programs and discuss with the Forest Service because them poor guys get called quite a few dirty names sometimes.

Kevin Bunnell: I'll volunteer myself and some of my biologists, or one of my biologists, either or to come when you're discussing that. Be glad to.

Mike Worthen: Pete Yardley

Pete Yardley: We have discussed the elk numbers with our forest and our forest says they can't do nothing about it. That they can't control, you guys set all the numbers. That's why we get the cuts because we're the only ones that they can control. Our suggestion is, my suggestion anyway, is if we're increasing, and by their count we got that many cows on that north end, they're only issuing 145 tags, let's put them on the north end where they got 1/4 of the elk on 1/10th of the allotment and see if they can get them within management and scatter them to parts of the other allotments so they ain't all just affecting a few ranchers alone. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Darrell Yardley.

Darrell Yardley: I'm Darrell Yardley. I'm a rancher. And I've watched two 50 percent cuts on the cows. I've also watched a month taken off in the spring on the cows on the Forest Service. And we've been working for about the last 10 or 12 years and I'd like to really thank Amy because she's got some burning done out there. And it has been a good thing. We got some seed put on. I'm not sure how much but at least we got seed on some of that and I hope that we can just get enough rain to keep it alive. I'd like to see a little more on re-vegetation and reseedings in that area. I think it would help immensely. And I would suggest that we go to one of these trophy deer that they auction off, or trophy elk, and see if we could get that money impacted in that area to help remove some of the cedar trees and make the land more productive. I think it would be well worth our time and it would be beneficial to the elk, the deer, and all of the other wildlife that are there. Okay. I think one of the problems, or one of the ways to solve our problem is to reseed and manage it as good as we can, and then order a whole bunch of rain to help out.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Lee Tracy.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative, Southern Unit. We recommend on the Parowan front that, hold your hats now guys, 200 more tags; 100 tags to each one of those 2 hunts and that we make them youth tags; if we have to split the hunts that would be fine. But we're trying to recruit youth and that's a great way to do it. Just by way of information, I had one of those tags last year. And I drove up to the Paragonah turn off that goes up along the frontage road that goes along the freeway trying to get to Cottonwood. But I had my deer long before I ever got to Cottonwood. I took that doe right off the frontage road, one of those BLM triangles that are in those areas. So that's a fairly easy hunt and I think the youth would really enjoy that. And by the way we do approve of the Buck and Bull

recommendations that you've passed, including the amendments. Thanks.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Gene Boardman.

Gene Boardman: I noticed that the recommendations for the new hunt, particular the one on the Dutton, Monroe and Plateau was a late hunt. I'd like to see more early hunts over there. Them damned elk on the Dutton are all backwards. They're right down on the valley floor in August and September and you go there in December and you can't cut a track on the valley floor. They're clear up on top, up to their bellies in snow. And for a feeble old man such as myself I've been in enough trouble on the Dutton before and I don't want to get into a lot more trouble. I'd like to see more early hunting on those antlerless elk hunts. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Wilson Gates Nowers.

Wilson Gates Nowers: Gates Nowers, a cattleman. Some of this was old business but I remember when they planted elk over on the Beaver in the late 60s and the fish and game promised the cattleman that they would keep the elk under management. Because none of these elk in this country are deciduous to this area. It was only over on the Fish Lake on the Monroe side. And they said they were going to keep them under management and they've kind of lost that part. And the other thing, one of the other things is the water. All these water springs and that have been improved by the ranchers, the stockman, along with the help from the CCs and that. And these elk and, the deer's not so bad, but the elk get in there and raise hell with it and it's hard to get any money from the Fish and Game to do us any good. And I've been told personally, when they tried to cut us 100 percent on this Pine Creek/Indian Creek allotment that the BLM, our range manager told me personally that the Fish and Game was looking to take over that Pine Creek/Indian Creek allotment east of the Interstate, they was going to take it over and give it to the Fish and Game for the elk and the deer. And he told me that, but we did, we got the discussion back and we did get some of our cattle out there and we got cut time. But they're a hunting from some private properties, I guess. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Stanton Gleave.

Stanton Gleave: Hello there tonight. Most of you know me. I'm Stanton Gleave. I'm representing the Monroe Mountain Ranchers. We've always got the same problem, we've got too many elk on that mountain and it's the same problem these people out here have got on the West Desert with horses. But the big thing is, and first of all, I'm wanting to get that point across; we've got too many elk there and you need to do something with them. With that being said there's a fight going on right now that involves all of us. That's where I've been the last few days. It's with a man named Cliven Bundy down there in Bunkerville, Nevada. And he's fighting for all of our rights. He's fighting for the rights. Why we got this herd of elk here is because we can't raise deer or sage hens. Because years ago the environmentalists was trying to put all us ranchers out of business. If we don't stand with this man and defend these rights, I've heard of environmentalists down there have been trying to put him out of business for twenty years. He didn't leave on account of that desert tortoise; he's still there. And he's making a good stand of er. And this thing's getting national attention. It's on Fox news today. It's on all these news channels. Maybe some of you have heard it. But you want to pay attention to that, especially these ranchers right here. We've got to stand with that man. We've got to make our stand because when we make it we all win. Even you people that want to hunt anything win. Because when we win we're going to start putting them environmentalist buggers back in their place. We're going to start putting

these counties back in charge. And we're going to start taking our country back and putting a herd of deer back here, and them sage hens back here. And then we don't need this giant herd of elk that's out of control. Iron County's made a heck of a stand over there. I think they've pretty well stopped them cattle. They were going to bring them in here and try to sell them over in this Richfield auction tomorrow. I'm hearing they're not. I'm hearing they're not coming, but whether they are or not, I don't know. But I want everybody here to know that we're making a stand right there in that Richfield auction tomorrow. And all we're doing is just a whole bunch of people are showing up. There's going to be news people. But I think they're getting the message that we're not going to take any more of this environmental BS. And we're not going to let any more ranchers go under because of some goofy desert tortoise or something else. Like I said, that man has stood for 20 years down there and the way he stood, he stood behind the sheriff that's protected him. And finally this sheriff, them feds come in and they scared him off this time, but the sheriff now has resigned because he seen he's done the wrong thing. And they don't dare move them cattle out of any county down there because these other sheriffs have said that they're going to get arrested if they do. Anyway, what I'm saying is this man has made a stand for the rights that we all need to defend. And if we defend that right all this stuff will take care of itself. So, anyway, anybody that can be to that Richfield auction tomorrow that wants to support freedom I say be there. And thank you

Mike Worthen: Thank you. I have Gary Allen.

Gary Allen: I'm Gary Allen. I want you guys to stop and figure out what your calf crop is. If you want to do something figure the calf crop. It's not hard to figure out. You're going to have a 60, 70, 80 percent. It takes care of that many head of elk every year, not just one year, every year. Because if you don't we ain't going to have no forest to go to. We got rangers that stood up there and talk but they're not going to put you guys, they're not going to cut the numbers on you guys, they're going to cut the numbers on us. And we're just like Cliven Bundy, we're only going to take it so long and then we're going to take a stand too. I mean you're not going to run all of us out of business. We're going to pick up the old Winchester and we're going to take care of business if that's what it takes. And it don't have to come to that. It could come to some common sense that you've got a calf crop and you can't just keep going on, and on, and on; you've got to take care of it.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Joe Yardley.

Joe Yardley: I'm in agreeance with the other cattlemen. I run cattle with Pete (unintelligible) on our forest allotment. And a lot of our problem is environmental issues so I'm glad that the environmental problem's been brought up. So thank you Mr. Gleave. I believe we need to work together on these environmental issues because if they get rid of us they're going to come after you next. And also on the private land issue, on my small piece of ground there was 120 elk counted on it here last week. And with the reduced numbers on these forest ranges and forest allotments and different things because of environmental issues and too many elk populations I'm going to have to start getting more aggressive in competing for feeding on my own ground. I'd also like to talk about, a little bit about the vouchers that you give out to landowners to help take care of the elk problem in the summer months. For a lot of years you'd give us these vouchers but we were limited on where we could hunt them. It was limited to private ground only. And most of these elk come in at night and they're gone before morning. Well this last year we were able to get two mile buffers and I'd like to thank you for that and hope that keeps going on. That's all I have to say. Thanks.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Now we'll move into discussion by the RAC. Okay, John go ahead.

John Keeler: I'd just like to follow up with some of these ranchers' comments. I was down at the Utah Arizona Range workshop today. And a fellow that works for a governmental agency came up and handed me a paper that showed the southern part of the state and northern part of Arizona and Nevada and all the things that they have to manage for. He says it's not just one thing. There were at least, I think there was 18 different plants and animals and all kinds of concerns. And uh, we have one before us that could make all of these look pretty insignificant and that's the sage grouse. If that's ever listed with habitat it will make the desert tortoise thing look pretty miniscule. And that's what they're talking about. With the wild horse, or feral horse issue in the west desert and everything else these ranchers are up against the wall. And they've testified in meeting after meeting if something doesn't happen they'll be out of business. And the comment that was made, once the farmers and ranchers are gone they're coming after the hunters, is absolutely true. We need to think about that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Then we have Chris Smith.

Chris Smith: Chris Smith, farmer and rancher here in the valley. I'm a little over dressed, I apologize, I had another meeting. But I agree with all the ranchers here and I appreciate what you're trying to do in reduction but as everybody says, there are way too many. On just a little piece of property we have just north of Beaver a few miles out, historically there's never been elk there but they're there the last three or four years. So I don't know what your stand is on historically or what can we do, but they're there all summer and basically all winter. But we appreciate your help and the farmers need some help and you need to consider what we can do to work together. But anyway, thanks.

Mike Worthen: Okay, now moving to the discussion with the RAC.

Discussion from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: We have right now before us that came out of the comments, increase in Southwest Desert antlerless elk increase it to 450, increase the Panguitch Lake antlerless elk to 250, put the Beaver tags on the north end of the unit, more habitat work on the north end of the Beaver unit in seedings, 200 more tags on the Parowan front for antlerless deer, and that would be going to the youth, more early tags on the Dutton and Monroe, too many elk on the Monroe, and then base antlerless recommendations on calf crop, remove it annually, and then keep buffers on antlerless vouchers. Okay, discussion by the RAC.

Discussion by the RAC:

Dale Bagley: How do you work your antlerless control permits? Is it too late to do that? Or could that be done on Monroe?

Kevin Bunnell: So is the questions could the RAC make a recommendation to have antlerless control permits on the Monroe?

Dale Bagley: Yeah, that's the question.

Kevin Bunnell: Um, that's part of this process, so yeah. That would be a motion that could be made and

then have it go through the process.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you Dale. Any other discussion by the RAC? Okay, Sean.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, most of the antlerless recommendations are made based on scientific information, models. And you know they're trying to balance that herd with that population objective. I'm a little uncomfortable in just throwing out numbers of tags without some kind of backing to it. I'm also real fascinated though with this emergency hunt procedure. Has that ever been done before?

Kevin Bunnell: Yes. And I think it was two years ago, and Jake correct me if I'm wrong, that when we had some really dry conditions in the state where we had an emergency board meeting in July and we increased antlerless elk tags on several units across the state. So there has been a precedence set. And I've personally been in contact with the directors office and I know it's on Justin's radar screen that we're open to doing that again if we need to.

Sean Kelly: It sounds like Beaver County might be a good test case this year to apply that. I'd be a lot more comfortable in going through a process like that than us making a decision right now without a whole lot of information to change antlerless tags. That's just my feelings.

Rusty Aiken: Chair, I've got a question.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Kevin, on that same note, could the timing be to where it was the same summer so we'd have to hunt them in the fall or could you hunt them when there was the issue? The fall it's too late.

Kevin Bunnell: I think the bottleneck there would be, you know, how soon could we get hunters on the ground. We have on every unit, you know, the way we normally go about this is there's more people that apply than we have tags for and so if we increase the number of tags, um, typically we would go through the people that apply for (recording error) that unit and offer them any additional tags that are made. So it would typically go into season dates that are already on the books but certainly the Board would have discretion to move it to the earlier hunts if that's what made the most sense at the time.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Mack.

Mack Morrell: I have, maybe a question and then a discussion. On these objectives that you have on elk, what percent is producing cows? For instance, on the Beaver, you say your population objective is 1050, what percent is producing cows? That's going to have a calf?

Justin Shannon: Yeah, so what we do is if we have 1,000 animals on a unit, with our models like Sean was talking about earlier, we look at how many calves we have, how many bulls and then how many cows. And then we look at production. And we do get that, those data because we're out there in the summer looking at the production from every year. And so based on that, that's what we're trying to harvest with these permits, moving forward if we want to keep the population in check. I mean that's certainly a number that we have to have in order to manage these populations, and we have it.

Mack Morrell: Well what is the number?

Justin Shannon: For the Beaver?

Mack Morrell: Yeah.

Justin Shannon: Who's got that model, Riley?

Kent Hersey: On average what we see with the spike unit like that are bull cow ratio runs somewhere around 30, 40, maybe 50 bulls per 100 cows. And then on general a unit will produce about 50 calves per 100. So roughly half of that is a productive cow. And then half of those cows produce a calf. And then you have natural mortality that goes in with those calves and those cows. The one thing that's not illustrated in that table where we have permits is depredation tags. Um, which Riley can speak more to the numbers on that.

Riley Peck: So on the Beaver unit specifically, we have been trying to, well it was mentioned before, put most of our tags on the north end, and so that's why there was a new hunt recommendation there to be the new Beaver, Beaver Valley. Is to give a broader range and a bigger area to hunt. And so we moved that, and on top of that trying to be liberal with depredation tags, we were trying to address some of those over objective, the over objective number. Does that answer your question?

Mack Morrell: If you have a population objective of 1050 and half of them are cows, right? And you only get a 50 percent calf crop?

Riley Peck: Right.

Mack Morrell: I'll see. I'll do some math here.

Mike Worthen: Any other discussion from the RAC? Okay, seeing none we're ready to move to entertain motions.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept the antlerless recommendations of the Division as proposed.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it has been moved that we accept the antlerless recommendations as proposed. Any discussion?

Brian Johnson: I second it.

Mike Worthen: Okay, second. Moved and seconded. Discussion?

Mack Morrell: I want to make an amendment. I would, my math on the Beaver for the recruitment, we've got to be 250 total tags and you've got 145. Okay, so we're actually going to increase the herd if we don't take them off.

Brian Johnson: How many bulls are we killing, if we're doing math.

Mack Morrell: I'm just talking cows. I'm not talking about bulls.

Brian Johnson: Well I know but you're talking about a whole herd here.

Mack Morrell: Well they just said half of them are cows and the other half, they've got a 50 percent calf crop.

Brian Johnson: I understand that.

Riley Peck: So, and those are just the cow tags that we're talking about as well. We have the bulls, the spikes, and our mitigation and depredation permits that go into that as well. So there are other permits that.

Mack Morrell: I understand, but I'm talking about the recruitment coming in. I'm not talking about how many you're taking off. I'm talking about the recruitment coming in. You've got to take the recruitment coming in off all of these hunts. And you're not doing it on the Fish Lake, or the Dutton, nor the Boulder Plateau. Okay, I want to make my amendment to the motion. I want to increase the antlerless elk on the Southwest Desert to 450: increase Panguitch Lake to 250: increase the Beaver to 250: take additional 200 antlerless deer permits from Parowan: and I would like to increase the Dutton to 250: and the Monroe, we just talked about that, increase it to 250 antlerless: and the Fish Lake to 1000 antlerless.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let me see if I can restate this. The amendment on the floor to be considered is increase Southwest Desert elk to 450: increase the Panguitch Lake antlerless elk to 250: increase the Beaver Mountain antlerless elk to 250: increase the antlerless doe on Parowan Front by 200, increase Mt. Dutton antlerless elk to 250, increase Monroe antlerless elk to 250, and increase the Fish Lake to 1,000 antlerless elk.

Dale Bagley: Second.

Mike Worthen: Okay, we have a second. All in favor raise your hand. Or discussion? Go ahead.

Layne Torgerson: I need to look at something here. I think they're already taking 800 cows off of the Dutton. Yeah, there's about 5 hunts on the Dutton and I think the total's 800.

Mack Morrell: Layne, I think it's 650. But including, you're talking about the extra hunt of 150 that goes to whatever unit you want to go to.

Layne Torgerson: If you just look at this sheet that includes the whole unit it's a total of 800.

Teresa Griffin: It is 650 specifically on Mt. Dutton and then we did, we've got the mega complex with the 3 units at 150. So that, I think was clumped in with Dutton to bring it up to 800. Do Dutton alone is 650.

Mack Morrell: Yeah, listen, we've got a drought, plus these elk are interchangeable with Dutton, Monroe, Fish Lake. And we just got a letter from the Forest Service saying we need to reduce them in order to protect the habitat and be viable. I think the Wildlife Board has to come to the table and take some elk off. Okay. The ranchers have taken voluntary cuts, okay. They take voluntary cuts and sell their cows. It's going to take them a long time to come back to where they were originally. Just like the

elk is. And that's what we need to do. You always have, you got a problem on all of these hunts, all of these ranges with aspen, particularly Monroe. I was to a meeting with a bunch of permittees and Allen Rowley was there. He said Monroe Mountain has more elk, visible elk than any of the other ranges. Maybe that's because of easy access, I don't know, but he said that. And that's why he wrote the letter. That's why these permittees are getting cut. The Forest Service says we need to take them off and I think that the RAC Board need to come to the table and help, otherwise it's not going to happen. And then something else is going to happen, the ranchers are going to stand up and start taking them themselves.

Kevin Bunnell: Mack, let me first make a comment. I think we do need to change, somehow and I don't know how to do it, the relationship between the agricultural community and the sportsman and figure out a way to make that more of a partnership. And that's something that we, that we need to work on together, and I'll certainly agree with you on that. Let me restate your amendment because I think I got it down, but make sure Mike and I've got it. You want to increase the Southwest Desert up to 450: Panguitch Lake up to 250. And what's Panguitch Lake at right now Jason? 140 permits? So it would be taking it from 140 to 250. Increase doe tags on the Parowan Front by 200. So that would be going from 150 to 350. Increase antlerless tags on the Beaver up to 250, and it's currently at 145. And on the Dutton the increase there would be to take it to 1,050, so increase it 250 from where it is right now, it's currently at 800. Increase the Monroe to 250. What's the Monroe recommendation currently Teresa. 160, so that would be an increase from 160 to 250. And on the Fish Lake to increase from where it is right now, which I think is about 800, up to 1,000. Did I capture? I want to make sure; because there's going to be a vote here that everybody knows what they're voting on on the amendment. Did I get that?

Mack Morrell: Yes Mr. Chairman.

Mike Worthen: Okay, now we're ready to entertain a vote on the, or we're still in discussion.

Sam Carpenter: Kevin. can I say something? And this would be asking Mack if he can change that and take the deer out of it and let's do that elk and then do a separate one for the deer so we don't have this all thrown together?

Mack Morrell: Okay that's true. Let's do the deer separate, and do the elk separate.

Mike Worthen: Okay, deer is removed from the amendment. Dale do you agree on that?

Dale Bagley: Okay.

Mike Worthen: Any other discussion? Brian.

Brian Johnson; Yeah, I've just got a quick comment here. Fifteen minutes ago I made comment from my own observations that I believed that the San Juan Elk Ridge unit was at 2 bulls to 1 cow and I got laughed at. And I'm fine with that. I have no problem with people laughing at me. But here we are and the Division's making a recommendation based on a scientific model and Mack can say well let's just raise these all up and it's okay. And I, I, I'm not disagreeing with you Mack, I'm not. I'm not saying that it's right or wrong. I'm just saying that these guys work awfully dang hard to have a scientific model, we've got a process in place for an emergency hunt to add these if the range permits it and there's a precedence, we blue light special Fish Lake I don't know how many times and they keep coming back. The fish and game's not afraid to issue a ton of tags if it's dry. They've done it in the past and I believe

that they're going to do it again. Kevin's mentioned that he's extremely committed to that. These biologists have mentioned that they're committed to that. I just wonder how we throw a dart and come up with these numbers.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you Brian.

Mack Morrell: Brian, I'm not throwing a dart, I'm looking at recruitment coming in.

Brian Johnson: You're not counting the elk bulls that we shoot every year.

Mack Morrell: I'm talking about recruitment, not the total elk taken off. I'm talking about the calves coming in.

Brian Johnson: You've got to account for (off mic).

Mack Morrell: The calves coming in. That's recruitment that we've got to talk about.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's move on.

Clair Woodbury: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to add my 2 cents in here. I'll just take the proposal on the Dutton to 1,050 cows, plus you throw the spikes on there, plus the limited entry bulls. On a total population of 1,900 we're putting a price on these elk's head of about 2/3 of that herd. And I just think that's just way to (unintelligible) and radical. I can't accept that. And that would extrapolate over onto those other proposals.

Mike Worthen: Alright, thank you. Any other discussion by the RAC?

Mack Morrell: Those elk are interchange between those four districts at any point in time. Okay?

Brian Johnson: (off mic).

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's go take a vote. All in favor? You're voting on the amendment as read by Kevin. All those in favor raise your hand. Two. Those opposed? 8. 8 opposed, the amendment fails.

Mack and dale in favor. All else opposed. Amendment fails, 8 opposed.

Brian Johnson: Now we're back to the original?

Brian Johnson: Now we're back to the deer.

Mike Worthen: Yes, we have an amendment that goes uh? Do you want to make a new amendment Mack?

Mack Morrell: I'd like to amend to bring the deer Panguitch to 200 antlerless taken off.

Brian Johnson: By 200 total or an additional 200?

Mack Morrell: 200 antlerless, deer.

Kevin Bunnell: Right now it's at 150.

Mack Morrell: Yes, up to 200.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Do we have a second? No second so the amendment fails.

Mike Worthen: Now we're back to the original motion. And the motion was to accept the antlerless permit recommendations for 2014 as proposed by the Division.

Sam Carpenter: Can I ask a question? And this would be to Kevin I guess. This emergency plan you've got. I mean it's easy to see that there's a lot of heat in this room right now about you know what to do with all of these cows. And I think the last thing anybody wants to see is what happened last year. And I think most everybody knows that and knows what did happen, that we actually had somebody shooting the elk and had that problem. And I can see from the emotion here that this is real. And I think that we could end up in that situation again if we don't act in some way to take care of this problem. So I guess my question is on your emergency plan how long does it take to enact and would the ranchers be satisfied to handle this excess that they're seeing through that procedure. I don't know what it requires to have the emergency hunt. But we're just way to radical on these number of tags to be increasing without anything coming from the department on whether it's a good idea or a bad idea. But there's definitely enough heat in the air to know that something, we need to do something. We need to come up with something so everybody can go out of here and we can work it out and make them happy and not end up with the kind of situation we had last year.

Kevin Bunnell: You know you ask a question that's really impossible to answer. You know you ask if they would be satisfied and that's really a question of trust. And right now there probably isn't enough trust. You know and that's where I come back to the comment that I made to what Mack said earlier, that somehow we need to figure out how to make the relationship between the agricultural community and the sportsman more of a partnership than it is now. And I wish I had a silver bullet on how to do that, I don't. But it's something that everybody needs to work on because there's a lot of common interest between those two groups and we get, but we end up focusing on the things, the few things that we disagree on when there's a lot to be gained by working together. Um, you know I can tell you the Division's committed to, if we need to take an emergency action in July we'll do it. Whether that will satisfy the people that are here in the room? Yeah I guess honestly I doubt it. But maybe if, if, if we need to follow through on that, if it deteriorates and we do it maybe that will increase the trust the next time it will be more satisfactory. So it's a balancing act. You know and maybe the right thing is to so some now and some then. I don't know, you know, to try to get to what you were talking about Sam

Harry Barber: Part of Sam's question was on the process. If one of these gentlemen came into your office tomorrow and said I got x amount of elk on me in excess of what you guys think is there, what, what, how does that process work? What does it take to go from that to possibly one of these emergency hunts? So I guess what I'm asking is how are they pacified in knowing that that's going to be taken seriously and if somebody's going to come out and there's going to be a group and they're going to look at that. How do you get from A to the end product?

Kevin Bunnell: Um, you know we're going, I guess we have the luxury to be a little more flexible. You

know these guys are being told they need to cut now in anticipation of what may come. Our approach is more let's see how it develops, and then if we need to make cuts we will. Um, you know if we get good monsoon moisture like we did last year, you know, this situation becomes a lot less heated than it is right now and there's no way to tell whether that's going to happen. So as we discuss this um, that would be the approach we decided to take is, let's make um, aggressive . . . you know and when you look at it these recommendations are more aggressive than last year as is. But, but we'll look at how the summer progresses and if range conditions are deteriorating then we'll take further action. That's the commitment I can make. At what form that will come, on what specific units, I can't say right now because it could be different on different, in different areas.

Harry Barber: I guess for me that's the key when you said range conditions if you see them deteriorating. Is there a process where that's going to be looked at? Are these folks invited to go out with you? Are you getting with Forest Service and BLM and already planning ahead to start looking at those conditions? I think even though we can't crystal ball that we could start setting dates to say we're going to go out on this date or this date, invite these folks, get the Forest Service and BLM involved. And I think that's what lacks sometimes is that communication. And that would go to what you were saying earlier about getting sportsman and some of these other folks together. It's at least making commitments to go out on the ground and start looking at that.

Justin Shannon: Sorry to interrupt. May I share some insight on this? In 2011 this is something we had to do in the region, is Southeast Utah where drought conditions on that north end of the Manti were really bad. And we recognized it. The Forest Service recognized. Everybody noted, I mean it was evident. And what you guys are talking about is exactly what we did. We were in communication very often with the Forest Service looking at the conditions. We talked to permittees. We spent some time in the field. We even took a GIP representative out there from, that represented agricultural interests. And it was hard. It was tough to look at these things and look at the situation and say yeah, we've got to make some cuts. But I think when we did that we actually built a lot of trust by spending time on the ground, looking at the habitat, with our sportsman and our agricultural community. And it can be a fairly quick process. I know that was one of your questions. It's something we were monitoring all spring and into the summer. And when it was time that we needed the permits that we were going to recommend everybody was comfortable with that. And there were actually a lot of grateful people, especially on the agricultural community side that was thankful for us taking a hard look at it. So we do have a track record of doing it and I imagine we'd follow that same template.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Mack.

Mack Morrell: Yeah I got a question. When did, it was two years ago we voted to increase the Fish Lake to 5600 head, is that correct?

Justin Shannon: Uh, is that correct Teresa? Excuse my ignorance Mack, I'm not sure.

Mack Morrell: Okay, I was one the one that went up to the Wildlife Board to go against the increase, okay? Right after they've, well during the vote or process there, Anis said well we already have the elk. And I already brought up two times before that about integrity. Okay? Now you guys have got to come to the table about integrity. Where are your numbers? Where are they going? All the time they're going that way. And now you still say Fish Lake is at 5,600 and you're over that. You don't count the elk that go across I-70. You don't do that. And some of the winter across I-70.

Justin Shannon: But we do fly the Manti. And one thing that we're trying to do Mack, moving forward, and we started this two years ago, is when we fly these populations and survey them we're doing them, we're not flying the Fish Lake one unit and the Manti the next, we're going to be . . . And that's one thing that we recognized a few years ago that we need to improve on and we've taken those steps to do it. So we're classifying and counting all these elk at the same time so we're not having that ping-pong affect to get exactly what you're talking about. So if there were elk going on the Manti they would have been picked up, or across to the Manti, they would have been pickup up on that survey. I guess what I'm trying to say Mack is, like Kevin reiterated, we are committed to trying to get these elk populations at their objectives. And if conditions warrant, even under objective in some cases if it's better for the range. And that's something that we're going to have to look at this spring and summer closely with the Forest Service, and sportsman, and agriculture. And that's something we're willing to commit to do.

Mack Morrell: Okay, now while I got you there I want you to figure out what the recruitment is on Fish Lake. You say there's 5,600 elk, right? Total? Okay, that's what it says.

Justin Shannon: Okay.

Mack Morrell: That's your population in estimate, post season 2013, which is what you're working off. Okay, now let's figure what recruitment's coming in. You say there's 50 percent of them are producing cows.

Justin Shannon: Generally if you have 100 cows your cow to calf ratio, you're going to throw 50 calves. Yeah.

Mack Morrell: Okay, and they only get 50 percent calf crop. If you get 50 percent cows, that's 3200 cows. 50 percent calf crop, I'm not talking about bulls Brian, I'm talking about what's coming in. What's coming in is close to 1500, 1600 calves coming in next year. Talk about a blue light special, you're going to have to have it.

Justin Shannon: Mack, I can take a look at those numbers for ya.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's move on and if you want to talk with Mack you guys can get together later. We have a motion on the floor; does anyone want to amend that motion further? Okay, Dale.

Dale Bagley: In the letter from the Fish Lake, I mean it basically says we recommend the Division consider a short-term aggressive antlerless management to help decrease potential impacts to aspen on Monroe Mountain. I mean in my mind that's a basis for an emergency if they're saying that. So I mean I'd like to amend it to do 100 more on Monroe. These guys have come in, several of them from Beaver, they've stated they're basically in an emergency situation. They didn't ask for an increase on Beaver, they just said to move the 145 that you're already doing to that north end on that allotment. So I want to amend the motion to increase Monroe 100 head; move 145 on Beaver to that north area that's affecting these guys where that 450 head are hanging at: and then we'll try increasing the Southwest Desert to 450 and see if that one will fly.

Mack Morrell: I second.

Mike Worthen: Okay we have a motion to amend and seconded. And the motion reads to increase the Monroe antlerless elk by 100; move the 145 on the Beaver to the north end: increase the Southwest Desert to 450. Is that right?

Dale Bagley: yeah, that's right. By what I say the north end (off mic).

Kevin Bunnell: Well we created a new boundary specifically for that north end this year. (off mic)

Riley Peck: Right, that's why we created that new boundary, was to shift all (off mic).

Kevin Bunnell: So are currently the 145 you have, are they already all on that north end?

Riley Peck: 100 of those are all on the north end, and then 45 of them are on the other side in Circleville.

Mike Worthen: So it would be moving 45 from the main unit to the north end so you'd have all, 145.

Kevin Bunnell: What's the issue you're trying to address in Circleville?

Riley Peck: Depredation as well. Just trying to keep the pressure on the cows in Circleville to try and stay off of the fields in the winter there. So I guess I wouldn't be completely comfortable with taking the cow tags off of Circleville and move them.

Dale Bagley: So I'm going to change motion. So leave the 45 on the Circleville side and do 145 on that north end, increase 45 on that north end.

Mike Worthen: Increase the north end to 145?

Dale Bagley: Right.

Kevin Bunnell: So it would be 190 tags total. 45 in Circleville and 145 in the new boundary on the north end.

Dale Bagley: Correct.

Mack Morrell: I second that.

Mike Worthen: Okay, its been moved and seconded. Any discussion?

Brian Johnson: I think Teresa mentioned that you guys have an agreement with the Forest Service that as soon as they start that you guys were going to increase the tags anyways. Is that? Well you mentioned something about it. I don't know what that agreement is.

Kevin Bunnell: So there's been a big, the Monroe mountain working group has been putting together recommendation in anticipation of some aspen regeneration treatments on Monroe Mountain. What we've agreed to in that document as it stands right now is not to do preemptive hunts but once the treatment has been accomplished to do some very specific and localized reductions after treatment's taken place. And the reason that we felt pretty adamant that that's the right approach is most of this will

be done with control burns. Control burns have a very tight window and sometimes you can have one planned and it's five years later before it actually takes place. And so we didn't want to reduce elk numbers prior to, because we don't know when it's actually going to happen but we're fully committed to doing it as soon as the project takes place. And it may be some very localized hunts. We're going to have to get creative how we do it, but that's what we've committed to at this point. And again, we've committed to make that recommendation, that will have to go through the RAC and the Board process to approve it but we've committed to make those recommendations. And I think we'd get support given what's trying to be accomplished there.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any further discussion by the RAC?

Harry Barber: The Forest Service rep, in regards to the letter, did the Forest Service actually have a number they were talking about in terms of that reduction? I was wondering what aggressive meant? Be aggressive when you come up.

Jason Graham: I'm Jason Graham, the district ranger in Richfield. No we don't have a specific number in mind. We've always counted on our partnerships and our working relationships with the state folks to help us determine what that number should be. We were just requesting and asking that the aspen concerns that we have on Monroe Mountain be considered prior to making that final recommendation to the Wildlife Board.

Mike Worthen: Okay, now the amendment as reads, increase 100 additional antlerless elk on Monroe: Increase the Beaver north end from 100 to 145; Increase the Southwest Desert to 450. Is that right?

John Keeler: (off mic).

Mike Worthen: Okay, it's been moved and seconded. All in favor raise your hand. 4. All opposed raise your hands? 6. Amendment fails.

4 in favor. 6 opposed. Motion fails.

Mike Worthen: Now we're back to the main motion to accept or another amendment if somebody wants to make one. Seeing none we will vote on main motion to accept the Division's recommendations on antlerless permits. All in favor raise your hand. 6 in favor. Any opposed? 4. Okay, motion passes.

Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the 2014 Antlerless Permit Recommendations as presented. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried; 6 in favor, 4 opposed. Harry Barber, Mack Morrell, Dale Bagley, Sam Carpenter opposed.

Mike Worthen: Okay, the next agenda item is antlerless CWMU vouchers and permits. And that will be presented to us by Scott McFarlane.

Antlerless CWMU Voucher/ Permit Recommendations for 2014 (action)
-Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/ Public Wildlife Coordinator 3:24:33 to 3:34:57 of 3:49:20
(see attachment 1)

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Let's go ahead and take questions from the public.

Questions from the public:

None.

Mike Worthen: Seeing none do we have any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

None

Mike Worthen: Okay, seeing none there we have public comment.

Comments from the public:

Mike Worthen: Wade Heaton, are you still here? Okay.

Donnie Hunter: Wade had to leave and asked me if I would speak for him. Is that okay?

Mike Worthen: Yes.

Donnie Hunter: Yeah, the Alton Cooperative Management Unit would like to concur with the Division's recommendations. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you.

Discussion from the RAC:

Mike Worthen: Do we have any discussion from the RAC? If not we will entertain a motion.

Harry Barber: I make a motion that we accept it as presented.

Rusty Aiken: I'll second the motion.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it has been moved and seconded that we accept the amendment as presented by the Division. Discussion? Okay, all in favor raise your hand. Any opposed? Motion carries unanimously.

Unanimous.

Harry Barber made the motion to accept 2014 Antlerless CWMU Voucher/ Permit Recommendations as presented. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

-Mike Worthen, Acting Chairman

Mike Worthen: Okay, the last business that we have is on wild horses. And this is a item that the Iron County Commissioners asked me to present to the RAC for consideration. And let me read it real quick. The western and eastern Utah Counties contain 22 herd management areas, 2 of which have burros. Each herd management area is managed through the wild horse management plans prepared by the BLM through the NEPA process. The wild horse management plans established appropriate management levels of wild horses in each area based on multiple use factors which it takes into account the needs of wild horses, wildlife, and domestic livestock as they relate to our (unintelligible) ecosystems in Utah. The intent of the management plan is to establish AML in each herd management unit. The management and manage wild horse numbers at the level that will maintain the range in the condition that will sustain the uses by various resources and not cause harm or degradation to the fragile arid ecosystem. In September 2013 letters were sent to livestock permittees in Iron County and Beaver. The BLM indicated that they will not have the resources to gather wild horses in the herd management area and will not be able to maintain the wild horses at appropriate management levels as indicated in the planning documents. They have asked a number of livestock permittees to voluntarily reduce their livestock AUMs by as much as 50 percent to compensate for the inability to keep wild horses at appropriate management levels and prevent range degradation due to the excessive numbers of wild horses. What does this mean for wildlife? Wildlife shares the same habitat as wild horses and depends on the same water sources to survive in the arid desert areas. Wild horses are known to dominate water sources especially during drought conditions and prevent or curtain wildlife from watering. Excessive wild horse numbers also consume forage available and cause deterioration of range conditions if left unchecked. The negative impacts on the range will be magnified as the whole state is in a drought condition. Some of the wild horse areas contain premium elk and deer areas that have been managed as such for years and the hunters wait over 15 years to hunt. It is hard to believe that these areas will become dust bowls from the over abundance of wild horses and years of careful planning and management will be set back. Many of the local economies depend on big game seasons that will surely feel the impact of reducing hunting for years to come. What can the RAC and the state Wildlife Board do? The RACs and the state Wildlife Board can recommend to the state to become proactive in telling the BLM to manage the wild horses in appropriate management levels. The state should insist on being a full partner in developing action plans to bring the horses in the herd management areas under appropriate management levels that have been established in the horse management plans. And with that any discussion? I guess public comment first, or public questions.

Chris Halterman: Chris Halterman with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. I just have a statement to read concerning what Mike had just read. If I may I'd like to just read this statement. I didn't bring my glasses so I have to hold it out a little bit. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation appreciates the opportunity to comment before you today. The feral horses and burros found on the western landscapes today are not native wildlife and are significantly over populated on our western public rangelands. Research in the Great Basin has shown the feral horses have impacted native plant communities. The grass and shrub components have been reduced affecting forage quantity for native plant cover needed for ground nesting birds. This can lead to more invasive plant species such as cheat grass where feral horses roam. Riparian and wetland areas have also been impacted by feral horses through soil compaction and increased erosion depending upon seasonal timing, intensity and duration of use, water is scarce and many western landscapes occupied by feral horses, and these same horses tend to protect water sources from wildlife use, particularly elk, deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep, forcing them into other areas that may be less suitable habitat. Horses tend to use higher elevations and steeper slopes than cattle which cause direct conflict with elk, deer, bighorn sheep, use of critical winter ranges. Horses tend to clip the vegetation closer to the ground, which may affect the plant growth for the remaining

growth cycle or for future growth years. It is unfortunate that congress has passed specific legislation protecting nonnative horses further complicating management of range resources while the conservation of native plants, animals and ecosystems may not be given the same attention or budget considerations. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has always supported scientific management of wildlife and habitat. Additionally we have granted millions of dollars to federal and state agencies to battle invasive nonnative plants that compromise native ecosystems. We encourage the BLM to use every available tool including sterilization and euthanasia to reduce the feral horse and burro numbers down to the 26,677 population objective and maintain that population at that level. I've also got a national coalition that has been started and I actually brought copies for all of you if I may hand those out. As you look through these and read these, this is a coalition that was actually put together, and one of the things that we need to remember as between agricultural people and wildlife organizations, we might differ in some things but there's some things that we need to come together on and battle together. This coalition has actually been organized, if you look at the bottom the organizations that have approved this, the American Farm Bureau Federation, Masters of Foxhounds Association, Mule Deer Foundation, National Rifle Association, National Association of Conservation Districts, National Cattleman's Beef Association, National Wildlife Refuge Association and Public Lands Council, Public Lands Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Safari Club International, Society for Range Management and the Wildlife Society. I would just like to encourage this board, and I appreciate their time and their effort away from their families to be here but that we need to better educate ourselves on this and we need to come together to increase the pressure with the BLM, and I agree with em, the Chairman in his recommendation that we need to do that as a RAC. Thank you. (see attachment 4)

Mike Worthen: Any other comments from the publics?

John Keeler: John Keeler, Utah Farm Bureau. It was mentioned the American Farm Bureau was on that letter but the Utah Farm Bureau does support that position. This is a severe problem that needs great attention. Thank you.

Donnie Hunter: Donnie Hunter, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. We concur with all of that and we'll send a letter on to those people, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife for Utah about those horses. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other public comments? Lee.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy United Wildlife Cooperative. Having a wild horse ruin one of my antelope hunts, United Wildlife Cooperative also agrees with this proposal.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond, representing the Beaver SFW Chapter. This may be the first time every I'm going to agree with this guy. We should celebrate that all by itself. I just want to make the comment that we also agree with this, these wild horses are a plague and they're way over numbered. I mean we want to talk about population objectives and all this with what we can manage and yet these wild horses, we all understand they're out of our management control. But what we'd really like to see is this is an opportunity for sportsman, cattleman and the Division to come together and support a common thing that would help, I hope would bridge some of that gap and we can actually have something that we agree on to work together on for a change. It would be a real positive if we could have the Division actually say support this.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other comments from the public? Yes.

Gene Boardman: I enjoy those horses I see them everyday. But they're not where they're supposed to be. They're on an allotment that a man had for a certain number of cattle for about 5 months of grazing. Now there are more horses than what his cattle allotment was and they're there 12 months out of the year and increasing all the time. I know that when we had drought here a few years ago those horses were ranging 20 miles from the waterhole to find feed. And that's cutting a big swath of land where they're eating everything that was available. They've gotta get a hold of this and the program that they have just is not working. If the horses were turned back to the state, the state could put license, charge license fees. Cowboys would go out there to chase the horses. The mechanics would make a lot of money off of fixing the trucks. The hospitals would make a lot of money out of patching up the cowboys and the vets would make a lot of money patching up their saddle horses and it would really be an economic boom for this area if we could just wrestle that control from the federal government who makes these horse decisions 2000 miles from where the horses are.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Any other comments from the public?

Questions from the RAC:

Layne Torgerson: Is this an item as a RAC that we can recommend to be put as an action item to go to the Wildlife Board?

Kevin Bunnell: Knowing that this was going to come up I talked to the directors office and to Marty and to the extent that wild horses have an impact on wildlife and the RACs and the Board have authority over wildlife we think it's appropriate if the RAC chooses to endorse this proposed action or do something else. And so I think it's appropriate if you wanted to make some sort of a motion to endorse what's been said here tonight and pass that on to the Board.

Layne Torgerson: I'd like to make a motion that we support and endorse the topics that have been talked about tonight about the wild horses and burros. I'd like to see that as an action item on the next Wildlife Board meeting.

Mack Morrell: Second.

Mike Worthen: Okay, seconded by Mack. Discussion? Okay, all in favor raise your hand. Any opposed? Motion passes unanimously.

Unanimous.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to support and endorse and wild horse proposal as presented. Mack Morrell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mike Worthen: Do we have any other items of business to take care of before we adjourn? A motion has been made we adjourn. Any second? Seconded by Harry.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Dear RAC member,

As a person who devotes a lot of time working with Utah's wildlife resources, I wish to express my concern regarding an issue that will be covered in the up-coming RAC meetings. My apprehension stems from several factors I have noticed, as well as opinions voiced by fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

In the 2014 UDWR permit recommendations the Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS) Zion Unit (Hunt #6611) tag allocation is proposed to increase from 8 to 12 hunting permits this year. In addition, to these 12 permits, a Conservation tag, the Utah Sportsman's tag and the Statewide Auction tag are also allowed to hunt the Zion unit. All of these permits have been filled within the unit since it opened in 2010. I am confident that such an increase will reduce the quality of a hunt which the majority of the tag holders have waited 20+ years to experience.

Aside from harvesting a ram, the attraction of hunting sheep is largely due to the opportunity to experience solitude in Utah's wilderness. Concentrating 15 hunters and their hunting parties into a single area, roughly 5.5% of the core DBS habitat in the state, will essentially spoil the rare essence of sheep hunting. In addition to the hunter density the core population of the sheep herd and hunting area directly borders the Zion National Park, which attracts on average more than 300,000 outdoor recreators in the month of September alone. Even with the current number of tags allotted, hunter conflicts and competition has become an issue on this unit.

Since its creation the Zion hunt has been the most prized DBS tag in the state due to the potential to harvest a mature class IV ram,

BACK

which is the desire of all sheep hunters. In studying the harvest data provided by the UDWR I noticed patterns that suggest an increase of tags could harm the unit's mature ram population. In 2010 (6 tags) the average ram harvest age was 8.7 (Class IV) but by 2013 (12 tags) it was reduced to 6.45 (Class III). Also in 2013, 70% of the rams harvested were younger Class III rams. The number of hunter days has also increase each year from 6.5 in 2010 to 8.9 in 2013, suggesting that hunters have to search longer to find a desirable rams. This also implies that the number of mature rams is becoming less abundant in the population and is not being replaced at a rate that keeps up with the current trend of tag increases.

Please consider that a tag increase, especially by 50% could amplify the downward trend in quality of a unit that brings; high revenue to the UDWR programs (through draw and high dollar auction tags), tens of thousands of non-consumption wildlife viewers, and pride to the Utah bighorn sheep program.

I appreciate your dedication to the wildlife of this state and I hope you will seriously consider at my concern while participating at the RAC meeting on April 8th. Thanks for your service.

Sincerely,
Adam Attridge
Price, Utah

April 3, 2014

Sheep Hunting Friends,

Some of you may be aware that the DWR is proposing increasing the Zion sheep permits by 4 new tags. While that assures me a permit, I believe it also seriously cheapens the experience for everyone.

I am making an effort to get RAC members to modify that increase. While I know it's a long shot, I still feel that it is worth it for the future of that herd. If you are of a like mind, I would ask you to also write, especially the Southern Region RAC and voice your opposition.

Here are a couple of points to possibly make:

- The tag increase is a 50% increase in tags, but the herd size has not increased that much.
- The sheep in the Zion are concentrated (half the size of the South San Rafael core area, that offers a less than half the number of proposed tags)
- 15 hunters in that small area after a OIAL animal (I've been waiting over 40 years) will likely make it a poor experience.
- The Zion is known for large rams, but the increase will make it just another sheep unit with Utah dinks.

Here is a link to the RAC member's contact info.

<https://wildlife.utah.gov/rac-members.html>

The RAC meetings start next week so timing is important.

I appreciate our friendship and I hope the draws are kind to us all in the next few months.

Thanks,

Rick Ellison



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Fishlake National Forest
Supervisor's Office
Fax: (435) 896-9347

115 East 900 North
Richfield, UT 84701
Phone: (435) 896-9233

File Code: 2610
Date: April 8, 2014

Dave Black
Southern Region RAC Chair
2074 Princeton Circle
St. George, UT 84790

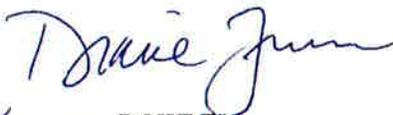
Dear Mr. Black:

This letter is in reference to comments provided by the Forest Service to the 2014 Bucks, Bulls, Once in a Lifetime, and Antlerless Permit Recommendations. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on the upcoming Southern RAC discussion and values our relationship with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (Division). The Forest Service is committed to assisting the Division in managing for sustainable populations of big game by providing quality habitat that is well distributed across the National Forest landscapes. We recognize the necessity for the Division to manage for population numbers that are in balance with habitat conditions and support this effort. We would like to make the following suggestions for consideration in the upcoming RAC meeting:

- The Fishlake National Forest is in the process of preparing an Environmental Impact to manage a 40,000 acre plus landscape to increase the distribution, quality, and quantity of aspen habitat. We recommend the Division consider short-term aggressive antlerless management to help decrease potential impacts to aspen regeneration on Monroe Mountain. This will help ensure the success of this large landscape level aspen management project, which will help reestablish aspen in the conifer dominated landscapes. Regenerating aspen across this landscape will help provide the necessary diversity of cover and forage that will sustain increased numbers of wildlife through time.
- As you are aware, Southern Utah is experiencing drought conditions (approximately 50% of normal precipitation levels) compared to the Northern part of Utah. These drought conditions are likely to have impacts to many species of wildlife and domestic livestock. We recommend that drought conditions on Monroe Mountain and the potential impacts to livestock operators be considered prior to making any final antlerless and/or hunting season recommendations to the Utah Wildlife Board. This will help balance total ungulate use with these drought related conditions.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the 2014 Antlerless Permit Recommendations and look forward to working with the State in the future. The Forest Service looks forward to further efforts to manage the diverse landscapes that occur on National Forest lands and to joint monitoring opportunities in the future. If you have questions please contact Ron Rodriguez at 435-865-3732, or me at 435-896-1001.

Sincerely,


for ALLEN ROWLEY
Forest Supervisor

cc: Ron Rodriguez, Jason E Kling, Kurt Robins, Amy C Barker, Del Barnhurst





NATIONAL HORSE & BURRO RANGELAND MANAGEMENT COALITION
Advocating for commonsense, ecologically-sound approaches to managing horses and burros to promote healthy wildlife and rangelands for future generations

August 30, 2013

Bureau of Land Management, National Wild Horse and Burro Program
WO-260, Attention: Ramona DeLorme
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502-7147

Members of the Wildlife Horse and Burro Advisory Board:

The National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition (“Coalition”) is submitting this statement for the meeting record of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board, September 9, 10, and 11, 2013. Formed in 2012, the Coalition is a diverse partnership of 15 wildlife conservation and sportsmen organizations, industry partners, professional natural-resource scientific societies, and affiliates. We work together to identify proactive and comprehensive solutions to increase effective management of horse and burro populations and mitigate the adverse impacts these wild horses and burros have on healthy native fish, wildlife, and plants, and on the ecosystems on which they depend.

The Coalition generally supports the findings of the National Academies of Sciences report, “Using Science to Improve the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program: A Way Forward”. The following key findings have been identified, along with the Coalition’s recommendations moving forward:

SUMMARY OF CURRENT SITUATION:

“The continuation of ‘business-as-usual’ practices will be expensive and unproductive for BLM. Because compelling evidence exists that there are more horses on public rangelands than reported at the national level and that horse population growth rates are high, unmanaged populations would probably double in about 4 years. If populations were not actively managed for even a short time, the abundance of horses on public rangelands would increase until animals became food-limited. Food-limited horse populations would affect forage and water resources for all other animals on shared rangelands and potentially conflict with the multiple-use policy of public rangelands and the legislative mandate to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance... The committee’s conclusions that there are considerably more horses and possibly burros on public lands than reported and that population growth rates are high suggest that the effects of fertility intervention, although potentially substantial, may not completely alleviate the challenges BLM faces in the future in effectively managing the nation’s free-ranging equid populations, given legislative and budgetary constraints.” (NAS Report)

KEY FINDINGS:

FINDING: The primary way that equid populations self-limit is through increased competition for forage at higher densities, which results in smaller quantities of forage available per animal, poorer body condition, and decreased natality and survival.

NAS found:

1. “Case studies show that animal responses to density dependence will include increased numbers of animals that are in poor body condition and are dying from starvation.”

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2. "Rangeland health is also affected by density dependence. Equids invariably affect vegetation abundance and composition. Reduced vegetation cover, shifts in species composition, and increased erosion rates often occur on rangelands occupied by equids."

There is no basis in law or in sound policy to permit horse and burro populations to increase to the point that self limitation should occur through starvation. In fact, the law mandates the opposite and requires management to achieve healthy equid populations in a thriving natural ecological balance. Therefore, the Coalition recommends BLM not pursue a policy of self limitation and that it actively pursue other alternatives that are not only more humane for equids but for the health of the range itself and the native fish and wildlife that share the range. There are more humane ways to manage the population and ensure a thriving natural ecological balance.

FINDING: On the basis of the information provided to the committee, the statistics on the national population size cannot be considered scientifically rigorous.

NAS found:

1. "The links between the statistics on the national population size and actual population surveys, which are the foundational data of all estimates, are obscure. The procedures used for developing annual HMA population-size estimates from counts are not standardized and often not documented."
2. "...but 50-60 percent were undetected in more rugged terrain with tree cover (Frei et al., 1979; Siniff et al., 1982). More recent studies of inventory techniques have reaffirmed those conclusions."
3. "A large body of scientific literature focused on inventory techniques for horses and many other large mammals clearly refutes that assumption (perfect detection) and shows estimates of the proportion of animals missed on surveys ranging from 10 to 50 percent depending on terrain ruggedness and tree cover."

Therefore, the Coalition supports NAS' recommendation of "Development and use of a uniform and centralized relational database, which captures all inventory and removal data generated at the level of the field offices and animal processing and holding facilities, to generate annual program-wide statistics would provide a clear connection between the data collected and the reported statistics."

Given the confirmation that the proportion of animals missed on current surveys ranges from 10 – 50 percent, the Coalition also supports BLM's continued partnership with USGS to refine the protocols for population surveys. However we caution BLM to ensure the protocols used are field tested on equids in various western U.S. terrains to ensure their accuracy and encourage BLM to seek expertise in addition to that offered by the USGS.

Most importantly, the Coalition believes that establishing more methodologically sound means of determining equid populations should not impede or delay the urgent need of pursuing policy alternatives that will restore a more sound ecological balance on the range.

FINDING: Horse populations are growing at 15-20 percent a year.

NAS Found:

1. "On the basis of the published literature and the additional management data reviewed by the committee, the committee concluded that most free-ranging horse populations managed by BLM are probably growing at 15-20 percent a year."

The Coalition recommends utilizing extensive fertility control as a tool to reduce the population growth rate. The Coalition also supports BLM's efforts to identify a suite of population and fertility control methods. One kind of fertility control may not be appropriate for all herds within an HMA and a host of tools should be used to maximize effectiveness.

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FINDING: The most promising fertility-control methods for application to free-ranging horses or burros are porcine zona pellucida (PZP) vaccines, GonaCon™ vaccine, and chemical vasectomy.

NAS Found:

1. “The criteria most important in selecting promising fertility-control methods for free ranging equids are the delivery method, availability, efficacy, duration of effect, and potential physiological and behavioral side effects.”
2. “Considering those (above) criteria, the methods judged most promising are PZP and GonaCon vaccination of females and chemical vasectomy in males. Each method has advantages and disadvantages (Table S-1). Of the PZP vaccines, PZP-22 and SpayVac® seem most appropriate and practical because of their longer duration of effect.”

In the view of the Coalition, the NAS report highlights the urgency of BLM using the most effective and efficient fertility control methods as a tool to reduce WH growth rates. While NAS suggests PZP, GonaCon, and chemical vasectomies are the most promising fertility control methods, these three methods are far from ready to serve as BLM’s primary WH&B population management tool. BLM has applied PZP22 fairly widely in recent years and its effectiveness has been very limited in most cases. GonaCon™ and chemical vasectomy are virtually untested in BLM HMAs, and NAS states that chemical vasectomy is untested in wild equines.

The only current effective drug in the PZP family is the one year liquid. However, use of the PZP one year liquid will not satisfy even modest criteria that might be established for "delivery method" and "duration of effect" for use on most HMAs. While this method works in the small HMAs such as the Little Bookcliffs herd with AML of 90 – 150 horses, it is not practical to treat mares annually in the vast majority of HMAs where the herds are much larger and less familiar with human interaction. Finding and staffing limitations are also a limiting factor in administering the PZP one year liquid at the scale and frequency needed to achieve effective fertility reductions.

The Coalition recommends the use of ovariectomies in mares in HMAs and sterile herds. The Coalition supports gelding and the promotion of non-reproducing herds in select areas. We recommend that BLM pursue research and possible utilization of chemical vasectomy. BLM should continue to research and improve on fertility control techniques and should strive to use a diversity of fertility control options when necessary.

FINDING: How AMLs are established, monitored, and adjusted is not transparent to stakeholders, supported by scientific information, or amenable to adaptation with new information and environmental and social change.

NAS Found:

1. “AMLs are a focal point of controversy between BLM and the public.”
2. “Data and methods used to inform decisions must be scientifically defensible.”
3. “Resources are allocated to horses or burros in a context of contending uses for BLM lands, all of which have some standing in the agency’s charge for multiple-use management.”

The Coalition recommends that the immediate primary goal be to reach currently-established AMLs in an effort to protect the natural resources, the condition of the horses, and meet the congressional directive of respecting multiple uses of the resources.

Once the current AMLs are reached, BLM should work towards completing Herd Management Area Plans (HMAP) for each HMA. The HMAPs are typically designed to evaluate the AML and plan range improvements within the following ten years.

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The bigger concern is the flexibility BLM has throughout the ten year planned period. In the event of significant multiple drought years or conflicting conservation mandates such as endangered species management, BLM may need the flexibility to remove excess horses based on the condition of the resource.

The Coalition continues to stress that the BLM should manage rangeland resources for multiple-use in accordance with the law and the land's scientifically proven capability to accommodate a variety of uses, including the presence of horses and burros and other wildlife. The consistent application of sound science and economics in relation to animal and rangeland management should be used throughout the horse and burro program. The Coalition thanks the Board for their efforts to advise the BLM on ways to effectively interpret and apply the findings of the NAS report and for considering these remarks. We are pleased to offer our assistance and collective member expertise to the Advisory Board should additional information be requested.

Sincerely,



Terra Rentz, Associate Wildlife Biologist®
Chair, National Horse & Burro Rangeland Management Coalition

E-mail: terra@wildlife.org

Coalition E-mail: horseandrange@gmail.com

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**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
April 9, 2014
*Motion Summary***

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written
Passed unanimously

R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR forms Rule Amendment

MOTION: To accept the R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR forms Rule Amendment as presented.
Passed unanimously

R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Rule amendment

MOTION: To accept the Utah Hunter Mentoring Rule Amendment as presented.
Passed unanimously

R657-13-7 Fishing with more than one pole Rule Amendment

MOTION: To accept the Fishing with more than one pole Rule Amendment as presented.
Passed unanimously

R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment

MOTION: To accept the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented.
Passed unanimously

Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014.

MOTION: To accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented, except that the number of mature bull permits on the Central Mountains-Manti unit remain at 430, which was the number approved in 2013.
Passed unanimously

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.
Passed unanimously

Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014

MOTION: To accept the Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.
Passed with Blair Eastman and Sue Bellagamba abstaining, due to conflicts of interest.

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah**

April 9, 2014 ↻ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Kevin Albrecht, USFS

Sue Bellagamba, Environmental
Blair Eastman, Agriculture

Trisha Hedin, sportsmen
Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental
Todd Huntington, At Large
Karl Ivory, BLM
Derris Jones, sportsmen

Charlie Tracy, Agriculture
Chris Wood, regional supervisor

Others Present

Mike King, Wildlife Board

Members Absent

Seth Allred, At Large

Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official

Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen
Christine Micoz, At Large

**1) Welcome, RAC introductions and RAC Procedure
-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman**

Kevin Albrecht- I would like to welcome everybody out for the April RAC meeting. It has been awhile since our last RAC meeting and we might to rely on these name tags quite a bit. I would like to start off by talking a little bit about the RAC process. We will go through the process tonight. We will hear from the Division. They will present their recommendations, The RAC will have a time to ask questions, to clarify issues, and then we will go to the audience and allow them time to ask any questions. As you come up to the microphone, this microphone here in front, will be the microphone for the audience. Please state your name and then ask your question. After questions, then we will have time for comments from the audience. There are some cards there. Please fill out a card and bring it up here to Chris and we will call your name you can present comments. Again, if you present a comment, then it will be in that microphone and then the RAC will discuss and take into consideration all of those comments and call for a motion. With that, do we have any questions on the agenda or minutes?

**2) Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)
-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman**

Todd Huntington- I move to approve the agenda.

Kevin Albrecht-Motion by Todd Huntington to approve the agenda and minutes.

Kevin Albrecht- Is there a second? Seconded by Wayne Hoskisson. All in favor?

VOTING

Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept the agenda and minutes as written

Seconded by Wayne Hoskisson

Motion passed unanimously

3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update -by Kevin Albrecht and Chris Wood

Kevin Albrecht-The Wildlife Board meeting update is pressing my memory log because that was in January so I will do my best. I will just give a brief update on the things that pertain to our RAC. At our RAC there was some discussion about the new process and allocation to allow some lion permits in areas where there was continual predation. And that they would be able to target those animals and maybe a time of year when cattle or sheep may not even be in that area. So there was quite a bit of discussion in our RAC. The Wildlife Board did talk about that quite a bit. There were a lot of questions to the Division and also to Wildlife Services dealing with that issue. They felt that these permits would only be offered on such a limited basis where there was a lot of documentation that there was continual depredation. With that, they voted with the DWR proposal, which was different from our RAC, but they did ask a lot of questions about that and so anyways, that is how it ended up.

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions on that?

Questions from the RAC

Todd Huntington- How did the other RACs vote? Were they in support of that or were they more like us?

Kevin Albrecht- I think that there was one other region that had quite a bit of concern about it, but it sounded as if some of the information that they were basing their questions on wasn't accurate.

Kevin Albrecht- With that we will have a regional update with Chris Wood.

4) Regional Update -Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood- Good evening. We have a lot going on. Aquatics has been busy with spring fishing underway. We have some great fishing and Millsite has been hot this last week or two. We still have some ice fishing up in the higher elevations as well. You will probably see the media report about Quagga mussels. Lake Powell does have Quagga mussels from Wahweap to Bullfrog. It's now an infested water. In the next week or two

the Park Service is meeting to figure out what their plan is for the upcoming season. Once we know their plan we'll review their plan and make our plan in conjunction with them. Certainly you can expect there to be a bigger outreach and education effort and you will see a bigger presence for decontamination. You will see periodic check stations as well. The legislature allowed us this last year to have more non-law enforcement check stations coming out of Lake Powell to look at boats, so we are working on that issue. It is a hot topic that we are deeply concerned about, and we are putting a lot of effort and resources in to it this upcoming year. We met with the Emery County Progress and the Sun Advocate this week and did a fishing trip at Millsite and you might see a story on that in the next week.

Conservation Outreach has been busy. We are implementing a Wildlife Recreation program in the region. Brent has been doing that for the last year or two. What that means is that we have lots of events on weekends. This involves sportsmen groups, archery clubs and the public in general. This weekend we have a 3-gun shoot here in Green River at the shooting sports park. We are hoping to have 40-60 people. We did it last year and had about 20. Brent has been advertising it pretty heavily and people are showing some excitement for it. We have been announcing it state wide as well. So hopefully we will have a good turnout for that. Brent continues to do archery clinics. He has one in Moab coming up and he is also working with our Hunter Education instructors and helping with qualification shoots. We had two sage grouse viewing days--one for the greater sage-grouse up Emma Park that was just this last Saturday. I think we had about 50 people show up. They were able to see the sage-grouse strutting on their leks and doing their thing. On the 29th we had one in San Juan County just east of Monticello, where we had 15 preregister and another three just showed up. We put a cap on just 15 people. The Gunnison sage-grouse has received a lot of attention as well as the greater sage-grouse. But the Gunnison sage-grouse may be listed as threatened or endangered and that is going through a comment period now. Because of that, there is strong interest in it and we had 18 people do that. Speaking of Gunnison sage-grouse, we just got done Monday and Tuesday this week working with the Nature Conservancy on their piece of property that they own just east of Monticello. They have a Gunnison sage-grouse preserve that they bought a few years ago, where they have done habitat projects to enhance the habitat for the Gunnison sage-grouse. We just work with them and their volunteers. We planted over 10,000 sagebrush seedlings. Now we need a bunch of rain throughout this summer and keep those sagebrush seedlings alive and hopefully we have enhanced and produced some Gunnison sage grouse nesting habitat. This is the time of year that we are seeking after money from our partners and trying to get projects approved and funded. Two weeks ago we met with the sportsman groups--the RMEF, SFW and MDF and all those different groups that have conservation money. They came to the table and committed \$1.6 million statewide. That money will be matched with federal funds and watershed restoration initiative funds and federal funds, nonprofit organizations, and private funds to implement habitat projects statewide. Those projects will be funded on July 1st and this is what you have seen every year for the last 10 years. Those projects will be done on BLM and forest lands along with private and state lands, and Division lands to benefit a wide range of species--both game and non-game. The watershed initiative group that reviews those projects are called UPCD (Utah Partners for Conservation and Development) and they have a field tour on May 13th and they are going to meet and go look at the San Rafael property. The San Rafael River has undergone significant habitat restoration work the five years or so. If you're interested in that, just let me know and I can get you details on that. It is that time of year when we are starting to plant and do some farming on our WMAs specifically our Nash Wash-Cunningham Ranch properties, Desert Lake property, our Huntington Game Farm, and our Gordon Creek property. They all have fields that we plant and actively manage and plant crops for wildlife species.

Law Enforcement has been busy as well and has a new CO, Wyatt Mecham, who just finished POST training and has been assigned to the Carbon County area. He is living in Wellington. He will be the CO that will cover part of the Manti and the Scofield area. He is replacing Devin Christensen. We held a Bullfrog check station two weekends ago. They hoped to check a lot

more boats than they did, but the wind was so bad that the boats couldn't get out of the water, so they checked 30 boats and one citation was given to not properly drain. So 29 other boats drained properly and I think the word is getting out that Lake Powell is infested and you have to follow the law in regard to Quagga mussels. Just this last week two dead pronghorns were found southeast of Wellington and that investigation is still ongoing.

The Wildlife Section has been busy since the first part of the year. There has been so many transplants. We have moved bighorn sheep from the Green River area to Goshen Mountain. We have received bighorn sheep from the Zion unit. We have moved bighorn sheep from Big Bend along the Colorado River and from there to John's Canyon. We have moved mule deer from Antelope Island to Elk Ridge. We have been doing a lot transplants with our partners, trying to enhance populations and to protect populations. Our Wildlife section has also been doing sage grouse lek monitoring and counts, and have been doing spring deer classifications. With that I will take any questions.

Questions from the RAC

Wayne Hoskisson- Why were the bighorn sheep moved from the Big Bend area?

Chris Wood- They crossed the Colorado River from Arches, and when they crossed the river they came to a domestic sheep population near Castle Valley, and so to avoid those sheep interacting and potentially bringing the disease back to the population, we removed them.

Derris Jones- I went to Lake Powell today and yesterday and right now the Park Service is checking boats as you come in. They make you lower your drives and see if you have any water in your boats, but they don't do anything on the way out, and it seems that that is totally backwards. We are not going to introduce Quagga mussels to Lake Powell, so why are they checking them coming in and letting them come out?

Chris wood- Let me have Nathan address that question. That is a good point.

Nate Owens- For some of you who don't know me, I am Nate Owens. I am the new AIS biologist in the Price office. I have heard that question a lot lately. What I can tell you is Lake Powell is still concerned with other aquatic invasive species besides Quagga and Zebra mussels. So that is one reason why they are still inspecting boats coming in. It sounds like they're also concerned about more exposures of Quagga mussels up near Bullfrog since we have only found two adult mussels up there to this point. So they don't want another exposure up there that would increase the number of mussels that will end up there. They are having a meeting on April 14th to decide what their official policy is going to be, so on April 15th they will have an announcement for us. We have been working with them to try and figure out what they are going to be able to do and how we can possibly manage that. Whether it be inside the national recreational area or just outside. If you go up to Bullfrog, I have spoken to the NPS ranger up there and he is focused on boats going out. He is really focusing on boats that are launching within the next ten days. He is decontaminating boats that are coming out. He is also passing out our fliers that tell everyone that it is illegal to transport any water within your boat outside of the recreation area. So the word is getting out. All of their money up to this point was allocated for prevention. And getting that switched over to more of a containment mode is a fairly complicated issue, as I understand it. They are still trying to figure that out and they should have an answer for us by April 15th.

Chris Wood – Any other questions? Ok, Thank You.

Kevin Albrecht- Thanks Chris. With that we will go to agenda item #5 Wildlife License Permit.

5) **R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR forms Rule Amendment (Action)**
-Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the RAC?

Derris Jones- Does the three day non-resident hunting license qualify them to put in for a big game permit?

Kenny Johnson- It doesn't.

Derris Jones- They have to have a full season license to do that?

Kenny Johnson- Yep.

Kevin Albrecht- Ok with no more questions, are there questions from the audience? Comments from the audience? Comments from the RAC? Entertain a motion?

Charlie Tracie- I make a motion to pass it.

Kevin Albrecht- Motion made from Charlie Tracy

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No comments

RAC Discussion

No Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the Wildlife License, Permit and COR forms Rule Amendment as presented.

Seconded by Sue Bellagamba

Motion passed unanimously

6) **R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment**
- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones- Does the application to be a mentor and share a license have to be done at a Division office or license agent?

Kenny Johnson- Right now it is at the Division offices because there is a lot of requirements. There are some signatures. We try to make sure parents have signed their consent. So right now, it is at a Division office. If it looks like we can make it work electronically a little bit easier, it might just go online, or maybe even eventually to license agents if it doesn't become a real administrative burden.

Kevin Albrecht- Are there any other questions?

Blair Eastman- Refresh my memory on how this hunter mentoring program works? How that is going to work? It is a youth program, right?

Kenny Johnson- Yes

Blair Eastman- And what is the age limit on that?

Kenny Johnson- So I am going to have to refresh my own memory on the exact rule.

Blair Eastman- Ok, so while you're thinking about that, this was designed for youth to be able to go out and hunt with an adult, correct?

Kenny Johnson- Yes

Blair Eastman- And we can't remember what that age limit is.

Kenny Johnson- No, I think what we have done is we have tried to standardize ages. So we have ages all across the board for everything--12, 14, 16, and 18. What we have tried to do is condense that to something that makes sense. You guys might remember the RAC and Board process to try and do that. I think it is 17 and under. So once you turn 18, you no longer qualify. 17 and under all the way down to 12.

Blair Eastman- So this program is set up, and I might have this backwards, and that is why I am trying to put it together. Isn't it designed for an adult to have a tag and share it with the youth? Correct? Here is what I don't like about it and maybe you have thought about it--that is I can go in and buy a tag or draw a tag whatever the case is. Then I can go with any kid that I want or I can be out in the field and on the spur of the moment say, "You can use my tag and there you go." And there is no planning to this. I think it leaves it a little vague in my mind what's actually going to happen as time goes.

Kenny Johnson- It is a little tighter than that though. It actually has to be immediate family...

Todd Huntington- Child, step-child, grandchild, or legal ward of the hunting mentor.

Blair Eastman- That makes me feel a little bit better about this.

Kenny Johnson- We did try to tighten at least that, just because we shared the same concern. We didn't want it to be open season on just finding some kid and wanting...

Blair Eastman- It just seems to me that there would be a little bit of planning within a family about what really is going to happen here, but if you like this, I am not opposed to it.

Kenny Johnson- You and I know that it isn't perfect right now, but we want to roll it out, give it a chance and then if we need to make some changes, then we will be right back here in front of you guys again. But those are valid points for sure and I think it's will take a while to get it off and running because we have tried to make sure we are doing something that makes sense out in the field and are not running or rushing into something that isn't going to work--to where it is going to be broken right out of the gate.

Kevin Albrecht- Any other questions from the RAC? Questions from the audience?

Questions from the Public

Troy Justensen- SFW- My question is- Is there anything in this mentoring program that has a clause that addresses the issue that we just experienced this weekend, where the father is deceased who drew a permit and has a son. You guys are familiar with what has happened up here with the helicopter crash. Albert Rubio had actually drawn a bear permit on the Beaver and obviously he is not going to be able to fulfill that but he has a 15yr. old son. Is there any way that his son would be able to hunt that permit?

Kenny Johnson- Right now there is no provision that we have. I have talked with Marty in the AG's office and we don't see a way that we can actually offer that right now as much as we want to do it. The statute is really tight and doesn't let us transfer permits and the mentor rule gets us closer but there is still the clause in there that says it has to be kind of that parent, guardian, parent child relationship as the mentor. So there still needs to be a transfer to somebody else to pick up where dad would have been. So it is a tough one. We have been discussing that all day. I have talked to a few people driving down here and we may need to expand it to something like that in the future. We see these kinds of things off and on and we may need to plan for it, but right now there doesn't seem to be anything that we can do.

Kevin Albrecht- Any other questions from the audience? Comments from the audience? Comments from the RAC?

Derris Jones- I move that we accept the R657-67 as presented by the Division.

Kevin Albrecht- Motion by Derris Jones and seconded by Blair Eastman.

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the R657-67 Utah Mentoring Program Rule Amendment as presented

Seconded by Blair Eastman

Motion passed unanimously

7) **R657-13-7 Fishing with more than one pole Rule Amendment**
- **Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services**

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Questions from the RAC?

Derris Jones- The existing license, no matter which fishing license, even if you have not bought the new higher-cost fishing license, you're still good for a second pole until that license expires?

Kenny Johnson- Yep

Kevin Albrecht- Questions from the audience? Comments from the audience? Comments from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Wayne Hoskisson- Is there some sort of regulation about how far apart these poles can be?

Kenny Johnson- I don't think we regulate the distance too much and maybe some of our fisheries guys can help with that one. But I can tell you that I lost one in Strawberry because I was too far away from it. And I wasn't that far away from it.

Blair Eastman- Is there any lost revenue? Citation revenue on this? I think you're going to make the summer work for your COs too easy. I am just kidding, thank you.

Kevin Albrecht- Entertain a motion?

Blair Eastman- I would move that we accept the recommendation on the two fishing pole limit as presented by the Division.

Kevin Albrecht- Motion made by Blair Eastman to accept R657-13 as presented by the Division. Do we have a second? Seconded by Wayne Hoskisson

VOTING

Motion was made by Blair Eastman to accept the "Fishing with more than one pole" Rule Amendment presented.

Seconded by Wayne Hoskisson

Motion passed unanimously

8) **R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment**
-Justin Hart, Regional Aquatics Program Manager

Questions from the RAC

Charlie Tracy- Do you have any idea how these things got into Lake Powell or did they just show up?

Justin Hart- That's really impossible to say. They could have been there for quite some time. So there are a lot of places they could have come from but it is pretty hard to pin point.

Charlie Tracy- Does Flaming Gorge have them?

Justin Hart- The only place in Utah that we know has them is Lake Powell, which is unfortunate.

Todd Huntington- Since these are non-law enforcement check points, are you still able to issue citations and things like that?

Justin Hart- I think I failed to mention that this is a class B misdemeanor, so it gives it a little bit of teeth. Obviously if there is a bunch of biologists like us working, we can't do anything but wave at them as they go by. But I think this will eliminate the real intensive need for law enforcement that we have for right now. But I think there will have to be law enforcement presence there to write citations and warnings or other issues that may come up, and maybe stop somebody that doesn't want to mind.

Derris Jones- For a boat coming out of Lake Powell, if he wanted to put his boat in any other water in Utah prior to the 18 days or whatever the limit is on being dry, can they go through a decontamination process, and launch sooner than that, or are they just not able to fish for 18 days?

Justin Hart- So the law states that you have to dry, depending on what season it is, summer is less and winter is longer or have the boat professionally decontaminated. This means having it washed off with at least 140 degree water.

Derris Jones- Is the Division providing that service?

Justin Hart- We are providing that for free and Nate mentioned the Parks Service is handing out some information for us, and that information lists phone numbers and meeting places people can call all the regional offices. We have units at Huntington North and Red Fleet, so that is something that the public can call us to do.

Sue Bellagamba- So it is probably a minor boat use in Lake Boat but how are you dealing with the river runners coming through Cataract? They launch both in Moab and at Mineral Bottoms?

Justin Hart- That is a different issue to deal with. There is some risk there, potentially if they get down into the still water part of the lake but you know Nate has been crawling all over this region. We have signs up and hopefully we have most of the places that are highly utilized that there is at least some information there. I think that the guy that we had before Nate had been

down in Moab and talked with some groups and talked to some businesses trying to give them information that they need to do their part too to help us out. That is tricky. There are so many places that people can launch and we just can't have somebody stand there. Education is the key.

Kevin Albrecht- Thank you. Questions from the audience? Comments from the audience?
Comments from the RAC?

Kevin Albrecht- Entertain a motion?

Wayne Hoskisson- I move to recommend to the Board the approval of R657-60. It looks like just Section 13 that is being added.

Kevin Albrecht- Motion by Wayne Hoskisson, seconded by Todd Huntington. All in Favor?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Wayne Hoskisson to accept the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented.

Seconded by Todd Huntington

Motion passed unanimously

- 9) **Bucks, Bulls and OIAL and Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014**
-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator and
Guy Wallace, Regional Wildlife Manager

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Questions from the RAC?

Todd Huntington- A couple of different times for deer on the Henry Mountains, we use specific criteria to gauge whether to increase or decrease. It looks to me that for moose we use age and for bison we basically just do a count. What are we doing for sheep? What are our criteria there on sheep?

Justin Shannon- That is a good question. For bison, it is a count and a bull to cow ratio where we manage for 50, but for bighorns there is some flexibility. When the biologists fly, it is either 12-15% of the total rams that they observed or its 30-40% of rams that are 6 yrs or older. So there

is some flexibility and so a good example would be the North San Juan where we have a lot of rams but there is not a lot of class 3 or class 4s and we are probably more conservative on that recommendation. So there is flexibility with those sideboards.

Todd Huntington- So can you tie that with the Zion unit then and what was the big increase there it went from 8-12 what were we basing that on?

Justin Shannon- So for Zion, when we flew that, they counted 105 rams and 61 of those were class 3 or class 4's. We looked at it and said ok so with 105 rams, if we use 12 to 15 % of the total rams, we would be at 13 to 16 permits, and if we went with the class 3-4 rams it would actually be 18-24 permits. So they wanted to just kind of inch towards that. With the 12 public permits that we are recommending, that is about as conservative a recommendation as we could possibly go with and stay within the sideboards of the plan.

Todd Huntington- Same question then as regards to mountain goats. There is a pretty big loss in tags for mountain goats. What were the criteria there that we used to determine that?

Justin Shannon- Part of that is the regions got really aggressive with mountain goat permits last year, especially on the Willard and the Tushers and then we moved mountain goats off of those units as well to the Dutton's and the La Sals. And so it was just that they are getting to their objectives and so it was a way to just put the brakes on and say ok we are getting closer to that so I think the anomaly was more last year with the 162 permits. So that was the peak just because they surveyed and they were over. So now we are just coming back.

Todd Huntington- Ok

Trisha Hedin-How did you come up with those numbers for the split on the Book Cliffs North and South units?

Justin Shannon- So what they did is they looked at harvest over the last four or five years and said what has been our high and what has been our low? They just picked a spot that they felt comfortable with--an area that they could get pretty good harvest on the South and decrease some pressure on the North. It is just the starting point and that is always the hardest one. Where do you start? Because next year we will probably have a better indication of whether we need to increase those or decrease those. So we looked and figured out the starting point.

Derris Jones- On general season deer permits, there are some units that are over the high end of the objective but yet they have left permits the same? What triggers when you add tags and when you don't?

Justin Shannon- Let's go back to that, a good example would be the Nine Mile, and where we are at 24 bucks per 100 does. Some of these areas are dominated with private land and we feel like we just keep piling general season deer hunters on top of each other. It could overdo it for those guys that are managing the private lands. But then in addition to that you kind of saturate the public land areas, and so some of these were self imposed limits that we just said we recognize that some of these units are going to have higher buck to doe ratios, but it's just striking that balance where you're providing general season adjacent to those private lands without over-impacting the areas.

Derris Jones- How about the Plateau/Thousand Lakes. That is not private land, is it?

Justin Shannon- This was limited entry years ago. And then we had 400 permits and there was a

lot of public outcries that we are being too aggressive too quickly, and so it was a way to say ok, I think our three year average is 23, so it is coming down. In 2011 it was closer to 27. And it is just a way to slowly get that decrease and that was probably cut more for social reasons just because it went from limited entry to general season, then fear that we were going to blow it out of the water too quickly. But on that one it is interesting, because the buck to doe ratio actually was pretty good. This year was 24.

Wayne Hoskisson- I have a question regarding elk permits? It is in item number 15 in your memo. It just talks about if the antlerless permits are also needed to slow the growth of elk numbers on units that are approaching management objectives. Then it says that you are recommending 16,715 antlerless elk permits in 2014 as compared to 17,817 in 2013. I looked through the charts and couldn't figure out where that was coming from?

Justin Shannon- That requires some explaining, and that is going to be the next presentation on the antlerless, but I am more than happy to answer it now if it is on your mind. Actually, what we did with that the managers took a really hard look at their harvest rates and their success rates from the previous year and we had some of these hunts where hunter's success rates were in the single digits. And so why are we doing that so we actually ended up cutting a bunch of those permits that we weren't harvesting any elk any way, but it was showing as a lot of permits. We said let's put those into areas that have higher success rates or let's expand those boundaries or those seasons so that hunters have opportunities with these elks. We don't want to sell camping trips. We want to have guys harvest elk. So we thought we could do more with less by putting these permits in areas where they will get a higher success. It is a little counterintuitive but we just took a honest look at our permits and our hunt structure. Why do we continue with these hunts if we are not killing elk? Another thing we did is increase mitigation permits. In some of these areas we are growing elk on private lands and we are losing them on public lands. And so it was a way to say, let's target a lot of harvest on private lands so we can actually grow elk in the right areas. So these public draw permits are one of several tools we have to harvest elk. But that certainly requires some explaining. It does look wrong but there is a lot of thought put into it.

Kevin Albrecht- Questions from the audience? Comments from the audience? We don't have a comment card so please state your name and where you're from.

Questions from the Public

No questions

Comments from the Public

Kallon Cowley- On the Manti, I was going to ask Justin about the number of mature elk permits. Do you think that we need to increase them? The SFW doesn't want that to happen. We would like to keep it the same. Now if the population goes up we can understand if you bring the tags back up. But we think it is actually on a down trend right now. And then I was going to ask Justin how many do you know off hand, how many teeth did you get off the Manti last year?

Justin Shannon- I don't know off hand. But we can look it up.

Kalen Cowley- Ballpark figure?

Justin Shannon- I would be guessing...

Brad Crompton- About 80%

Justin Shannon- About 80% bulls harvested

Kallon Cowley- Ok, because my buddy runs a meat shop up in Huntington and he does taxidermy and I do taxidermy we see a lot of Manti bulls. I can guarantee probably 7 out of the 10 bulls that come in will not score 300. And I guarantee that we do not cut the teeth out for them, they don't ask for them, so you are not getting a lot of the teeth. This is just me, not SFW, just me. I think you should make it mandatory to send teeth. If I draw, well, I did draw a bighorn sheep tag. If I have to keep vials of blood and keep them on ice and all of this other stuff, I am sure some guy can grab his head and say ok 2 teeth. Pop them out and put them in his pocket. It is not that big of deal. If he wants tell him to call me I'll give him a stamp to do it. I can guarantee if you actually look at those numbers. It is lower than 6. A lot of those bulls we look at them and I don't think that they are that old. So I would recommend that. Making that a recommendation to have a mandatory, not on all of them just Manti or whatever you think might not be getting accurate data. That is it for me.

Troy Justensen, representing the SFW- We support the Division's recommendations with the following exceptions, we ask the RAC to take action on leaving the Paunsagunt and the Henry's trophy tags the same as the 2013 season. This is the year that the statewide deer committee reconvenes to study the management plan. We would like to wait to determine the permits after that committee has the chance to review some information. So we would ask the RAC to take action on that and also we would support leaving the Manti trophy tags the same as last year where we are just 1% above objective. And we support the Division's recommendations on the Zion as far as the number of sheep. But just make a note of some access issues that maybe something we look at doing down there--a split season to break up those numbers. But we appreciate what the Division has done. Thank you.

Justin Shannon- Can I clarify something? Are you talking about the Paunsagunt and the Henry's? They also have management tags and one is increased and one is decreased?

Troy Justensen—Total tags.

Derris Jones- An increase of 4 tags total on the Henry's is what that comes to.

Justin Shannon- From 48-51, but that was the Division's recommendation.

Derris Jones- Looks like there is three on the any legal weapon and one on the archery. Oh archery is the same. Never mind.

Justin Shannon- If there are errors let me know because I am prone to them.

Derris Jones- I was looking at the resident and nonresident split up.

Kevin Albrecht- That is all of the cards I have. Does anyone else that have a comment? Ok seeing none.

Derris Jones- Did Brad get the number of teeth count?

Brad Crompton- It was 70% instead of 80%

Derris Jones- Is that going down? Is that the trend going down or has it been 70% forever?

Brad Crompton- It is above average for the state.

Todd Huntington- That is 70% of successful hunters, so what is the success rate? Let's do the math here. Let's figure out how many teeth you're getting?

Brad Crompton- How many did we harvest last year? I don't have my folder with me. About 350-360 we tend to kill on that unit. So we have 70% of that.

Todd Huntington- So we are talking 280 to 300 somewhere in there.

Brad Crompton- Yes and I can look it up. It seems like we ran 70-80%. It might be a little bit down. I don't have those figures in front of me.

Justin Shannon- One thing our bio-nutritionist does because this usually comes up for deer more than it does for elk. What we have done in the past is that we have taken a look at the reporting, whether they send teeth in or not. That is one issue--mandatory reporting, where they have to tell us if they harvested or not. And generally there is a series of questions with those and one thing that we ask them is how many points on each side and spread and all of that stuff. So we have run the statistical analysis about the number of points and the spread for those that have turned in teeth and those that have not. There is no difference on those. We run those year after year, because this question always comes up. And there are some issues with mandatory reporting because you have to carry a stick with that. A guy can say I sent them in the mail, so why did you not get them? So it falls on the Division to send out confirmation for nearly 3,000 permits. There are a lot of negatives associated with it. We are getting what we need to say where we are with our average ages.

Derris Jones- Has the Division looked at an incentive instead of a punishment for teeth?

Justin Shannon- Yes. Other things like harvest as well. That is the route that we have gone, like gift certificates to Cabelas or something like that. When it comes to getting data at this type of scale, you need a carrot or a stick and if you go mandatory you are suddenly using a stick and the other way you're getting the carrot.

Kevin Albrecht- Give a permit away and you will get a 100%.

Todd Huntington- They would pay for their own confirmation.

Kevin Albrecht- Questions or comments from the Audience?

RAC Discussion

Todd Huntington- Kudos to the Division for this is great information. I think it is easy to understand for the most part, the reasons why, when you see the different criteria that we use to generate the numbers of tags, the age class for elk, it makes it pretty simple. I think this is what we have been asking for many years and it looks great. This will be the second year of the 30 units, and as we continue to gather that information from year to year, I think that will just keep getting better and better. They are going to be able to pin point that even more accurately, so thank you. I think that is what we have been looking for. I agree with SFW on the elk on the Manti. I think we come in on a nice soft landing there. That trend was headed down and I think we kind of got it evened out there 6.1-6.2-6.2 I think that is pretty good. So I would agree with them that we stay the same as 2013 and 430 rather the 453.

Kevin Albrecht- Todd brought up a good point. I too would give the Division a compliment in being able to read these tables and being able to understand where the Division is coming from. I think that in a lot of these meetings in the past, there have been a lot of questions just because it has been more difficult to understand and so I appreciate the manner in which this was presented. I think it was easy for the audience and for the RAC to understand. So I think we appreciate that.

Derris Jones- Justin it looks like the majority of the increase on the Manti bull tags is the late season instead the early season? Am I looking at that right?

Justin Shannon- If it was, it wasn't by intent. When we did that increase I am pretty sure I can pull it up, but I think we tried to keep that 65-35 split, is that true or not?

Brad Crompton- It is false.. We tweaked it a little bit to make most of the increase late so we tweaked from 65-60 % of the rifle stuff early, so it decreases it a little bit. It seems to be that is where most of the crowding issues were--in the September rut hunt.

Derris Jones- Is there any age difference in the early vs. the late?

Brad Crompton- Lower in the late so it would bring down our objectives theoretically or our average age, into compliance but also with that your 10% lower hunt success. We run about 72% success on the late hunt vs. mid 80's on the early hunt.

Derris Jones- So part of the increase in the late season adjust for the lower success rate so you are actually able to add more tags but it results in fewer, it is not quite as many bulls .

Brad Crompton- Not as bad as you would think. And twofold it should result in lowering the average age into compliance with management plan. A little bit better. Increasing it by 15 tags isn't a whole lot.

Derris Jones- The September hunt had a decrease in tags then?

Brad Crompton- It worked out to about the same. I am not sure. The intent was to keep it pretty close. Make the bulk of the increase late. Just to see how that worked.

Kevin Albrecht- So I can start to see that we are looking for maybe to entertain a motion. One thing that I would like to bring up before hand is that we have had some things brought up by the audience--mandatory tooth. We had the issue of the Paunsagunt and the Henry's and the trophy tags recommended to stay the same. We had a recommendation to keep the Manti bull permit numbers the same as 2013, and there was a recommendation that can't be implemented right but for a split hunt for the sheep.

Todd Huntington – I move to accept Bucks and Bulls OIAL as presented by the Division with the exception to keep the Manti bull tags at 430.

Charlie Tracy- I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht- Todd Huntington made a motion to accept Bucks and Bulls and OIAL as presented by the Division, with the exception to keep the bull tags on the Central Mountains-Manti at the 2013 recommendation of 430.

VOTING

Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit numbers as presented, with the exception that the bull tags on the Central Mountains-Manti be kept at the 2013 recommendation of 430.

Seconded by Charlie Tracy

Motion passed unanimously

- 10) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014
-Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator
and Guy Wallace, Regional Wildlife Manager**

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones- With what we just did with Bucks and Bulls on the Manti, if you were making recommendations today, would the Manti antlerless tags be different from what is being recommended here tonight?

Justin Shannon- Where we have cut 23 permits or so from 453-430?

Brad Crompton-(Inaudible. Away from the mic.)

Kevin Albrecht- Just one question I have on the deer about the projected increase that we are having on deer is on the Central Mountains-Manti. Do you have what that increase might have been?

Justin Shannon- It is in one of the tables here in the RAC packet.

Todd Huntington- There was no increase. It had a decrease of a 100.

Justin Shannon- That one is interesting. What we have done is (I don't know how much you want to get into the weeds on this) with deer, when it comes to population models, we used to use a model called Pop 2. It has its strengths, but it has weaknesses. And one weakness is it is pretty rigid. It didn't allow for a lot of flexibility. And we know with deer populations, sometimes we have a hard winter that could kill a lot of fawns or something like that. What we have gone to now is a new modeling system that Colorado has been working with. Gary White puts models together that will allow you to compare one model against the other, so you can build one that says survival is constant and then one's the opposite. Based on our classifications and survival rates and all of the data that we have now, we are easing into those. And those results get much better with time, and where we have had only four years of good data, as we get further down the road, we are going to have a much better estimate about where we are at, so that is probably the best way to answer that. Even though that is probably a pretty confusing answer.

Kevin Albrecht- I appreciate that. I admit that I didn't look what that number was. On the Manti. I was concerned that I didn't think that there was an increase.

Justin Shannon- If I had to look at this objectively, not looking at what the numbers said last year or this year--just based on the survival and the production, I would say we grew on the Manti. When we radio-collared all of those deer, I think we had something like 92% success rate

on fawns on the Manti. Is that about right, Brad?

Brad Crompton-It was a really high fawn survival.

Justin Shannon- It was a great year for fawn production and survival. So again these models will get better. Thanks for pointing out the one anomaly in the population estimates.

Charlie Tracy- Could that be due to the light winters we have had?

Justin Shannon- Yes, I think that is a part of it. We get these mild winters and the deer do fine. They are staying up high in these higher elevations sagebrush benches and so it is better habitat. They are not burning through their fat preserves. And another thing, especially on the Manti, is when we have a lot of snow. Those deer get pushed down to Hwy 6 and we lose a lot to highway mortality even with all of the fencing and things. So a light winter you save a lot of deer for a lot of reasons.

Charlie Tracy- Right

Trisha Hedin- Fawn survival for the La Sal's?

Justin Shannon- Yes

Trisha Hedin- Do you mind giving me that number?

Justin Shannon- On the La Sal's, we don't have radio-collared deer, but we do on the San Juan unit. On the San Juan for fawns, it was 86% and for adults it was 90% for this last year. Across the state, we had pretty good year. I think that is why you're seeing that growth.

Derris Jones- Your adult survival been real steady the last 4 years. On a statewide basis, is there a lot more variability unit to unit or is pretty standard all the way across?

Justin Shannon- It is variable from unit to unit. I think the first year we did this on the San Juan, we didn't lose a single adult. And that is not representative, because we know we lose deer. And so that is why increasing that sample size and spreading that out through the state gives us a really good indication. But that is why these models need time, because some years you may over-estimate survival and other years probably under-estimate survival. Because you can't collar every deer. It's going to get better. But yes, there is variability from year to year on given units.

Justin Shannon- And I don't know if you're interested in that data or not, but we always spend so much time at RAC meetings talking about how our deer herds are doing, I thought the survival rate stuff might be interesting. And I can include that next year if you would like?

Derris Jones- You also picked a unit or two that you're intensively radioing and looking at causes of fawn mortality, right?

Justin Shannon- Yes, the Monroe.

Derris Jones- Is that tracking pretty well with your fawn survival on these other units with just the radio collars?

Justin Shannon- Yes, for adults for sure. With fawns, it's had variability and part of that is because it is part of a control test study, where we are doing very intensive predator control on

one portion of the unit, and not the other, so it is somewhat manipulative. I'm not sure it represents the rest of the state very well, unless you're doing intense predator control or doing no predator control. But yes, for the most part, that is falling right in line when you look at the unit as a whole. But portions of that unit are doing better than others.

Derris Jones- What are you finding as a major cause of mortality?

Justin Shannon- Predation is a lot of it. It is hard though because that is the approximate cause. There is certainly coyotes and cougars that are killing these deer, but with predation it is so hard because I don't know if it is always independent. There are so many other factors with different things like habitat. But what they are trying to do is tease all that out and saying what is cause specific mortality and it has been pretty predator heavy on those areas where they are not doing predator control.

Derris Jones- Any particular predator?

Justin Shannon- A lot of coyotes and there has been some cougars. I haven't seen the update on that for a couple of months. It has been about a month. It was pretty telling, it seemed like the areas that they were really aggressive in removing coyotes, there seemed to be a response but it is still really preliminary, because they are going to switch it, and be intensive on one side and lay off on the other, and see if it's a cause and effect type relationship...or sorry not a cause and effect but I can't remember the term they use, where they switched the study design. It skipped my brain right now... oh a crossover study design is what it is. It will be more telling in two years.

Derris Jones- So two more years and then they are going to cross over or are they going to crossover now?

Kevin Albrecht- They crossed over this year

Justin Shannon- Yep. They crossed over this year and so next year will be, once those results are in, then we will have a better indication. It's hard, because you don't know if the North end of that unit has always had higher survival compared to the other. And so that is why I am looking at it with caution. It is still pretty preliminary.

Derris Jones- Those reports available to the public yet?

Justin Shannon- One thing I am working on right now, and it is a priority, but I have been just so covered up is, we have a lot of research projects going on. And you shouldn't have to know someone in the Division to figure out what research is going on, so I have all the universities to send me an annual report and I am going to put those on the website. We have a section on our website that talks about big game research. It is www.wildlife.utah.gov and there is a section under big game research. With that I want Kent and I to write up a short summary of the project that we are doing and there will be a link to every annual report. I think that's an area we can improve and communicate what we are doing with the public better.

Derris Jones- And that's what you hope to do? Or is that available right now?

Justin Shannon- That is what we hope to do. There is a couple of them that are available right now, but probably here in the next month or two we will get all of those finalized. I have got most of those annual reports. I just need to proof them and make sure there is no sensitive information like collar frequencies and things like that. As soon as some of that stuff is taken out we will post those.

Derris Jones- Ok

Kevin Albrecht- Justin, one question to add to that. That meeting that was presented in Richfield had a ton of data and research and stuff that really helped us understand and to see what was going on. I would say that there was over a hundred sportsmen and biologists from different agencies. What would be the possibility of something like that being presented in the southeast region?

Justin Shannon- I don't know how much interest we would get to be honest because I think guys tend to gravitate to their backyard unit and that is what a lot of that was. But if you wanted presentation at the RAC, I can certainly contact those principle investigators and see if they would be willing to present those here. If there is interest about it. What he is referring to is they summarized about 15 years of data on a cougar study on the Monroe and right now they are looking at predator prey relationships on the Monroe of finding some pretty fascinating things and then there is another part looking at number of bucks per 100 does needed to produce fawns and the variance around that. What they have found is even with low buck to doe ratio's on the Monroe they had the same timing and synchronizing of birth of units in Colorado with buck to doe ratios in the 20's and that came up quite a bit.

Derris Jones- What are you considering low buck: doe ratios?

Justin Shannon-They were under 15. I think they were about 12. The year that they were doing that study. It was pretty low

Kevin Albrecht- 14

Justin Shannon- Maybe it was 14.

Derris Jones- We have had lower buck: doe ratios.

Justin Shannon- Yes we have. But it was pretty telling. Good data. And all of those will be on the website.

Kevin Albrecht- We never made a motion. Questions from the audience? Comments from the audience? Discussion from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

No Discussion

Derris Jones- I move that we accept the Antlerless recommendations. We haven't done CWMU vouchers yet, have we?

Kevin Albrecht- This is still part of 9.

Derris Jones- Ok. I move that we accept the antlerless permit recommendations for 2014 as presented by the Division.

Blair Eastman- I second it.

Kevin Albrecht- Motion by Derris to accept the antlerless permit recommendations and seconded by Blair Eastman. All in favor? Unanimous

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the antlerless permit recommendations as presented.

Seconded by Blair Eastman

Motion passed unanimously

- 11) **Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014.**
-Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Thank you Scott. Questions from the RAC? Questions from the Audience? Comments from the Audience? Comments from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

No discussion

Kevin Albrecht- Let's entertain a motion.

Charlie Tracy- I make a motion that we accept the recommendations as they have been presented.

Trish Hedin- I second that motion

Kevin Albrecht- Recommendation by Charlie to accept the antlerless CWMU voucher/ permit recommendation as presented by the Division and seconded by Trisha. All in favor?

Sue Bellagamba- I think I need to abstain the Nature Conservancy has Private Property.

Blair Eastman- I better abstain also.

Kevin Albrecht- Two abstaining. Blair Eastman and Sue Bellagamba and the rest all in favor.

VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.

Seconded by Trisha Hedin

Motion passed with abstentions by Sue Bellagamba and Blair Eastman due to conflicts of interest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Public in attendance: 5

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on May 1 at 9 a.m. at the DNR Board Room at 1594 W. North Temple, SLC

The next southeast regional RAC meeting will take place on May 7 at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
April 10, 2014

5. R657-45 WILDLIFE LICENSE, PERMIT AND COR FORMS RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION to approve as it's written

Passed unanimously

6. R657-67 UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION to move to accept as presented by the State

Passed unanimously

7. R657-13-7 FISHING WITH MORE THAN ONE POLE RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION to approve the fishing as proposed

Passed unanimously

8. R657-60 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTERDICTION RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION to accept this proposal as presented

Passed unanimously

9a. BUCKS, BULLS, OIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

MOTION to amend the DWR proposal with the proposal presented by Troy to adopt the Division's recommendations with three changes:

- all Paunsaugunt trophy buck deer tags stay the same as 2013**
- all trophy buck deer tags on the Henries stay the same as 2013**
- all Central Mountains-Manti bull elk tags stay the same as 2013**

Motion passed 7 to 3

Reason: These recommendations have been planned out in a management plan. This is a decision that was made and approved. We have said if we're over objective, we get to increase opportunity.

9b. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

MOTION to approve antlerless

Passed unanimously

10. ANTLERLESS CWMU VOUCHER/PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014

MOTION to approve

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC MEETING SUMMARY
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
April 10, 2014

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Beth Hamann, Non consumptive
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Carrie Messerly, At Large
Wayne McAllister, Chair
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor
Joe Batty, Agriculture
Andrea Merrell, Non consumptive
David Gordon, BLM
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Rori Lubbers, NER Office Specialist
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager
Randy Scheetz, NER Sergeant
Derrick Ewell, NER Wildlife Biologist
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist
Amy VandeVoort, NER Wildlife Biologist
Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager
Justin Shannon, SLO Wildlife Program Coord.
Scott McFarlane, SLO wildlife Program Coord.

EXCUSED MEMBERS:

Tim Ignacio

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kirk Woodward

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Carrie Messerly/Beth Hamann

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Carrie Messerly, Mitch Hacking

3. OLD BUSINESS: Carrie Messerly

Everything was approved as presented by the NER RAC.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Boyde Blackwell

Aquatics:

Ice fishing clinics were conducted in January and February. Starvation's was cancelled due to lack of ice. Events on Steinaker and Moose ponds were successful. Aquatics and Outreach did a great job.

Ice fishing tournaments were held this winter with two burbot bashes. Thousands of burbot were removed which helps try to manage the removal of burbot. Most of the action took place on the Wyoming side. Our people helped with tagging, advertising and checking tagged fish. The Steinaker tournament had enough ice to be successful.

Reservoirs: The west side reservoirs are filling up; the east side reservoirs are still struggling for water unless we can get some moisture.

Meetings:

In March we had a lot of professional meetings, interagency meetings, etc., coordinating for the coming year.

Game Management:

Bighorn sheep reintroduction on Goslin: 22 sheep were put out from lower Desolation Canyon area on the Lower Green. They were released near the Dripping Springs campground. Some were lost due to capture problems. We will continue to supplement this herd. This is excellent bighorn sheep country.

Turkeys: NER brought in over 160 turkeys from the Northern region. Most went out to the Book Cliffs on public lands for public lands hunts.

Law Enforcement:

Our newest officer is Larry Wheatcraft. He's in the region, covering Vernal East.

There are two officers that will be going to POST who will be coming to our region in the Roosevelt and Manila districts, which will fully staff our Law Enforcement section soon. Hopefully we will be staffed between mid-year to end of year.

Jake Greenwood was introduced last time. He's the second newest officer. He did a great job in training and learning. He received an award at the annual Wapiti get together for law enforcement. He received the "Damn Good Job" Award. As a rookie, they don't usually get all of the cases Jake participated in, such as felony cases, interrogations etc.

5. R657-45 WILDLIFE LICENSE, PERMIT AND COR FORMS RULE AMENDMENT - Marcia Keddy

See handout

Questions from RAC:

None

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Randy Dearth: I appreciate Non-residents to get the permit for the remaining time

MOTION

Randy Dearth move to approve as it's written

Beth Hamann: second

Passed unanimously

6. R657-67 UTAH HUNTER MENTORING PROGRAM RULE AMENDMENT - Marcia Keddy

See handout

Questions from RAC:

None

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Wayne McAllister: I think it's a good thing.

Mitch Hacking: It's a positive step for our youth.

MOTION:

Carrie Messerly move to accept as presented by the State

Mitch Hacking: second

Passed unanimously

7. R657-13-7 FISHING WITH MORE THAN ONE POLE RULE AMENDMENT - Marcia Keddy

See handout

Questions from RAC:

None

Questions from Public:

Del Brady: If I have a combination now, do I have to buy a second pole between now and July 1?

Marcia Keddy: Yes.

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

MOTION:

Rod Morrison move to approve the fishing as proposed

Dan Abeyta: Second

Passed unanimously

8. R657-60 AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES INTERDICTION RULE AMENDMENT - Trina Hedrick

See handout

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: How well is the Park Service coming on board with decontamination at Lake Powell?

Trina Hedrick: Their funding has been for prevention and not containment, so they are not well equipped to make the switch. The last we heard is that they're moving very slowly to get this taken care of.

Richard Gibbs: They're hopefully going to be switching over but it looks like it's up to us for now.

Questions from Public:

Del Brady: Leaving Lake Powell as a boater can we expect to be stopped and decontaminated?

Trina Hedrick: Yes, when the inspections are up and running. We're limited by manpower, but we're going to cover the main hours of people leaving, and if the inspection station is up and running. If not, we ask you to clean, drain and dry. If you give us a call, we can help you out with decontamination.

Richard Gibbs: in summer it's 7 days; it's 18 in spring and fall; and 3 days if it's freezing weather in winter months.

Trina Hedrick: When you get home, drop your motor, drain your live wells, and let them air dry.

Richard Gibbs: The dry time doesn't take effect until it's drained. To reiterate, Lake Powell will not be stopping you. There's a good chance even if you ask them to, they won't. The main ramps in our region will have facilities and we can take care of you.

Del Brady: Steiner?

Richard Gibbs: Yes. Steiner, Red Fleet, Flaming Gorge, Cedar Springs and Lucerne. And Wyoming has a couple as well.

Dan Abeyta: How many inspection stations do you think you'd need for boats leaving Lake Powell?

Trina Hedrick: That would be Jordan's call in the other region.

Richard Gibbs: I know Jordan is talking about putting up permanent stations like at Red fleet to accommodate that.

MOTION:

Andrea Merrell move that we accept this proposal as presented

David Gordon: Second

Passed Unanimously

9a. BUCKS, BULLS, OIAL PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014 - Justin Shannon

See handout

Northeastern Region:

2014 Recommendations for General Season Deer Permits:

North Slope decrease from 3450 to 3250 permits

South Slope, Bonanza/Vernal decrease from 1450 to 1350 permits

2014 Recommendations for Limited Entry Deer hunts:

Book Cliffs (archery) increase from 87 to 89 permits

Book Cliffs, North (ALW) decrease from 259 to 190 permits

Book Cliffs, South ALW 66 permits

Book Cliffs (ML) increase from 87 to 89 permits

Trends in ages of Harvested Bull Elk and Limited Entry Bull Permits:

Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek-South 6.5 age objective, increase from 129 to 132 permits

Book Cliffs, Little Creek (Roadless) 7.75 age objective, decrease from 51 to 48 permits

Nine Mile Anthro 5.75 age objective, increase from 21 to 23 permits

North Slope, Three Corners 5.75 age objective, increase from 36 to 40 permits

Questions from RAC:

Andrea Merrell: On the OIAL permits, permits have dropped.

Justin Shannon: Yes. Mountain goats, we got aggressive with nanny hunts, so now it's just minor housekeeping

Randy Dearth: On limited entry deer Paunsaugunt, it looks like we're going to increase 9 tags but a decrease with management buck. Is that right? One tag increase overall, right?

Justin Shannon: Yes. We manage buck/doe exclusively. With normal permits, the premium permits, is driven by age objective. There are two different ways of managing that herd.

Rod Morrison: On the Book Cliffs population objective on elk, 7500, does that include both?

Clint Sampson: Yes

Rod Morrison: Looks like we're 2700 animals low of our objective. I can't go into the Book Cliffs road less area and I would love to see some trophy bulls in the roaded area. We're almost there. I think we should make this an older age objective so we can enjoy a trophy area closer to get to. Also, is the spike hunt necessary in the road less area where we're so far below objective?

Justin Shannon: A spike hunt provides an opportunity to learn new areas. When you kill spikes, you're not affecting population growth. It is recreational driven. You're not hurting production because you're harvesting spikes.

Rod Morrison: Does it sound like a good idea to make both the same age objective?

Justin Shannon: The statewide elk plan will be put together next year. We hear the same thing in southern Utah. We'll take a hard look at a lot of these units. I'm open to it.

Rod Morrison: There are antlerless permits given in the Book Cliffs. I think we need that and protect the ranchers. A small number is a very good idea.

Justin Shannon: We'll get to the antlerless next. It's more to keep pressure so elk aren't in areas where they shouldn't be.

Randy Dearth: Regarding plan objectives statewide, the Division is doing an excellent job of getting the numbers there but when you look at the Book Cliffs it's 2,700. What, other than killing cats, can we do to bring the numbers up in the Book Cliffs?

Justin Shannon: We are all in on habitat projects. Revegetative growth would help deer, elk, livestock. Book Cliffs is unique because it's summer range.

Dax Mangus: A couple RAC meetings ago, our habitat biologists showed slides of efforts being done, you can see bull hog and chainings. It's not because we're harvesting a lot of cows. It's the low elevation. We're doing a lot of water projects, guzzlers, and water development. There are a few factors that are outside of our control. We're growing elk, but not as fast as some of us would like to see.

John Mathis: If we are that far under objective, is the objective realistic? Does it need to be reevaluated? If you look at the money that's going into it, is it the effort or the objective that needs to be reevaluated?

Justin Shannon: These treatments benefit deer, bison, etc. in addition to just elk. Fire in another region noted a positive influence on elk. The elk are doing better. So habitat treatments can have an effect.

John Mathis: The watershed is really tough out there.

Boyde Blackwell: John has a good point. We should take a look at it when we review the plans. 15 years ago, when we set that objective, it was set high. That's something we should look at next year.

Dax Mangus: The Book Cliffs is scheduled to be flown this year, so I'm excited to truth the models and see how it looks.

Justin Shannon: We leave the 7,000 objective as a long-term objective sometimes and have a short-term objective to see if we can actually get there.

John Mathis: The habitat effort has been fabulous.

Mitch Hacking: Is there a high mortality rate on calves?

Justin Shannon: There is a low production rate of 40 calves per 100 cows. In the rest of the state it's 50.

Mitch Hacking: How can you justify killing the young spike bulls?

Justin Shannon: It's a recreational thing. I grew up on a ranch. We had a lot of cows, but we didn't need a lot of bulls because they didn't contribute to the population. Whether they're harvested or not, it doesn't matter population-wise. If you remove spikes and all cows are getting bred, you're actually leaving more range for females to have more calves.

Carrie Messerly: What does recruitment look like?

Justin Shannon: We haven't had radio collars out there. It's slower because of the challenges we've had out there.

Clint Sampson: We've seen elk move in that area, so if you start thinking about the south side of the desert, Colorado, road less, onto the Tribe, there's a lot of country and there's a lot more movement than we might be aware of.

Mitch Hacking: If the spike hunt still open in general season, in effect, everyone who gets a general season permit could go to Book Cliffs, so you don't manage who can go in there.

Justin Shannon: It's self limiting. Hunters do distribute themselves across the landscape. If we start closing the areas, you're putting 15,000 spike elk hunters onto other units. If you leave it open, you spread the hunters out more.

Dan Abeyta: What is the success rate on spike elk hunt?

Randall Thacker: 26% last year, relative to other spike units it's higher.

Randy Dearth: If we want to propose anything regarding spike hunt, it's not at this meeting, it's at the November meeting.

Justin Shannon: Yes.

Randy Dearth: And to Rod's question regarding age objectives we can't do anything with that tonight because that's part of the 5-year plan?

Justin Shannon: Yes. The time to have that conversation is the November one, so we can inform hunters it's going to be a lower or higher age objective.

Mitch Hacking: Where are we in the elk plan?

Justin Shannon: We revisit it next year.

Randy Dearth: I noticed the Book Cliff road less and Bitter Creek have the same age average, so they're right there together. To me it does make sense to make them the same.

Justin Shannon: Yes. I think it's a good conversation to have when we look at the plan.

Wayne McAllister:

Emails: regarding the Zion Unit Desert sheep tags increasing from 8 to 12 hunting permits. Limited area, increased tags. They have a grave concern there around Zion's National park:

E-mail letter from Adam Attridge (Price, Utah):

As a person who devotes a lot of time working with Utah's wildlife resources, I wish to express my concern regarding an issue that will be covered in the upcoming RAC meetings. My apprehension stems from several factors I have noticed, as well as opinions voiced by fellow outdoor enthusiasts.

In the 2014 UDWR permit recommendations, the Desert Bighorn Sheep (DBS) Zion Unit (Hunt #6611) tag allocation is proposed to increase from 8 to 12 hunting permits this year. In addition to these 12 permits, a Conservation tag, the Utah Sportsman's tag and the Statewide Auction tag are also allowed to hunt the Zion unit. All of these permits have been filled within the unit since it opened in 2010. I am

confident such an increase will reduce the quality of a hunt which the majority of the tag holders have waited 20+ years to experience.

Aside from harvesting a ram, the attraction of hunting sheep is largely due to the opportunity to experience solitude in Utah's wilderness. Concentrating 15 hunters and their hunting parties into a single area roughly 5.5% of the core DBS habitat in the state, will essentially spoil the rare essence of sheep hunting. In addition to the hunter density, the core population of the sheep herd and hunting area directly borders the Zion National Park, which attracts on average more than 300,000 outdoor recreators in the month of September alone. Even with the current number of tags allotted, hunter conflicts and competition have become an issue on this unit.

Since its creation, the Zion hunt has been the most prized DBS tag in the state due to the potential to harvest a mature Class IV ram, which is the desire of all sheep hunters. In studying the harvest data provided by the UDWR, I noticed patterns that suggest an increase of tags could harm the unit's mature ram population. In 2010 (6 tags) the average ram harvest age was 8.7 (Class IV) but by 2013 (12 tags) it was reduced to 6.45 (Class III). Also in 2013, 70% of the rams harvested were younger Class III rams. The number of hunter days has also increased each year, from 6.5 in 2010 to 8.9 in 2013, suggesting hunters have to search longer to find a desirable ram. This also implies that the number of mature rams is becoming less abundant in the population and is not being replaced at a rate that keeps up with the current trend of tag increase.

Please consider that a tag increase, especially by 50% could amplify the downward trend in quality of a unit that brings: high revenue to the UDWR programs (through draw and high dollar auction tags); tens of thousands of non-consumption wildlife viewers; and pride to the Utah bighorn sheep program.

I appreciate your dedication to the wildlife of this state and I hope you will seriously consider my concern while participating at the RAC meeting on April 8th. Thanks for your service. (Adam Attridge - Price, Utah)

E-mail letter from Rick Ellison (American Fork, Utah):

The UDWR is proposing that the Zion Unit Desert Sheep tags be increased from 8 to 12 hunting permits this year. That is a 50% increase in the number of permits issued. In addition to these 12 permits, an Auction tag, the Sportsman's tag and the Governor's tag also allow hunting in the Zion unit, tags which have all been filled with Zion sheep since the unit opened four years ago. A tag increase this large effectively concentrates 15 hunters, or almost 40% of the total desert sheep hunters in the state and their hunting friends into one very small hunting area.

Past harvest data on the Zion shows that this proposed increase will put one hunter for every five square miles of core sheep habitat in this unit. In addition, the Zion area also attracts thousands of non-hunting visitors each fall, looking for isolation. Issuing 50% more tags will guarantee hunter-to-hunter, or worse, hunter-to-non-hunter conflict. It will also cheapen the quality and relative solitude of a "once-in-a-lifetime" experience dreamed about for decades by most desert sheep tag hopefuls.

The hunting attraction of the Zion unit has historically been due to the high number of older age class rams. It can reasonably be assumed that all 15 hunters will be trying to harvest mature (Class 4) rams. Unfortunately, age class data is not available to the public, but perhaps it should be if this many tags are proposed. I would predict that this year's ram count on the actual Zion hunting area will be stretched to identify more than 15 total Class 4 rams. Additionally, if all 15 hunters were to take a ram of that age, it would virtually eliminate an entire age class of rams in one year, destroying Utah's "crown jewel" desert sheep unit.

I understand the overall Zion sheep herd is doing well but according to the feedback I have received from last year's Zion hunters and unit enthusiasts, sightings of old rams have seriously diminished. I would therefore propose that if additional Zion tags are justified, the RAC consider a future split season to at least mitigate hunting congestion, and keep this year's tag increase to a minimum.

Please take a close look at the numbers behind this tag increase for older (Class 4) rams in this herd, and please consider the possible age structure damage and diminished hunter satisfaction that could be created by this tag increase proposal.

I appreciate your dedication to the wildlife of this state and I hope you will seriously consider my concern, while voting in the upcoming meetings. Thanks for your meaningful service to the citizens of Utah. (W. Richard Ellison - American Fork, Utah)

Questions from Audience:

J.C. Brewer: I would like to address Mitch's concerns on the Book Cliffs elk. An unusual amount of large males is counterproductive to your production. DWR has addressed that by allowing some of us guys who like to shoot spikes an opportunity for another hunt. I'm going to defend DWR's spike program simply because every time they kill a spike they don't hurt the program and save some resource for cows who are producing young. Also, part of the problem with the deer herd in the Book Cliffs is competition from elk, predators, and drought. If we can reduce the non-productive elk, give them a little more feed, space and water, we're doing ourselves a favor by killing a few of those spikes.

Mitch Hacking: The issue I have is you have an elk you're managing for the resource. If you have a drought, you've got to keep the animals down so they have feed. You use hunting and recreation to help manage that. On the spike hunt, management is down on the bulls, what's the total population? On Diamond we have cattle. We keep our objective that way. I have a hard time with permits letting anybody go anywhere they want. It's like there's no management. That's why we didn't want it on Diamond Mountain. It should be a set amount of spikes brought out of the Book Cliffs.

Del Brady: Karpowitz brought that up years ago. Too many males, income producing and opportunity producing years ago. It first started in Monroe with spike elk hunts. They said it looked good so I voted for it. Looking back, I wouldn't vote for it unless there were so many per unit. I think each unit should have a proportional share of the permits. Some units, especially 7.5 to 8 are under age objective except

for one as I recall. Karpowitz said we need to kill males, and there's some validity to that. What J.C. is saying we're saying some of the males. On the new elk plans somebody needs to address that.

Randy Dearth: On the Book Cliffs pregnancy rates, do we see a real fluctuation on drought years in pregnancy rate or is it pretty well constant?

Clint Sampson: Maybe if we had a wet enough year to compare it to.

Dax Mangus: I'm not too worried that we don't have enough bulls to breed the cows. I think it's more a factor of nutrition and body condition, possibly predation. That's where the bears are in the spring.

John Mathis: Del mentioned big elk. It has to do with money. The spike bull hunt got people in the field. But to allow them to come into one area could be damaging too, especially with limited water. How many guzzlers are newly installed this year? You have the narrow summer band and you're congregating everything including bears and cows. If you can spread that out with water, your reproduction goes up, body condition goes up, survivability goes up. I'd like to look at limiting spike elk.

Justin Shannon: I know the potential exists for all 15,000 hunters to go there, but the Book Cliffs has been open for the four years now. Looking backwards, Manti and Wasatch have the most spike hunters. Even San Juan, we kill 24 spikes a year. I know the fear is there and the potential exists, but before we talk about limiting it, it already is limited.

Josh Horrocks: Dax and Clint say the success rate on spike bull elk was over 25% and then on the screen you said if the units were over 20% they would be knocked down.

Justin Shannon: If you have 100 guys there and take 23 elk, is that detrimental? The units having large numbers bring in more hunters. On smaller units, they take less. We're not seeing people congregated on smaller units.

Mitch Hacking: Years ago on Diamond Mountain, we had a draw during the general season and anybody could come up. There were too many people, the success rate was really low. We found out that if we limited the amount of people, figured how many you wanted to kill, you got the kill you wanted and had success. Do you get a lot of hunters in Book Cliffs?

Justin Shannon: 20% is a really good percentage.

Dax Mangus: I like hunting spikes in the Book Cliffs because it's so much less crowded than hunting on the South Slope. It's less crowded.

Clint Sampson: During the spike muzzleloader hunt, you get maybe 50 on a weekend. It's really low numbers.

Boyde Blackwell: When you've got it open, you can reduce the numbers that may be there. If you have to draw, you're forcing people there. There's an issue of doing it limited entry.

Comments from Public:

Troy Justensen (Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife): Regarding the emails about Zion's, you're not limited on area, you're limited on access. It would be a shame to limit that opportunity. We would like to see a split season. If we gave two groups 25 days, it would be better. The trophy quality's still there and the desert sheep opportunity.

We support the Division's deer and elk recommendations except for three units: the Henry Mountains premium deer, the Paunsaugunt premium deer, and the Central Mountains, Manti bull elk tags. The RAC supported the Southern RAC in their recommendation to leave trophy tags on the Paunsaugunt deer until the deer committee can meet, at the numbers they were last year. The Southeastern RAC voted last night to adopt the 2013 numbers on the Central Manti bull elk trophy tags.

MOTION:

Mitch Hacking move to amend the DWR proposal with the proposal presented by Troy to adopt the Division's recommendations with three changes: all Paunsaugunt trophy deer tags stay the same as 2013; all trophy deer tags on the Henries stay the same as 2013; and all Central Mountains-Manti bull elk tags stay the same as 2013.

Rod Morrison: Second

Discussion by RAC:

Andrea Merrell: I want to look at the numbers on the slide for the Henries and Paunsaugunt.

-Henries has a 3 total tags recommended increase (archery, ALW and muzzleloader)

-Paunsaugunt has a 9 total tags recommended increase (archery, ALW and muzzleloader)

Carrie Messerly: All the proposals made are based on stipulations we had made prior. We don't know what the deer committees are going to say, but the current data suggests we should have an increase on tags. It would be great if we knew what will happen in the future, but given the data, we're above objective on both of those units.

Mitch Hacking: I agree, these objective numbers are pretty good, but sometimes you need to look at other variables.

Carrie Messerly: These steps have been planned out. This is a decision that was made. We have said if we're over objective, we get to increase opportunity.

Mitch Hacking: One of the purposes of the RAC committee is to make decisions on what we've learned and experienced. That's why we're here to make changes. We can tweak it a little bit. I'm exercising that right.

Randy Dearth: We're 200 short in the Henry Mountains, which tells me we shouldn't be adding more tags.

Rod Morrison: I think SFW's proposals are in line. Several of my friends drew the Paunsaugunt tag this year and were disappointed in the quality they saw, so I would agree with SFW.

Favor: Randy Dearth, John Mathis, Mitch Hacking, Beth Hamann, Joe Batty, David Gordon, Rod Morrison

Opposed: Dan Abeyta, Andrea Merrell, Carrie Messerly

Motion passed 7-3

Reason: These steps have been planned out. This is a decision that was made and approved. We have said if we're over objective, we get to increase opportunity.

9b. ANTLERLESS PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014 - Justin Shannon

See handout

Questions from RAC:

Joe Batty: Elk numbers are higher than the target. We're decreasing tag numbers but they're in areas where there will be more success?

Justin Shannon: We don't want to issue permits where the elk are not able to be harvested. We'll work on increasing mitigation permits for animals that are causing depredation problems. Control permits are able to harvest elk in the right areas with that. That's one of the problems with antlerless elk hunts. Just stacking hunters is frustrating. This is thinking outside of the box with permits.

John Mathis: With elk control permits. What about offering tags to the youth?

Justin Shannon: As an agency we have looked at that and proposed the mentoring bill to get at that very thing. If the dad wants to give a permit to his son, that's the avenue, as opposed to saying if you have a buck permit your son can have a cow tag.

Randall Thacker: This covers that. They can give these permits to their son nephew, grandson, etc.

Justin Shannon: And you don't add to the hunter crowding. You might actually save bulls and bucks if you kill the cow instead of the buck or bull.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: Tell me about the collaring project and survival rates.

Justin Shannon: If you're going to have die off, the animals from 0 to 1 are the most susceptible. If you have an open winter where temperatures haven't been too crazy, limited entry fat reserves carried them through to that first year. Another part is, animals are using the habitat treatment projects, which are helping.

Dan Abeyta: What's going on with moose in the state?

Justin Shannon: We've radio-collared 120 cows. And our survival rates were in the high 70s, low 80s, so we've seen a slow decline in moose survival rates. The thinking is that they're having some habitat restrictions as well.

Randall Thacker: There are issues with selenium deficiency, winter tick breakout, pinworms and arterial worms which clogs arteries, but this may be back to the selenium deficiency which suppresses the immune system.

Carrie Messerly: Is there any way to medicate for that?

Randall Thacker: That's what we'll be looking into. Selenium is from soil deficiency as well.

Del Brady: Many of the western states are having the same problem.

John Mathis: There didn't used to be many moose in Utah, and then they've done well, now the survival rates have dropped off.

Randall Thacker: They over-utilized the areas and exceeded the carrying capacity. We are the very south edge of the range that they can make it.

John Mathis: They did do well for awhile.

Randall Thacker: When the pioneers came, there weren't any, we have had an increase. We have more than we had 30 years ago in the state.

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

MOTION:

Randy Dearth move to approve antlerless

Rod Morrison: second

Passed unanimously

10. ANTLERLESS CWMU VOUCHER/PERMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2014 - Scott McFarlane

See Handout

Questions from RAC:

None

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

MOTION:

Joe Batty motion to approve

Randy Dearth: second

Passed unanimously

MOTION to adjourn

Carrie Messerly

Andrea Merrell: second

Passed unanimously

Adjourned at 8:29 pm

Next meeting May 8, 2014, 6:30 pm at NERO

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville
April 15, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To accept the minutes as written
Passed unanimously

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: To accept the agenda as amended
Passed unanimously

R567-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR Forms Rule amendment

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule amendment

MOTION: To approve the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

R657-13- Fishing with More Than One Pole Rule amendment

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule amendment

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014

MOTION: To accept as the recommendations as presented
Passed 7 to 1

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as proposed
Passed unanimously

Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014

MOTION: To accept the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville
April 15, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair
George Holmes, Agriculture
Kristofer Marble, At large
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive
Jay Price, Elected
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive

Members Absent

Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Timothy Fehr, At large, excused
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen
Michael Gates, BLM, excused

Others Present

John Bair, Wildlife Board Member
Calvin Crandall, Wildlife Board Member

1) **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

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

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble accept the minutes as written

Seconded by Richard Hansen

Motion passed unanimously

Motion was made by George Holmes to accept the agenda as amended

Seconded by Danny Potts

Motion passed unanimously

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

4) **Regional Update (Information)**

- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

Aquatics

- Installed telemetry antennas in the Provo River to track June sucker migration
- Started Columbia spotted frog monitoring in Diamond Fork
- Gearing up for the field season by hiring new seasonal employees
- Yellow perch transfer project where approximately 50,000 yellow perch will be moved from Fish Lake to Yuba Reservoir the first and second week of May
- Gillnetting Deer Creek and Jordanelle early May
- Transferring largemouth bass and bluegill from Gunlock Reservoir to Salem pond and Willow Pond next week

- Just completed spray marking the cutthroat that will be stocked in Strawberry Reservoir later this spring
- Finalizing research plans for determining impacts of pelicans to the annual spawning runs at Strawberry
- Preparing for the kokanee and trout stocking in Strawberry later this month into mid-May
- AIS program coordinating with state parks to prevent the spread or infestation of invasive species
- Utah Lake the most likely lake to be visited by boaters from Lake Powell based on surveys, so special emphasis will be placed on AIS work at Utah Lake this summer

Wildlife

- Sage-grouse lek counts going on now, RAC members encouraged to participate
- Antelope flights scheduled for Friday, Sat. and Sun (Snake Valley)
- Completed one of three deer herd unit plans
- Winter range rides coming up
 - Dale Liechty (April 28, 29, May 12, 15)
 - Dennis Southerland (April 30, May 5, 22, 29)
 - Tom Becker (May 6, 8)

Habitat

- \$1.6 million allocated by conservation organizations for habitat restoration projects
- Weed control spray crews hired and will begin spraying noxious weeds on WMAs soon
- Vernon lop and scatter to begin soon
- Grazing bids awarded, cost per AUM over \$20 for several units

Conservation Outreach

- Mtn Goat Viewing Day – Saturday
- Salem Pond event – May 13
- YHEC State Meet - April 25-26 at Lee Kay Center (still need volunteers)

Law Enforcement

- Jay Topham promoted to sergeant of the Wasatch Crew replacing Paul Davis (retired)
- Physical Fitness testing this week
- Quagga training for COs done
- Expect to have Juab and Heber CO districts filled by August
- Heather Reich resigned, will replace Wasatch Back wildlife tech soon

- 5) **R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR Forms Rule amendment (Action)**
 - **Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief**

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by George

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

- 6) **R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule amendment (Action)**
 - **Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief**

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – Does that include during the hunting season itself?

Kenny Johnson – What we hope this would do is to allow a father to mentor one child maybe the opening weekend and then a different child the next weekend possibly.

Richard Hansen – So if he mentors one weekend with one kid then he can still go out later if tag is not filled?

Kenny Johnson – Yes.

Danny Potts – I was trying to follow this outline on the rule and I was confused by (f). All the steps made sense to me except (f) and it didn't seem to be consistent with the format.

Kenny Johnson – The intent is there could be instances where the youth has a permit and in order to share a permit with dad he has to surrender his permit first. That is what 'f' is referring to.

Gary Nielsen – So if his dad wants to share a Paunsaugunt tag with a youth then the youth would have to surrender his general deer tag in order to do that?

Kenny Johnson – Right.

RAC Discussion

George Holmes – Does that mean if there were two licenses purchased now there is only opportunity to fill one tag?

Kenny Johnson – If it is for the same species that is a decision they would have to make.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to approve the rule as presented

Seconded by Jay Price

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

7) **R657-13-7 Fishing with More Than One Pole Rule amendment (Action)**

- **Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief**

RAC Discussion

Danny Potts – I might have been the one who recommended this rule change with the Utah Anglers Coalition quite a while back so I would like to make a motion to approve.

VOTING

Motion was made by Danny Potts to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by Kristofer Marble

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

8) **R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule amendment (Action)**

- **Candace Hutchison, AIS Biologist**

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – How long can a quagga mussel live out of water?

Candace Hutchison – It depends on temperatures. During the summer when we have most of our boating it is seven days out of water in dry conditions making sure there is no water for them to be contained in. In winter it is 30 days or three days of consecutive freeze. Right now in the spring it is an 18 day dry time.

Richard Hansen – So if boaters leave their boat out of the water for 18 days right now are they still required to have their boat decontaminated?

Candace Hutchison – No, that is considered their decontamination as long as they have drained all of the water out and cleaned it. Professional decontamination is a hot water treatment but that is only done if you don't meet the dry time or didn't take the measures to have your boat drained and cleaned beforehand.

Larry Fitzgerald – Is this just boats coming out of infected waters or all waters?

Candace Hutchison – It depends where our stations are going to be. Right now because of Lake Powell we are focusing on highways linked to access from Lake Powell and also boats coming into our state out of Arizona and Nevada since that is where we primarily see most of our boats coming from. All boats that go past a check station will need to pull off and have their boat inspected whether they have been in infected waters or not.

Questions from the Public

Wayne Wingreen – For out of state boaters just coming through, it sounds like the law is allowing DWR to pull over all boats regardless of their intended purpose. It seems maybe a little too much.

Candace Hutchison – It is following what a lot of the other states are doing. It is expected from boaters from out of state that they will be pulling over at a check station. We are aligning our regulations with other states. There is a Western Regional Panel that all the western states are part of and we are trying to collaborate and become united in our approach and this is one of those steps. There will be signs indicating that boaters need to stop and if they have done all their measures then they should be able to pass through. Nevada, Arizona and California are already doing a lot of these steps as well as Idaho, Wyoming and Montana. Most boaters by now unless they are new should have a good understanding that they need to have their boat drained. Plus we will be saving them some gas money if they don't.

RAC Discussion

Gary Nielsen – So if they pull over the sticker you are going to put on the trailer will allow them to be checked and then go?

Candace Hutchison – That is the intent. We are still figuring out the best usage of that but this rule enables us to do that.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by Jay Price

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

9) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 (Action)

- **Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**
- **Covy Jones, Regional Wildlife Manager**

Questions from the Public

Jacob Steele – Goshute Tribe in Iapah Utah – I was sent here to get involved with the RAC committee. The tribe wants to know if they can get involved in the permits in the Deep Creek area since we are tied together. They want to know who the contact people would be to get involved. That is why I am here tonight. If I could get some information after the meeting maybe we can work something better.

Covy Jones – I am the regional wildlife manager and Tom Becker is your biologist. Do you talk with Milton Hooper much?

Jacob Steele – He is no longer on the committee.

Covy Jones – Milton is on the RAC.

Jacob Steele – We need to take his name off and put me there.

Covy Jones – Ok, so you will be a sitting member of the RAC. Get with John Fairchild after.

Comments from the Public

Troy Justensen – SFW – We would like to support the Division's recommendations with a few exceptions. We would ask that the RAC look at keeping the trophy tags on the Henry and Paunsaugunt the same as 2013. The deer committee is going to convene this following week and there is some concern with the quality down there and they are looking at some changes there. As far as the elk we would ask that the Central Mountains, Manti unit stay at the 2013 numbers. I think the recommendation is to raise it by 23 permits.

Roy Hampton – UBA – We are here to support the Division's recommendations with one exception. I don't know what we are going to do about the Wasatch. We just can't keep killing bulls. In two years we have raised it 100 tags. I spend a lot of time on this unit and there are less elk on that unit than there were two years ago. The average age went up because we killed so many big bulls on the late hunt. I think we need to look at this unit. The best recommendation is to issue more tags and that is not the answer because the quality is going down as well. We are here to support the recommendation. This might be my personal outlook because I spend so much time on the Wasatch but it is a problem. I would recommend we not increase permits on the Wasatch. Thank you for your time.

RAC Discussion

Gary Nielsen – I know they had a similar concern on the North Cache and we stabilized the numbers there for a year to see what would happen.

Danny Potts – In looking at the recommend general season deer permits I quickly looked at the list of the objectives and the numbers were off the chart for the Chalk Creek/East Canyon/Morgan South Rich. The objective is 18-20 and yet the three year average is at almost 32 yet the permit numbers are recommended to be the same. I know there are some landowner issues there but still there is some public land, a little bit, and so harvesting those animals to bring it back into objective on other adjacent public lands would make sense.

Justin Shannon – On that unit and a few others like it there are so many private land areas that if we keep stacking hunters on top of each other in the limited public land portions of those units we get a lot of negative feedback. With the bulk of these 30 units we really truly are trying to manage to the plan with 18-20 or 15-17 bucks per 100 does but there are couple exceptions. In some areas if we issue more tags hunter success is going to decline and then people start to feel like we are selling them camping trips rather than deer hunts. We are trying to find that balance of how do we provide for our hunting public and give them legitimate opportunities. A lot of those deer are on private land so there is not public access.

Danny Potts – That is what I said but as an avid hunter in that area I don't see those issues to be as significant as you are suggesting. I really don't. The problem is that every ten years we have deep snow and we have catastrophic loss on that particular area where we find does and fawns stacked up in ravines that have starved to death so the population drops and rebounds way back again. I am just wondering if there aren't other solutions to that problem.

Justin Shannon – Some of the solutions we have tried are CWMU permits and walk in access areas. We have programs that try to get public hunters on private lands and we are doing our best in that regard. Another good example is Nine Mile/Range Creek where we are capped at 1,300 permits just because we feel like if we continue to throw hunters on that limited public ground

then hunt success and satisfaction will go down. As a RAC member if you want to make a recommendation for an increase that is your prerogative. Hopefully you can understand why we didn't recommend an increase.

Gary Nielsen – Thank you. I have had a chance to do one of those cow hunts that was mostly private with limited public opportunity and the cows figured out pretty quick which lands to stay off.

John Bair – Justin, on your trends, the arrows, how much does the trend play into your recommendation.

Justin Shannon – It does. A good example of the trend would be on the Box Elder unit. We are at 16 bucks per 100 does and according to the plan we shouldn't be touching that but we went from 20 bucks per 100 does to 15 to 11 in three years and we look at that and we don't like the trend we better get out in front of this. There are some of these permits that maybe don't add up as perfectly as you would like but trend is something we take very serious because we don't want buck to doe ratios to crash.

Kristofer Marble – Looking at the premium limited entry deer Troy, I know you asked to go back to 2013 numbers but when you look at the objective and the trend it is tough for me to not accept the permit increases on the Henrys based on that. I would suggest that as the mule deer committee is about to meet that perhaps you look at some of these objectives. On Central Mountains, Manti as far as the elk numbers could you, Justin give us some more discussion on that unit as far as why we are recommending an increase in permits?

Justin Shannon – Sure. The age in 2011 was 6.1 and then it went to 6.2 and then last year it was 6.2 again. So for us it is fairly strait forward. If we are over objective then we need to make recommendations to the RAC and Board that are going to help get to objective. I recognize that we are slightly above and we are talking about .2 of an age objective but it is principle. If we have a management plan we are going to try our hardest to manage to it. If we are above it and we feel like we can increase that opportunity that is why we came with that recommendation.

Kristofer Marble – Troy, along those same lines is there any special reason why your group has an issue with the permit numbers recommended?

Troy Justensen – Some credence has to be put into what people are seeing. We sat in the same meeting a year ago and for instance on Parker the buck antelope counts were so high that we increase permits, what are we doing this time? We are cutting them. It's not a perfect science and we understand that. We recognize and support the Division and their recommendations fall within the science of it but we are asking based upon what some of our members are seeing.

Kristofer Marble – I think the Parker was probably a little bit of a special circumstance and a little unique in what happened to some of the antelope there and I tend to agree with you on that specific scenario. It seems like with the Central, Manti we have seen a trend of a steady increase and to me the permit numbers seem to be in line with that.

Justin Shannon – One thing we have done that isn't highlighted very well is on the Central Mountains, Manti in the past we have had 65 percent of those tags in the early and 35 percent in the late. The recommendation is to split it so 60 percent would be in the early and 40 percent in the late. What that does is provides more opportunity but in the later hunt you have a lower success rate so even though we are increasing 23 permits there is a chance we would harvest less elk.

Kristofer Marble – What is the success rate for the late hunt on Manti?

Covy Jones – It is 81 percent on the early and 65 percent on the late hunt.

Justin Shannon – This probably doesn't matter but on the Parker one reason we are cutting permits is we plan on transplanting a bunch of animals off and every year we do that we get some males so we didn't want to keep that high level of harvest and take more off.

Kristofer Marble – I know one gentleman had talked about the Wasatch elk numbers. I think it is worth mentioning to the public and talk about that a little more. I think the elk numbers there have been way over objective for years and we have had a lot of ranchers and people affected by wildlife damage on that unit and I know the target has been to reduce that population and it's been a problem for a few years now. Could you talk about that?

Justin Shannon – There are two different issues and I'll start with the bull portion first. The reason we recommended an increase on the Wasatch, again if you look at the average ages we are supposed to be managing for a 5.5 to 6 year old bull. In 2011 we were 6.5 and in 2012 we were 6.3 and last year we were 6.9 so the three year average is 6.5 so we felt like again where the management plan says to get to 5.5 to 6 we didn't see how we could do that without increasing permits. That is the recommendation on the bulls. As far as total number of elk on that unit we are over I think it is close to 2,500 elk. We are over objective.

Kristofer Marble – So hunters should probably expect over a little bit of time to see fewer elk on that unit. That is the intention, right?

Justin Shannon – The intention is to get to objective from our perspective and that might be hard when hunters have had a surplus of elk for years and years. When we do our best to get to objective then by design there should be a decrease if we are doing it right and I think that is hard for some of these guys that are used to seeing a lot more elk than quite frankly we probably should have had.

Gary Nielsen – One of the other changes is when they made that a 5.5 – 6 year old unit that is an opportunity unit so to create more opportunity for people to hunt but not necessarily lots of monster bulls.

Richard Hansen – Are we able to harvest the elk off the Wasatch where we are having the problems with over objective? Are people able to get on those lands?

Justin Shannon – I think we are diving into the antlerless portion and that will be my next presentation. I don't mind having the conversation but sometimes when we do this it muddies the water and so I would like to answer your question after the next presentation if that's alright.

Danny Potts – Again, one of the problems is that we have landowners who are simply unwilling to work with DWR either through the CWMUs or in any way. In fact some of these really large landowners are not allowing virtually any harvest and I noticed one year on the antlerless hunts that the Division basically had a hunt go completely around one large landowner almost in retaliation for his inability to work with the Division. It was very obvious to me. I think he allowed one hunter two years ago to go on 11,000 acres of land to hunt bull elk. I won't drop names but I'm just wondering is there any other way that we can work with these landowners to try to solve these obvious boom and bust scenarios?

Justin Shannon – I could probably give you a statewide answer but if you want specifics on the private land issues on that unit I would probably have to turn that one to Covy.

Covy Jones – I think you are very familiar with the Division having several programs and incentives for private landowners. We work hard to get access. With walk in access, CWMUs and landowner associations and trying to tailor and make new programs and we will continue to do that to allow public access and get these sportsmen where they need to be but that is really where we are and that is the effort we have made. Sometimes the value of the land exceeds...Especially on the Wasatch land can be very valuable and there are people who are very hesitant to let public onto their private valuable land. And the amount of compensation we can give is not in line with the value they place on the ground. We will work on it.

Larry Fitzgerald – Why is it always that you presume all the elk are on the private land?

Danny Potts – I’m not presuming. In fact I think that there is adequate opportunity to harvest elk on adjacent properties on land that is public land be it for a moment before they run onto private land and are safe.

Larry Fitzgerald – I know the northeastern unit has done some deals to have the private landowners drive the elk off the private land to give the public access to those elk. They are actually working on it. But it always looks better behind a closed gate and it is not always that way.

Justin Shannon – If I could just make one more comment. One thing that our agency has been really aggressive with is habitat projects and the Wasatch is no exception. I think by improving public land and working with our federal partners and sportsmen and things like that if you can create habitats that can draw elk in I think that is a great benefit for deer and elk. That is one thing that probably isn’t talked enough about that we do try to grow elk on public lands.

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept as the recommendations as presented
Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald**

**In Favor: Sarah Flinders, Christine Schmitz, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen,
Kristofer Marble, George Holmes, Jay Price**

Opposed: Danny Potts

Motion passed 7 to 1

10) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 (Action)

- **Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator**
- **Covy Jones, Regional Wildlife Manager**

Questions from the RAC

George Holmes – When you give an additional permit to someone who has a bull tag what is the harvest rate?

Justin Shannon – It varies by unit. I think last year we issued 2,300 permit and we killed over 500 animals. It is probably close to 20 percent.

Covy Jones – I think on the Wasatch it’s about 30 percent so they sold about 1,300 tags and harvested over 300.

George Holmes – How does that compare with someone who just has a cow tag?

Covy Jones – It really depends on seasonality. These other hunts that are general season cow hunts that are earlier in the year ours last year was 37 percent. It’s pretty comparable I would say.

George Holmes – And the late hunts vary.

Covy Jones – The late hunts vary huge because success can be really high or it can be zero. These hunts are more consistent and more predictable.

Justin Shannon – I failed to mention that one of the advantages of antlerless elk control permits is that we have talked about stacking hunters on top of each other. That isn’t the case with these. You have hunters that are already in the field either for their spike hunt or their buck hunt and things like that and it is just an additional opportunity. This required some creative thinking because we wanted to get more harvest without adding more hunters so that is one of the real benefits that we get from a program like this.

Larry Fitzgerald – For clarification, if you have a spike elk tag and you can hunt the cow during that then can you also hunt the cow during the deer hunt with a buck tag?

Justin Shannon – Yes, if you have a buck deer tag then you can hunt the cow during that season if you didn’t harvest during your rifle spike hunt.

Larry Fitzgerald – Is this going to help you get in line with your elk objectives?

Justin Shannon – We hope so. That is what we would like to do is explore new options because the idea of just throwing more permits out and having low success was pretty unappetizing so this was a way to use the hunters in the field already. They are seeing elk on the summer and transitional ranges so let's try it. Hopefully we get into some of these elk to where we get back down to our objective and it could be a positive management tool for us.

Larry Fitzgerald – You are still trying to get to the 71,000 objective statewide?

Justin Shannon – Yes and that is why we are exploring this on so many areas because it has had some success and we have got positive feedback on it. I think that managing to these objectives is important for us so if we can use more tools then we will do it.

Gary Nielsen – I think it's a good idea to reduce the numbers with less people. More people never helps anything out in the woods.

John Fairchild – We have harvested less with more permits.

VOTING

Motion was made by Danny Potts to accept the recommendations as proposed

Seconded by George Holmes

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

11) Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014 (Action)

- **Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Danny Potts – I don't know if you were listening to me earlier about the east canyon area. I would just like you to respond to my concerns mostly about one landowner there. We've got the McFarlanes, not you, who have a CWMU adjacent to this landowner and they are doing an excellent job of doing what they need to do there. We are way over objective on both deer and elk and we keep experiencing these catastrophic losses and I think the solution with these CWMUs is the way to go. But apparently there are landowners there that are not willing to cooperate apparently under any circumstance and it's causing us all kinds of havoc.

Scott McFarlane – This is a unit I dealt with as the biologist for a number of years and I understand what you are saying. The east canyon unit if I remember correctly is about 95 percent private land so we are dealing with many private landowners and people who view their property as their backyard and it's just like you want to be able to control who goes into your backyard and I think that they do also. I think the key to managing these populations is putting the permits in the hands of the people who have the ability to harvest them. That is why we go with the mitigation permit program and the CWMU program. We also try to educate the landowners as to the need to harvest these because we can't force them to put hunters on their property. They have to do it willingly. We look for incentives to do that and educate them and other than that we really don't have a lot of tools. We have worked with some of the landowners with walk in access specifically for elk hunts in that area. We have used just about every tool that we can. Elk seems to be the problem. I think their deer population is in line with their population objectives right now.

Danny Potts – Not close, it's the highest.

Scott McFarlane – One thing that was going on with the east canyon unit was that they were looking at adjusting the population objective because it wasn't realistically based on the habitat available for them. That is one of the things I think they will look at when they do the management plan. Private lands are a problem when we are trying to harvest antlerless animals because no matter what you do there is going to be some resistance to allowing public or whoever on their property to harvest animals. They have to be willing to do it.

Danny Potts – Scott, it actually goes farther than that. This one particular landowner with 11,000 acres is actually abusing the public who are legally hunting on public ground around his property and it's not right. It's gotten to the point where grandfather and his grandkid can't walk on public ground without being abused by a landowner. It seems like if someone is doing a legal hunt they should be able to not be bothered by someone.

Larry Fitzgerald – Danny that is a law enforcement issue. That is not these guys.

Scott McFarlane – Yes and if this person is enrolled in the CWMU program then we do have a complaint process and a way to take care of that problem.

Danny Potts – He is not.

Scott McFarlane – If he is not then it is not something we can do.

Richard Hansen – How many limited entry bull elk tags are given to all the various groups in the state to auction or for raffles and for limited entry deer too. We never hear that number in these meetings.

Justin Shannon – There are 200 total permits but that includes other species for the convention. I think it is close to 40 elk and 40 deer just off the top of my head. Those come out of the public draw.

Questions from the Public

Mike Christensen – I noticed that in the southeastern region those CWMUs were decreasing their permits there because as Justin showed the elk populations there is declining but on that same graph in the northern region that was the region that had the highest population above objective yet why aren't the CWMUs harvesting or putting out more permits on their CWMUs to deal with that over objective population?

Scott McFarlane – I can speak to that somewhat. I don't manage all of the CWMUs in there but for example Deseret CWMU has asked for a 100 permit reduction. They have had a change in management there. They also haven't had a helicopter survey on the unit for six to seven years now because they keep missing because of weather events. They have asked if they could back off 100 on there because of that. They have previously had 260 permits on there and they usually averaged around 90 percent success and have harvested them pretty heavy.

Mike Christensen – Couldn't Deseret's reasoning for lowering their permits be because they changed their buck bull split?

Scott McFarlane – The number that goes to public and private stayed the same. All the permits go to public now.

Mike Christensen – So there is no way to get the CWMUs in the northern region to take more cow elk tags to reduce that population objective because we hear this statewide that we are over by thousands of elk so we harvest elk all over except in the northern region on the CWMUs which are harboring the elk.

Scott McFarlane - The CWMUs aren't totally harboring the elk. Putting more permits on the CWMUs a lot of times doesn't mean that will make more elk harvested. These are normally 10,000 acres or over and once you start harvesting the elk they learn not to come in there certain times of year. So what we do is encourage the CWMUs to change their plans around to harvest those but if the harvest keeps going down and down and it's not because they are trying to not harvest them it's just that the elk have become less and less available in a lot of cases. We like to maintain a fairly good harvest rate because if it gets down to 10 or 20 percent then people really don't want to put in for those CWMU permits. One of the things we put on the website is that you can expect these to be a little bit higher success hunts because it is limited as to the number of people that go into these.

Comments from the Public

Craig Bonham – I had a question about these auction permits. Do these organizations pay a set fee for these permits?

John Fairchild – 90 percent of the money raised goes back to wildlife conservation.

Scott McFarlane – They are able to retain for their administrative costs 10 percent of the amount that they are auctioned off for.

Craig Bonham – Is it possible that a member of an organization could acquire one of those permits and then it didn't go to auction and they were able to buy it themselves?

John Fairchild – They would have to submit a bid at the auction.

Craig Bonham – So it has to be auctioned off at the public level. They couldn't just buy it for themselves. We thought that one of the deep creek tags had that happen at the Delta banquet this year.

Gary Nielsen – I know at some of the banquets they offer an online auction as well as the public auction at the banquet but it does have to be auctioned if they get it for a conservation tag.

Craig Bonham – I think it's a great program and a lot of money is coming back to go to the right places. I appreciate that, thanks.

RAC Discussion

Justin Shannon – Richard, I told you wrong. It was closer to 40 deer and 90 elk on that.

VOTING

Motion was made by Richard Hansen to accept the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

12) Other Business

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

45 in attendance

Next board meeting May 1, 2014 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting May 14, 2014 at Springville City Library

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
April 16, 2014
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah

Summary of Motions

Meeting Begins: 6:05 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda for this evening

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Approval of the Dec 4, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Move to approve the minutes of Dec 4, 2013 meeting.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR Forms Rule amendment

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit and COR Forms Rule amendment with the inclusion from deleting -3(2) senior and veteran. The intention is to allow multi-year licenses for seniors and veterans at the discounted rate.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule amendment

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-67 Utah Mentoring Program Rule amendment as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

R657-13-7 Fishing with More Than One Pole Rule amendment

Motion: Recommend Wildlife Board approve R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule amendment as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule amendment

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species interdiction Rule amendment as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Bucks, Bulls, & OIAL Recommendations for 2014

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Bucks, Bulls, OIAL permit recommendations for 2014 as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve antlerless permit recommendations for 2014 as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve Antlerless CWMU Voucher/Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

R657-45-3

WILDLIFE LICENSE, PERMITS, CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION



Background



- Last summer the RAC and Board passed a handful of fee changes that set the foundation for our proposal today.
- The fee changes were approved by the legislature and Governor in the 2014 legislative session.
- The license structure we discuss today will become effective July 1, 2014 to accompany the approved fees.

More Flexibility



- We listened to our constituents who wanted multiple year hunting, fishing, and combination licenses.
- In the 2014 legislative session we removed the “valid 365 days from date of issue” text from statute, which limited us to single year licenses.
- Statute now grants authority to the wildlife board to set license terms.
- 365 day format adds value to purchasers and has been very popular, we want to enhance it.

Proposal



- **Single year licenses valid 365 days from date of purchase stay the same.**
- **We propose allowing multiple year purchases for fishing, hunting, and combination licenses.**
- **Adult licenses available in 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 year increments from date of purchase.**
- **Allow license renewal before expiration date with no lost field days.**
- **Offer 3 & 7 day fishing and keep 3 day nonresident hunting.**



Thank You

R657-67-4 (1)Mentor Hunting



- Minor housekeeping change.
- Current rule says application to participate must be made 10 business days prior to sharing a permit.
- We propose removing the 10 day processing time to allow more flexibility for participants.
- Application and approval must happen prior to sharing a permit.



Thank You



R657-13-7 Taking Fish and Crayfish



- As presented and approved in our fee change proposal to the RAC and Board last summer:
- Beginning July 1, 2014 a second pole permit will be included as part of a valid fishing and combination license.
- We propose removing all references to it in this rule.
- Reminder that nothing changes with daily and possession limits.



Thank You

Modifications to Rule R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction



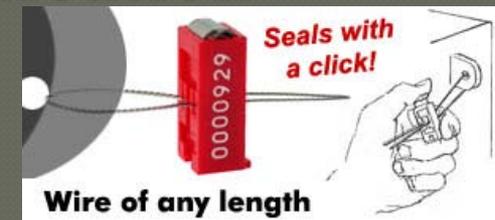


Utah Code 23-27-301

- **Utah Legislature added language to give UDWR authority to establish non-LE inspection stations**
- **Consistent with surrounding states' programs**
 - **Idaho, Wyoming, Montana**
- **Stops mussels before they get to another water body**

Need for Rule Making

- **Need to define how UDWR will implement the authority in Rule**
- **Rule states that inspection stations:**
 - **Will be placed where there is a high likelihood of stopping boats carrying mussels**
 - **Be in a safe location that is adequately signed**
 - **Verify that decontamination is started or completed**
 - **Boats may be tagged as identification**



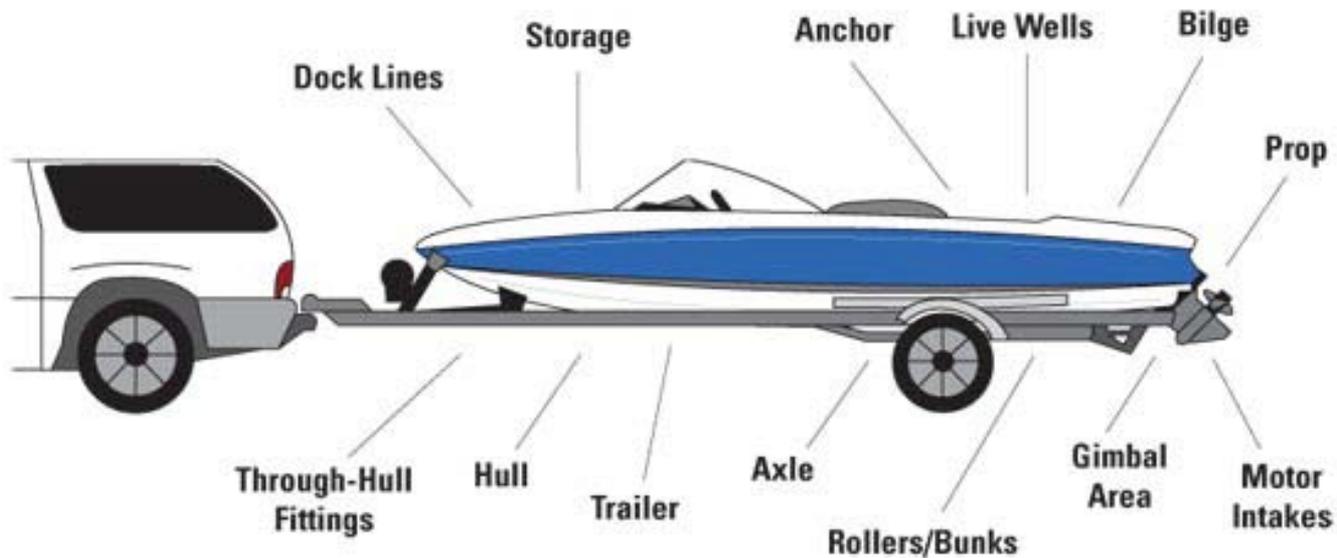
2014 Inspection Stations

- Planning for 2014 Inspection Stations is currently underway
- Bear Lake and Lake Powell



Thank You

Before launching and before leaving...
Inspect everything!



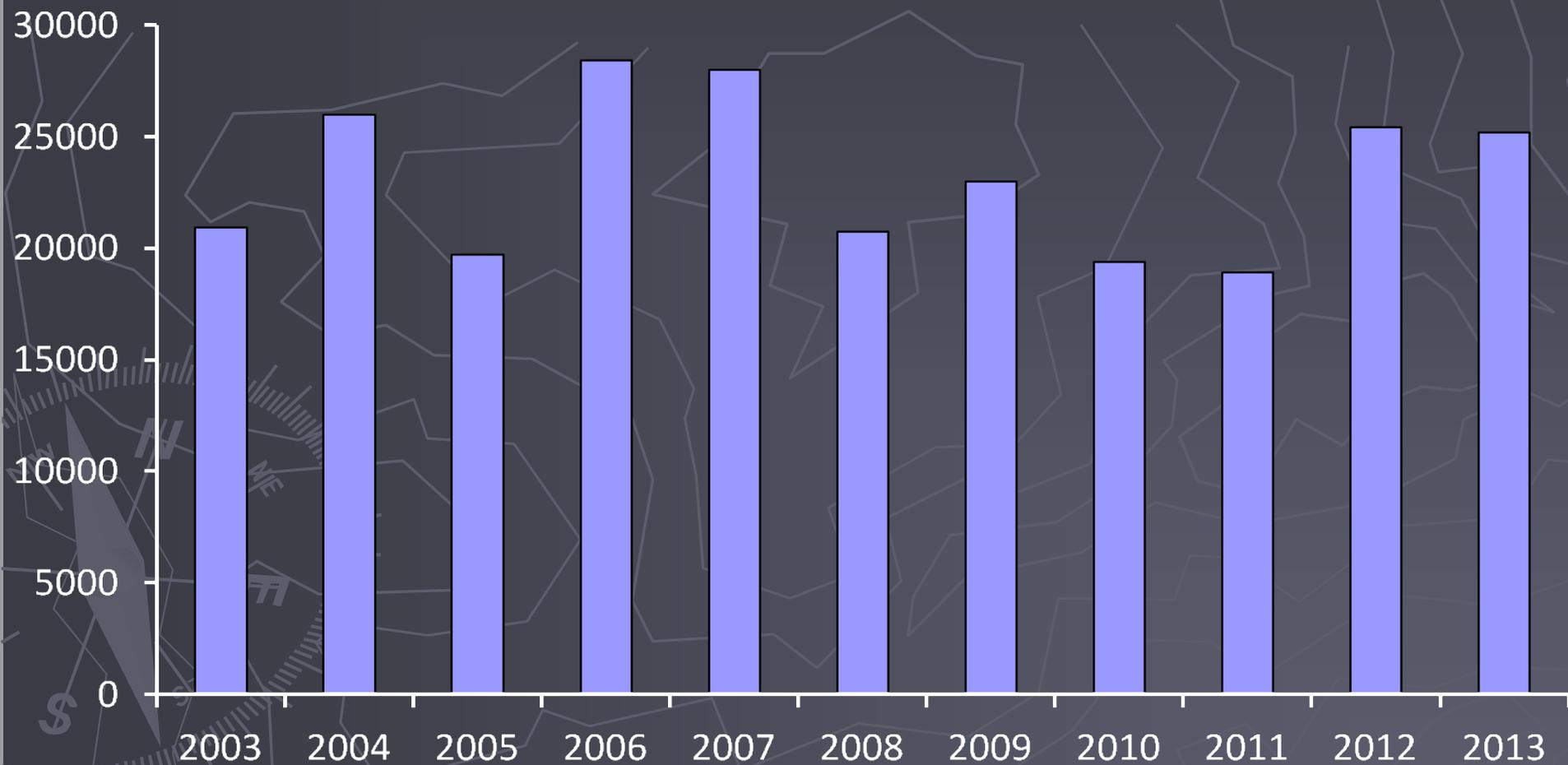
2014 Bucks, Bulls, and Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations



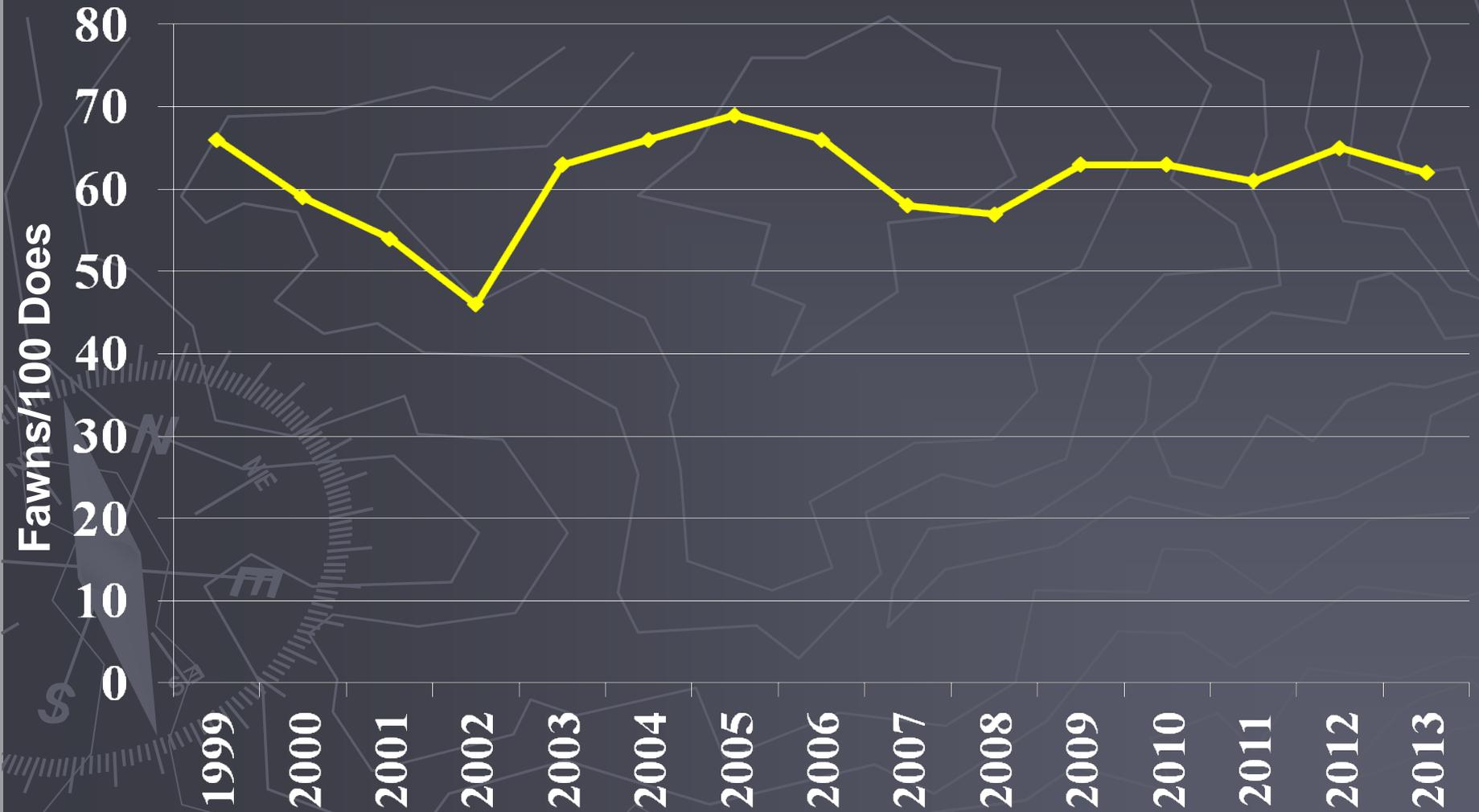
2014 Deer Permits



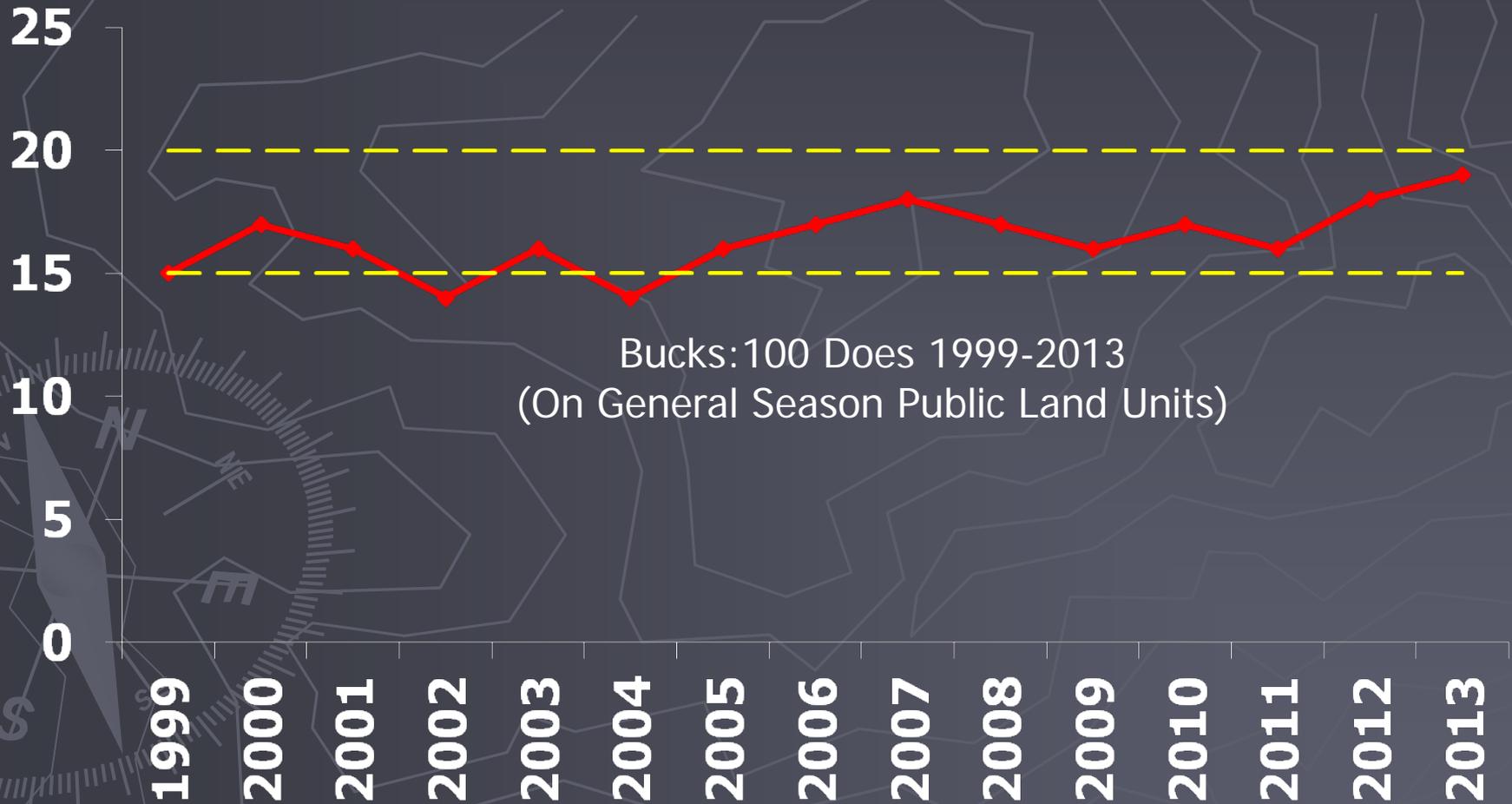
General Season Buck Harvest 2003-2013



Fawn Production Trends 1999-2013



Buck:Doe Ratio Trends 1999-2013



2014 General Season Deer Permit Recommendation Summary

	2013 Permits	2014 Rec. Permits
Archery	16,920	16,960
Rifle	50,760	50,880
Muzzleloader	16,920	16,960
TOTAL	84,600	84,800

A slight increase in permits

Decreased 6

No change 17

Increased 7

Recommended General Season Objectives & Permit Numbers

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2013 Tags	2014 Rec.
Beaver	18-20	17	↑	3150	3000
Chalk Creek/E Canyon/Morgan-S Rich	18-20	32	↓	6800	6800
Fillmore, Oak Creek	18-20	22	—	450	450
Fillmore, Pahvant	18-20	19	↑	1550	1550
Kamas	18-20	23	↓	3200	3200
Mt Dutton	18-20	18	↑	650	650
Nine Mile	18-20	24	↓	1300	1300
North Slope	18-20	17	—	3450	3250
Ogden	18-20	20	—	2500	2500
Pine Valley	18-20	21	↓	3800	3900

Recommended General Season Objectives & Permit Numbers

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2013 Tags	2014 Rec.
Plateau, Fishlake	18-20	17	↑	1300	1300
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	18-20	23	↑	200	200
South Slope, Yellowstone	18-20	18	—	1500	1500
Southwest Desert	18-20	31	—	700	750
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	18-20	19	↑	4000	4000
Zion	18-20	24	—	3000	3100
Box Elder	15-17	16	↓	4000	3800
Cache	15-17	14	↓	7100	6600
Central Mtns, Manti/San Rafael	15-17	16	↑	8800	8800
Central Mtns, Nebo	15-17	15	↑	4000	4000

Recommended General Season Objectives & Permit Numbers

Unit	Obj.	3 yr. B:D	B:D Trend	2013 Tags	2014 Rec.
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	15-17	17	↑	1800	1800
Monroe	15-17	19	↑	1200	1400
Oquirrh-Stansburry	15-17	16	↑	2100	2500
Panguitch Lake	15-17	19	↑	3000	3200
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	15-17	19	↓	2000	2000
San Juan, Abajo Mtns	15-17	17	↑	2500	2500
South Slope, Bonanza/Vernal	15-17	11	↑	1450	1350
Wasatch Mtns, West	15-17	18	↑	7500	7900
West Desert, Tintic	15-17	—	—	900	900
West Desert, West	15-17	—	—	700	600

Premium Limited Entry Deer Units 2011-2013

% Bucks in the Harvest 5 Years and Older

Unit	Objective	2011	2012	2013	Avg.
Henry Mountains	40%-55% \geq 5	63%	64%	89%	72%
Paunsaugunt	40%-55% \geq 5	68%	54%	63%	64%

This objective is used to set Premium LE buck permits

Post Season Buck to Doe Ratio

Unit	Objective	2011	2012	2013	Avg.
Henry Mountains	40-50	61	52	55	56
Paunsaugunt	40-50	47	44	40	44

This objective is used to set management buck permits

2014 Premium Limited Entry Deer Permit Recommendations

	2013 Permits			2014 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	NonRes	Total	Resident	NonRes	Total
Henry Mtns.						
Archery	9	1	10	9	1	10
Any Weapon	25	3	28	28	3	31
Muzzleloader	9	1	10	9	1	10
Total	43	5	48	46	5	51
Paunsaugunt						
Archery	24	3	27	26	3	29
Any Weapon	73	8	81	77	9	86
Muzzleloader	24	3	27	26	3	29
Total	121	14	135	129	15	144

2014 Premium Limited Entry Management Buck Deer Permit Recommendations

Unit	Objective	2011	2012	2013	Avg.
Henry Mountains	40-50	61	52	55	56
Paunsaugunt	40-50	47	44	40	44

	2013 Permits			2014 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	Non-Res.	Total	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
Henry Mountains	27	3	30	31	4	35
Paunsaugunt	20	2	22	13	1	14

- Henry Mountains buck:doe ratio is 56 so 35 permits are recommended
- Paunsaugunt buck:doe ratio is 44 so 14 permits are recommended in the drawing

Limited Entry Deer Units 2011-2013

Post-Season Buck to Doe Ratio

Units	Objective	2011	2012	2013	Avg.
Book Cliffs	25-35	35	30	36	34
Fillmore, Oak Creek	25-35	21	21	22	22
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	25-35	26	22	24	24
San Juan, Elk Ridge	25-35	42	24	24	30
South Slope, Diamond Mtn	25-35	39	37	36	37
West Desert, Vernon	25-35	19	20	21	20



2014 Limited Entry Deer Permit Recommendations

Unit	2013 Permits			2014 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	Non-Res.	Total	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
Book Cliffs	389	44	433	390	44	434
BC (North - AW)	-	-	-	171	19	190
BC (South - AW)	-	-	-	59	7	66
Cache, Crawford	16	2	18	15	2	17
Fillmore, Oak Cr.	31	4	35	30	4	34
La Sal, Dolores Tri	18	1	19	18	1	19
SJ, Elk Ridge	46	5	51	46	5	51
SS, Diamond Mtn	66	9	75	66	9	75
W Desert, Vernon	176	20	196	162	19	181
Total	742	85	827	727	84	811

2014 Limited Entry Deer Permit Recommendations

Limited Entry	2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
	Resident	Non-Res.	Total	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
Archery	145	17	162	144	17	161
Any Weapon	436	49	485	424	48	472
Muzzleloader	161	19	180	159	19	178
Total	742	85	827	727	84	811



2014 General Season and Limited Entry Elk Permit Recommendations



2014 General Season Elk Permits

- ▶ The statewide plan calls for spike permits to remain at 15,000 as long as hunt success rate is below 20%
 - In 2013, the success rate was 17%
 - We recommend maintaining 15,000 spike elk permits
- ▶ We recommend no change to the general any bull permit numbers
 - 14,300
 - 300 youth any bull
 - Maintain 20 late youth any bull permits

2014 Limited Entry Elk Permit Recommendations

Limited Entry	2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
	Resident	Non-Res.	Total	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
Archery	652	76	728	680	76	756
Any Weapon	1,329	152	1,481	1,375	155	1,530
Muzzleloader	404	47	451	423	50	473
Premium	79	3	82	79	4	83
Total	2,464	278	2,742	2,557	285	2,842

An increase of 100 total Limited Entry permits
(3.6% increase)

2014 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (7.5-8.0)

Unit Name	Objective	Average Age (2011-2013)	2013 Draw Permits	2014 Draw Permits
Beaver, East	7.5 - 8.0	6.7	36	32
Book Cliffs, Little Creek	7.5 - 8.0	7.0	51	48
Fillmore, Pahvant	7.5 - 8.0	7.0	65	60
Monroe	7.5 - 8.0	6.4	29	27
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	7.5 - 8.0	7.5	82	82
San Juan	7.5 - 8.0	7.3	67	57
Total			330	306

24 permit reduction (7.3% reduction)

2014 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (6.5-7.0)

Unit Name	Objective	Average Age (2011-2013)	2013 Draw Permits	2014 Draw Permits
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	6.5 - 7.0	7.0	129	132
Central Mtns, Nebo	6.5 - 7.0	6.0	82	75
S Slope, Diamond Mtn.	6.5 - 7.0	6.1	53	47
SW Desert, Indian Peaks	6.5 - 7.0	7.4	139	147
Total			403	401

2 permit reduction (0.5% reduction)

2014 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (5.5-6.0)

Unit Name	Objective	Average Age (2011-2013)	2013 Draw Permits	2014 Draw Permits
Box Elder, Pilot Mt.	5.5 - 6.0	5.9	3	3
Central Mtns, Manti	5.5 - 6.0	6.1	430	453
La Sal, Dolores Triangle	5.5 - 6.0	-	5	5
La Sal, La Sal Mtns	5.5 - 6.0	6.5	95	105
Mt. Dutton	5.5 - 6.0	5.5	99	99
N Slope, 3 Corners	5.5 - 6.0	6.1	36	40
Nine Mile, Anthro	5.5 - 6.0	6.5	21	23
Oquirrh-Stansbury	5.5 - 6.0	5.9	39	39
Panguitch Lake	5.5 - 6.0	5.6	79	79
Plateau, Fishlake	5.5 - 6.0	6.2	180	192
Wasatch Mountains	5.5 - 6.0	6.5	655	703
W Desert, Deep Creek	5.5 - 6.0	7.0	40	40
Total			1,682	1,781

99 permit increase (5.9% increase)

2014 LE Bull Elk Permit Recommendations (4.5-5.0)

Unit Name	Objective	Average Age (2011-2013)	2013 Draw Permits	2014 Rec. Permits
Box Elder, Grouse Creek	4.5 - 5.0	5.4	2	14
Cache, Meadowville	4.5 - 5.0	5.5	67	75
Cache, North	4.5 - 5.0	4.3	70	53
Cache, South	4.5 - 5.0	5.9	129	145
Paunsaugunt	4.5 - 5.0	5.4	59	67
Total			327	354

27 permit increase (8.3% increase)

Updated Bull Elk Hunt Tables

Unit Name	Arch	Early	Late	Muzz	Prem	Total
Fillmore, Pahvant	15	14	20	9	2	60
Mt Dutton	25	34	22	15	3	99
Oquirrh-Stansbury	10	9	13	6	1	39
Panguitch Lake	20	27	18	12	2	79
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	21	31	16	12	2	82

2014 Pronghorn Permit Recommendations



2014 Pronghorn Permit Recommendations

Weapon Type	2013 Permits			2014 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	Non-Res.	Total	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
Archery	149	14	163	138	13	151
Muzzleloader	49	5	54	36	4	40
Any Weapon	559	65	624	529	61	590
Total	757	84	841	696	78	781



60 permit reduction
(7.1% reduction)



2014 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations



2014 Once-in-a-Lifetime Permit Recommendations

Species	2013 Permits			2014 Rec. Permits		
	Resident	Non-Res.	Total	Resident	Non-Res.	Total
Moose	64	7	71	59	8	67
Bison	94	10	104	76	8	84
Desert Bighorn	32	5	37	37	3	40
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn	36	4	40	34	4	38
Mountain Goat	146	16	162	97	11	108





Thank You

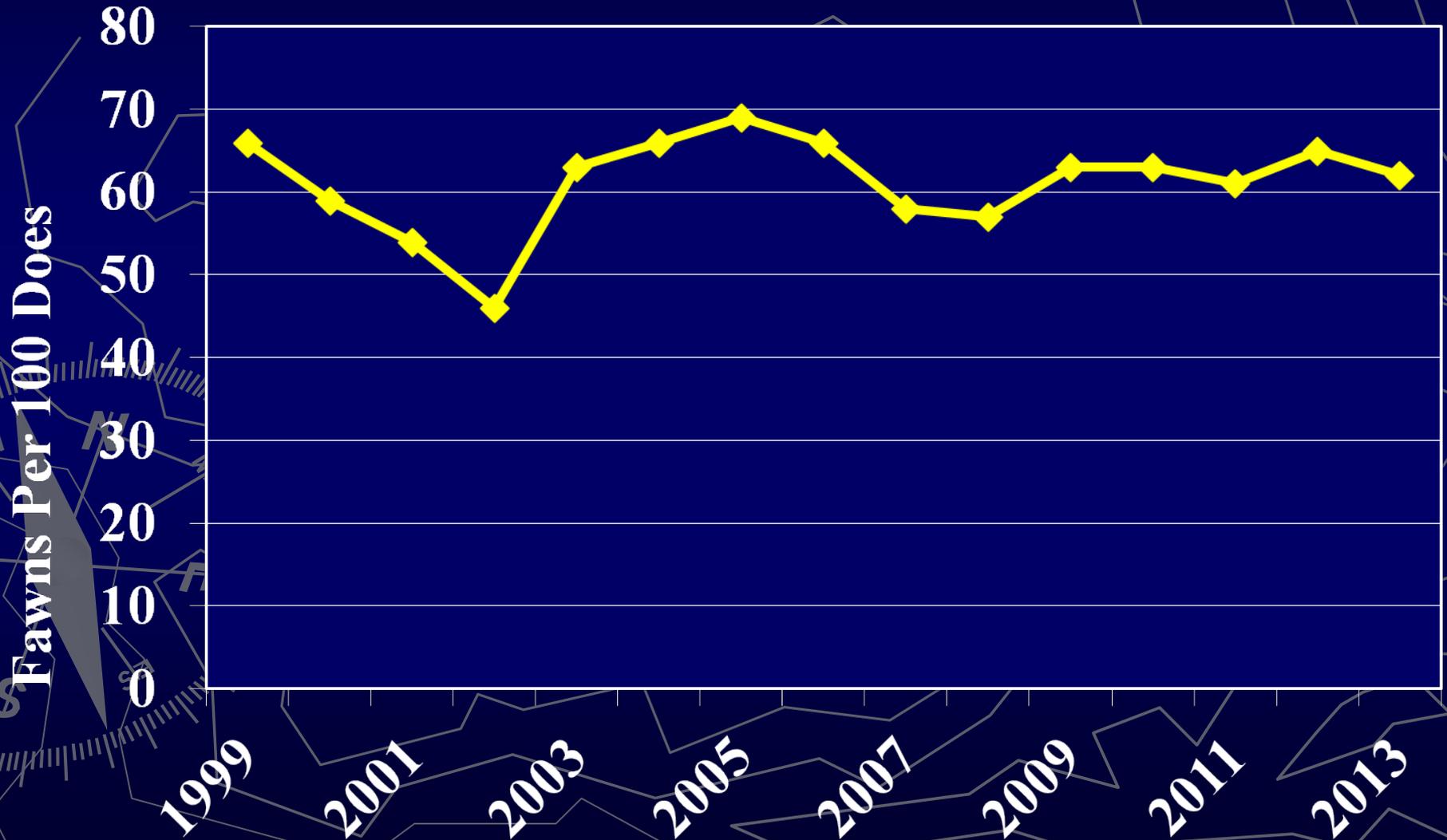
2014 Antlerless Recommendations



Deer



Fawn Production Trends 1999-2013



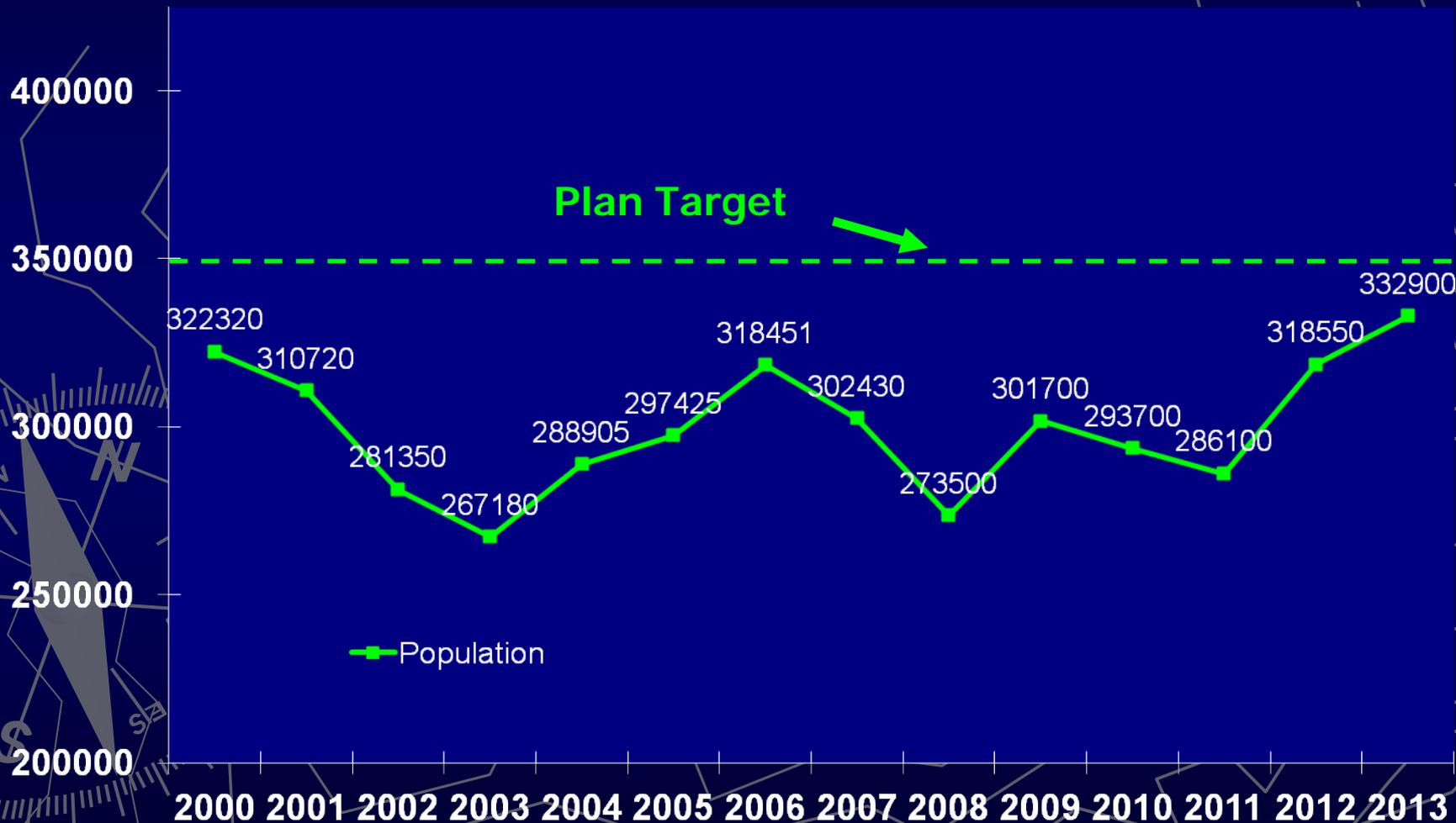


Statewide Survival Rates

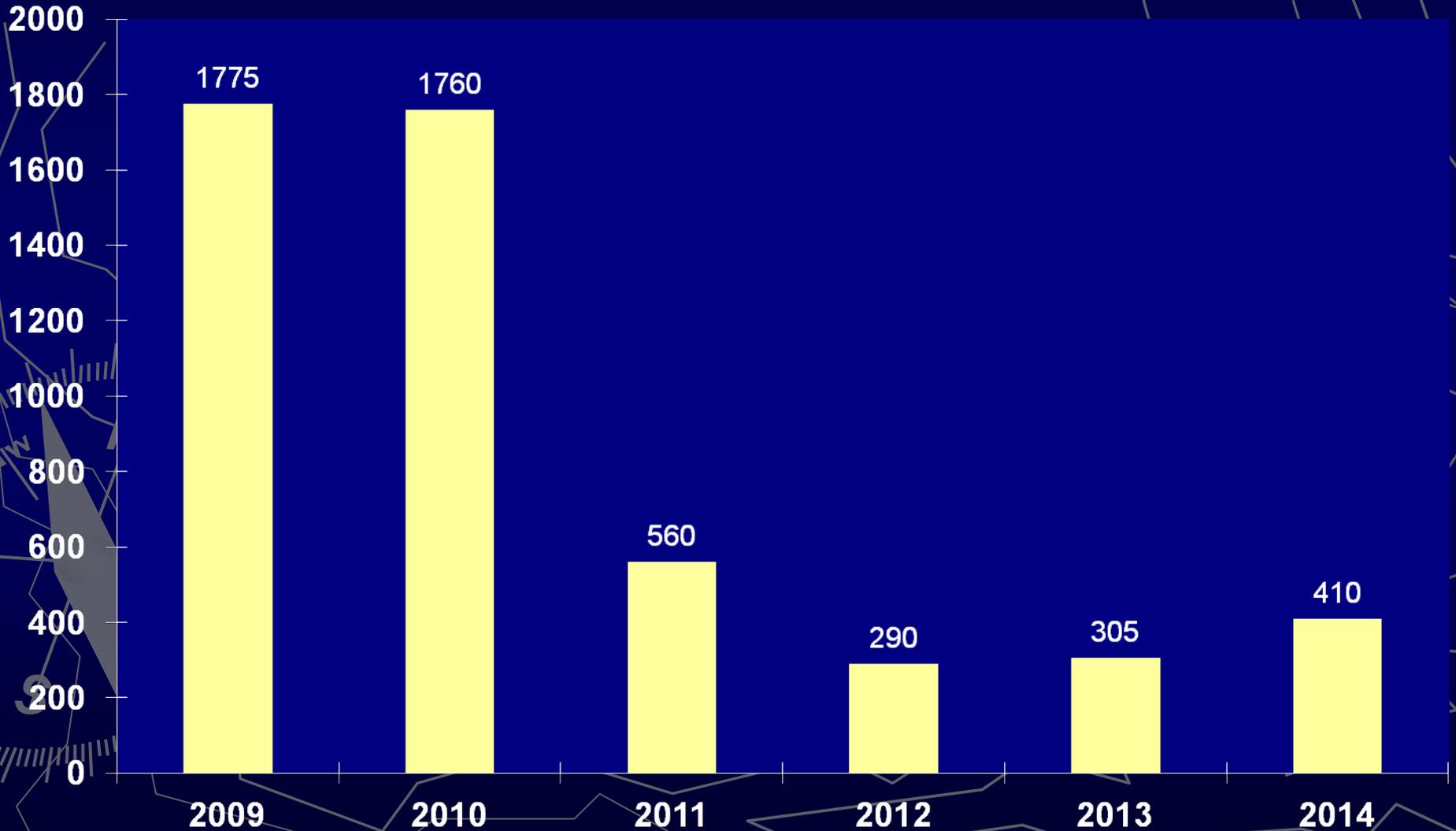


	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
<u>Adult</u>	0.86	0.84	0.85	0.86
<u>Fawn</u>	0.53	0.52	0.78	0.77

Deer Statewide Population Trends

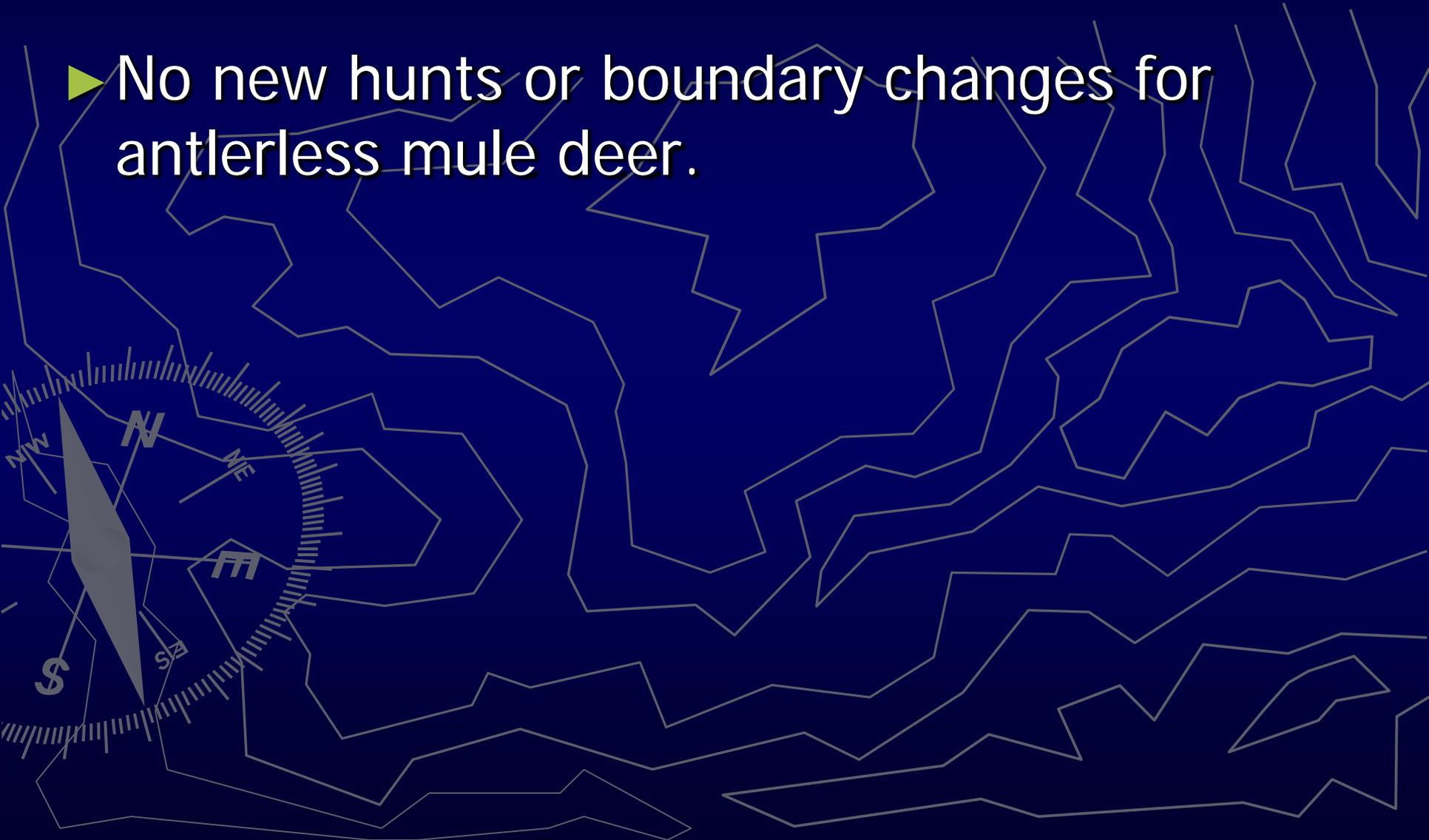


2009-2014 Antlerless Deer Permits



New Hunts & Boundary Changes

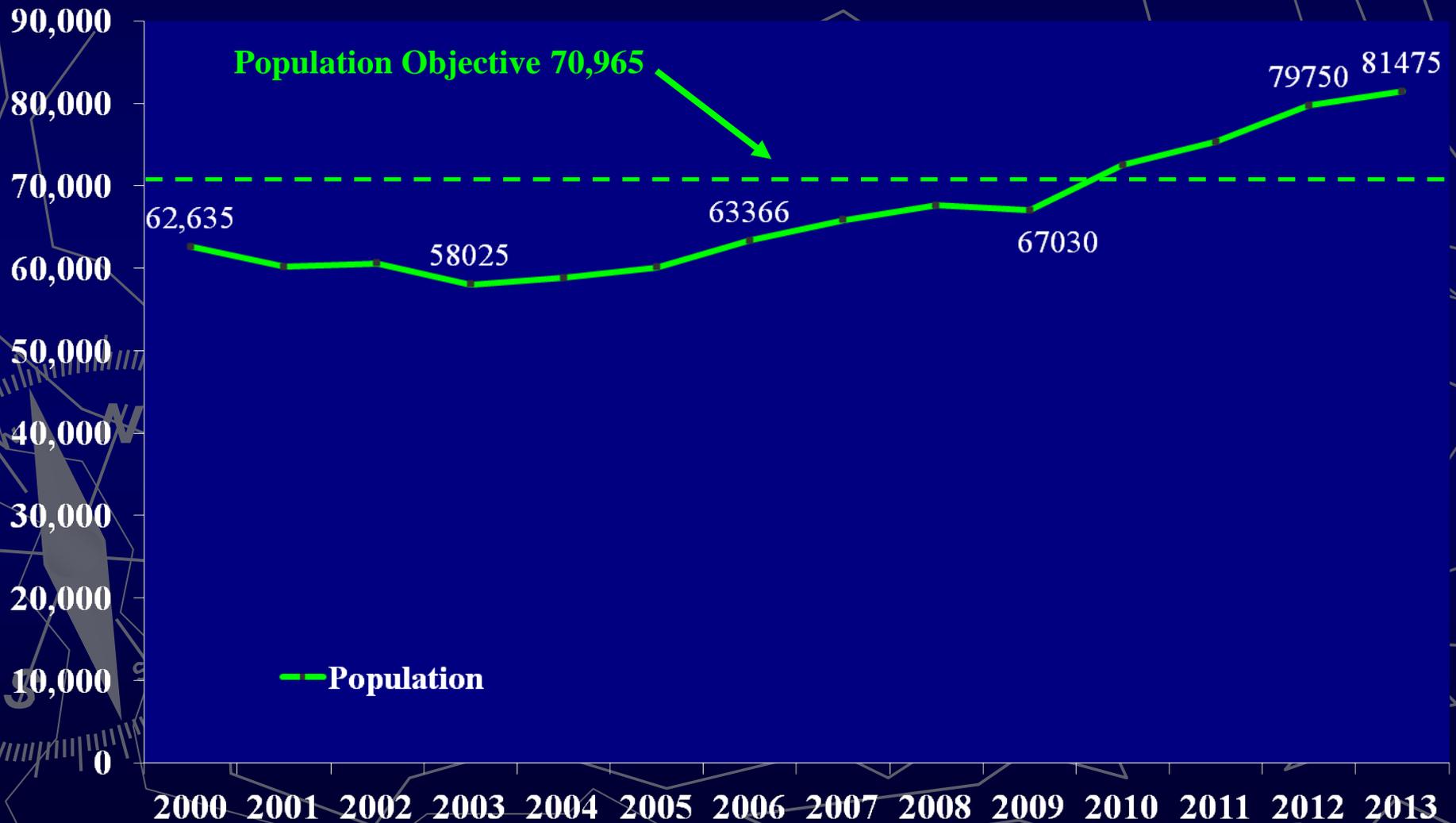
- ▶ No new hunts or boundary changes for antlerless mule deer.



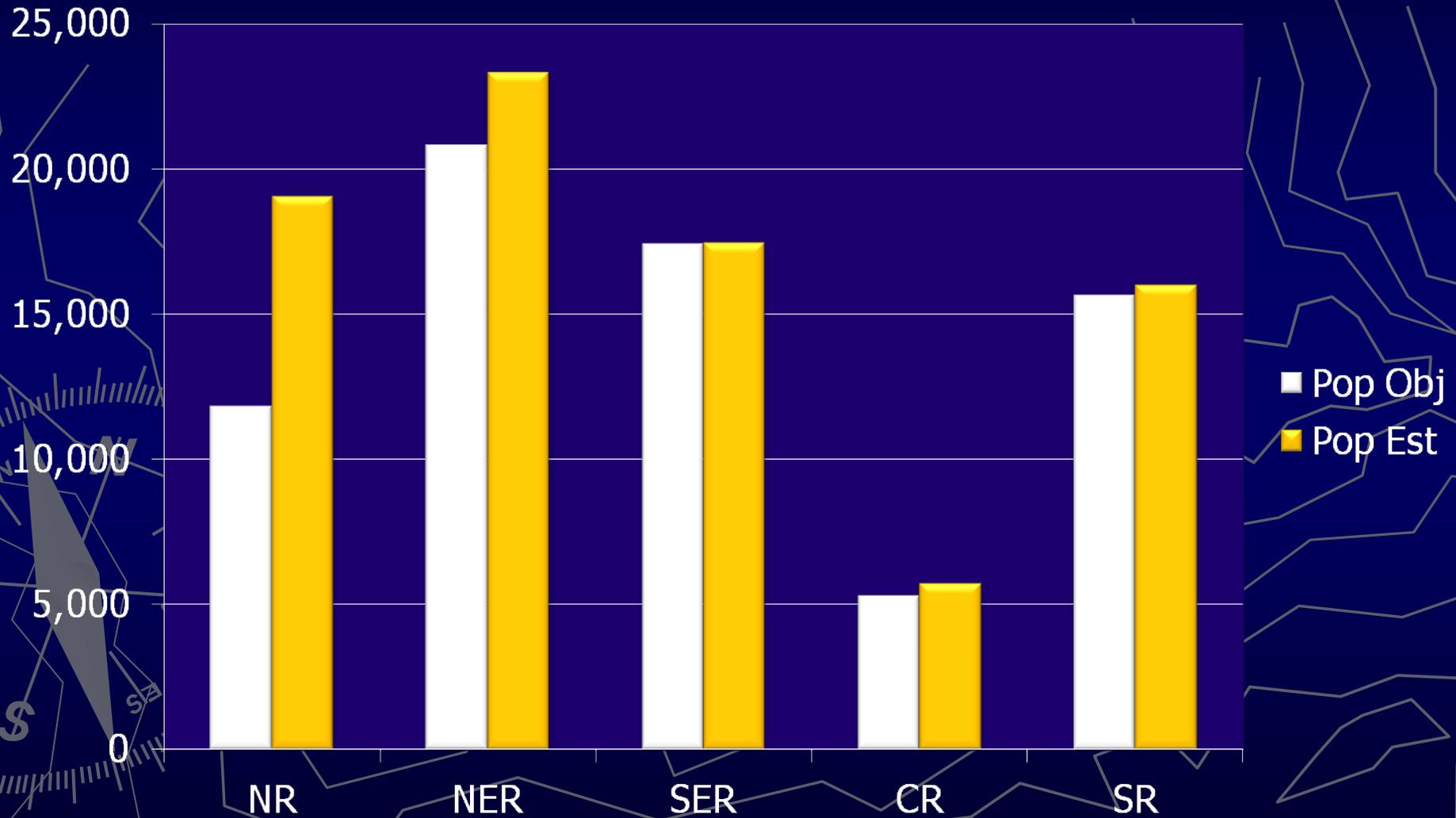
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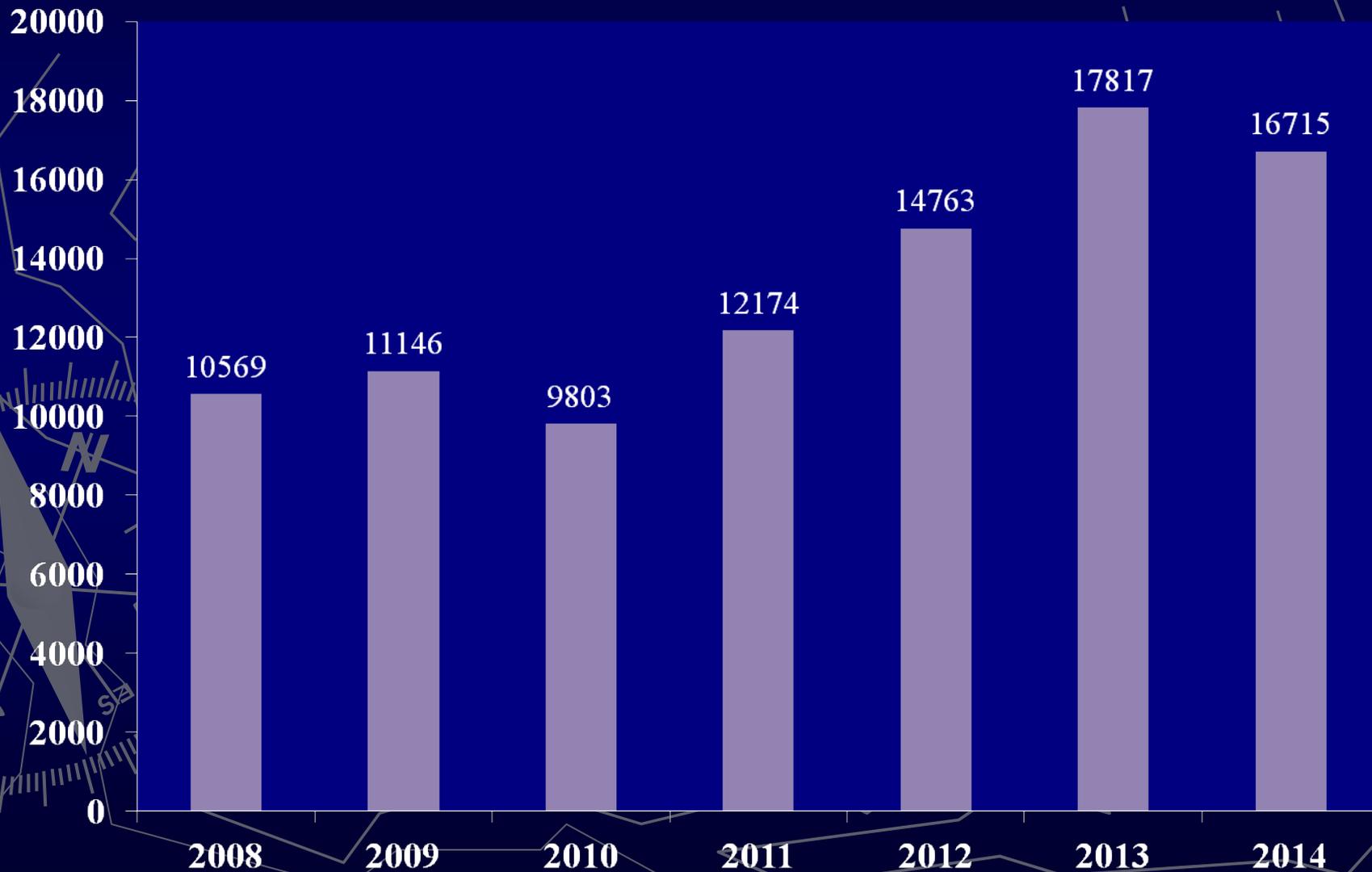
Elk Statewide Population Trends



Population Objective/Estimate by Region



2008-2014 Antlerless Elk Permits



Elk Control Permits

- ▶ We recommend offering antlerless elk control permits to hunters who have any antlered or once-in-a-lifetime big game permit on the following units:
- ▶ 3 units where the objective is 0 elk
 - Henry Mountains, North San Rafael, & San Juan any bull unit
- ▶ 9 units where we are unable to harvest enough antlerless elk to control the population.
 - Nine Mile Range Creek
 - East Canyon
 - Chalk Creek
 - Morgan South Rich
 - South Slope Yellowstone
 - Wasatch Currant Creek
 - Wasatch Avintaquin
 - Ogden (new unit)
 - Wasatch West (new unit)

New Hunts & Boundary Changes

New Hunts with Existing Boundaries

- South Slope, Yellowstone (late)
- North Slope, West Daggett (late)
- Mt Dutton (late)
- Central Mtns, South Manti (late)

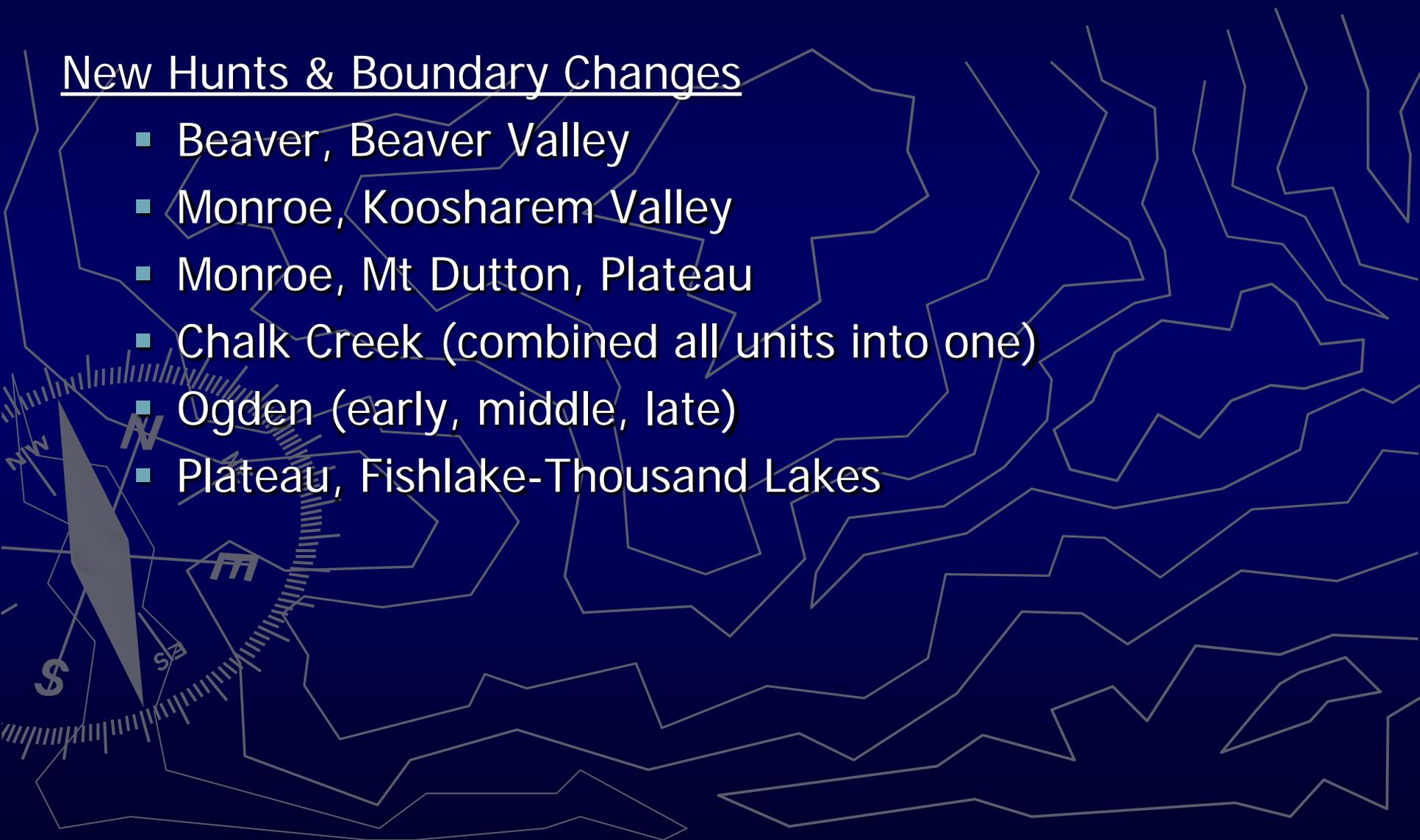
Boundary/Name Changes

- Central Mtns, Ferron-Lower
- Central Mtns, Gordon Creek-Price Canyon
- Wasatch B/C antlerless elk control (match deer boundary)
- S Slope, Bonanza/Vernal (name change from SS Vernal-Blue Mtn)

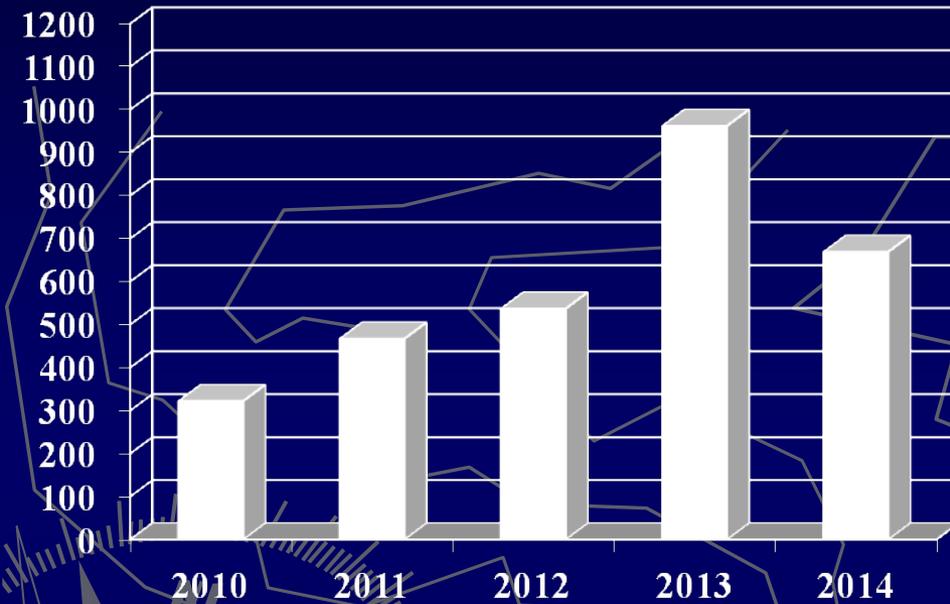
New Hunts & Boundary Changes

New Hunts & Boundary Changes

- Beaver, Beaver Valley
- Monroe, Koosharem Valley
- Monroe, Mt Dutton, Plateau
- Chalk Creek (combined all units into one)
- Ogden (early, middle, late)
- Plateau, Fishlake-Thousand Lakes

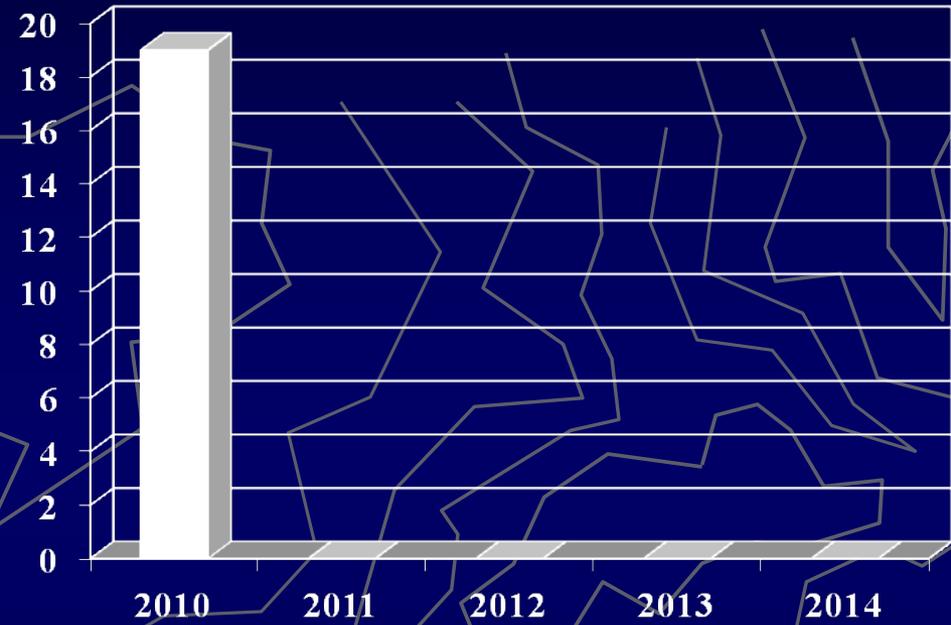


Doe Pronghorn Permits



2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
322	467	537	962	669

Antlerless Moose Permits



2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
19	0	0	0	0

New Hunts & Boundary Changes

Doe Pronghorn Hunt Boundary Change

- Plateau
- Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden
- Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt, John's Valley



Thank you



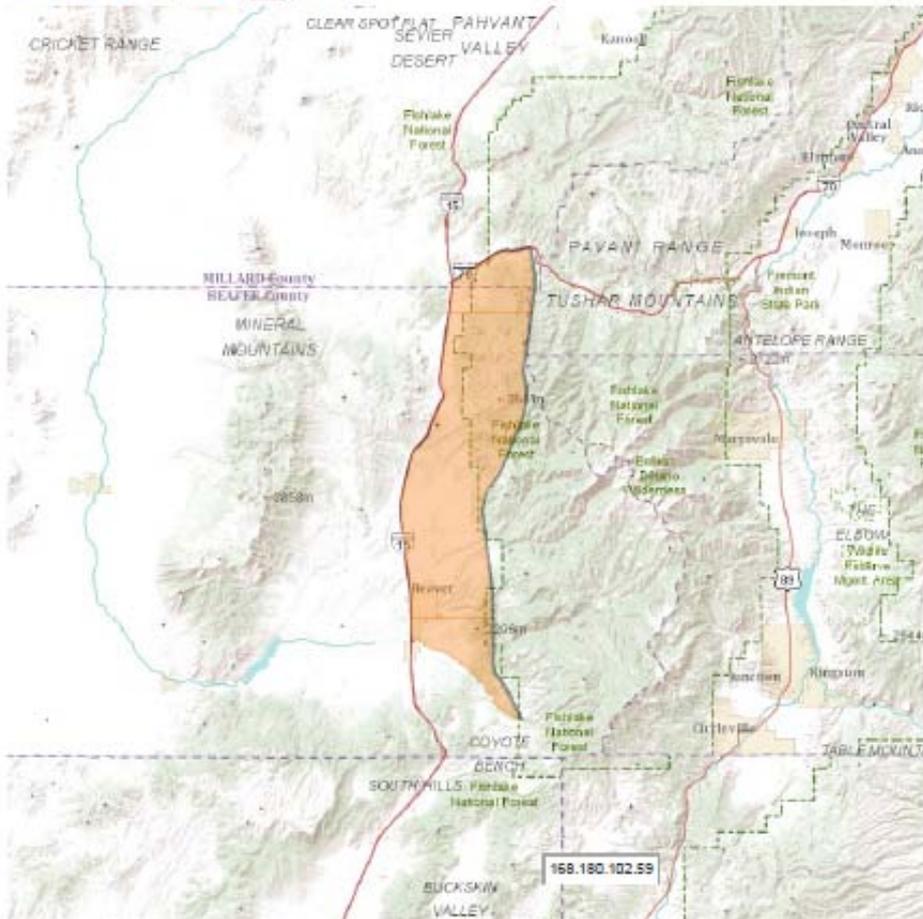
Beaver, Beaver Valley

Proposed Beaver, Beaver Valley boundary



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- ▶ I-70 and Highway I-15 interchange south along I-15 to the south Beaver interchange highway 160. Highway 160 north to South Creek Road. South Creek road east to a point that is five miles east of I-15. from I-15 and a point that is five miles east on south creek road north along a line that parallels I-15 five miles to the east to I-70.

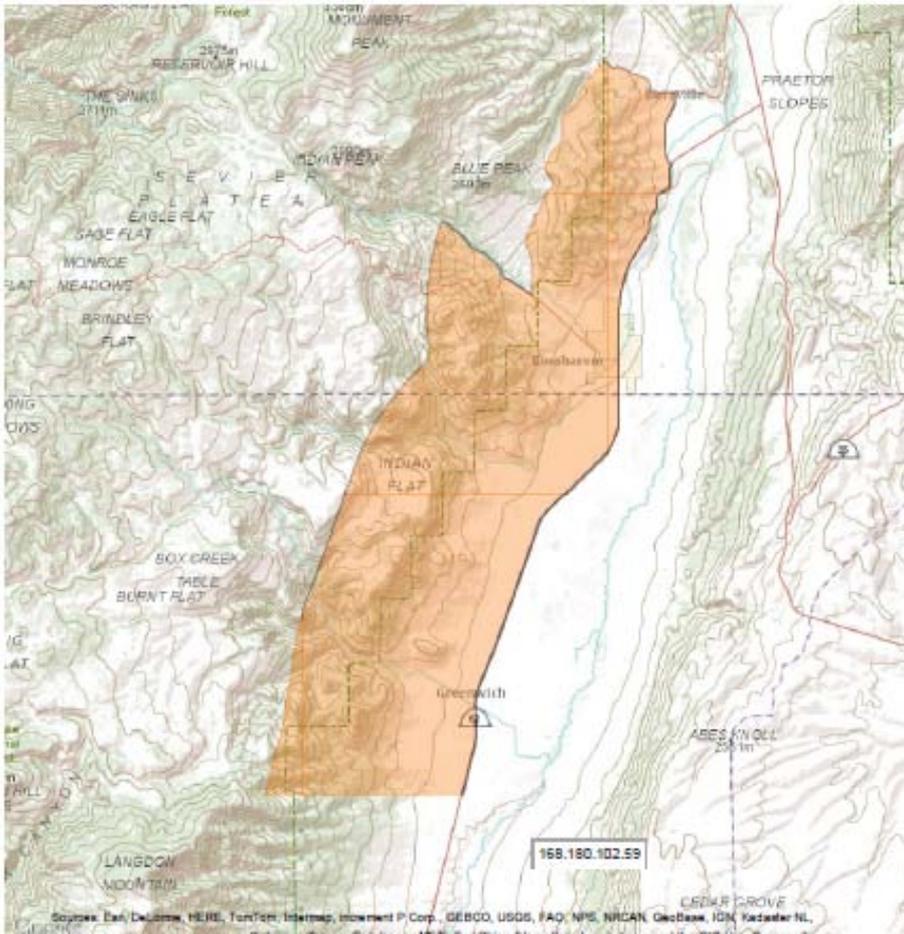
Monroe, Koosharem Valley

Proposed Monroe, Koosharem Valley boundary



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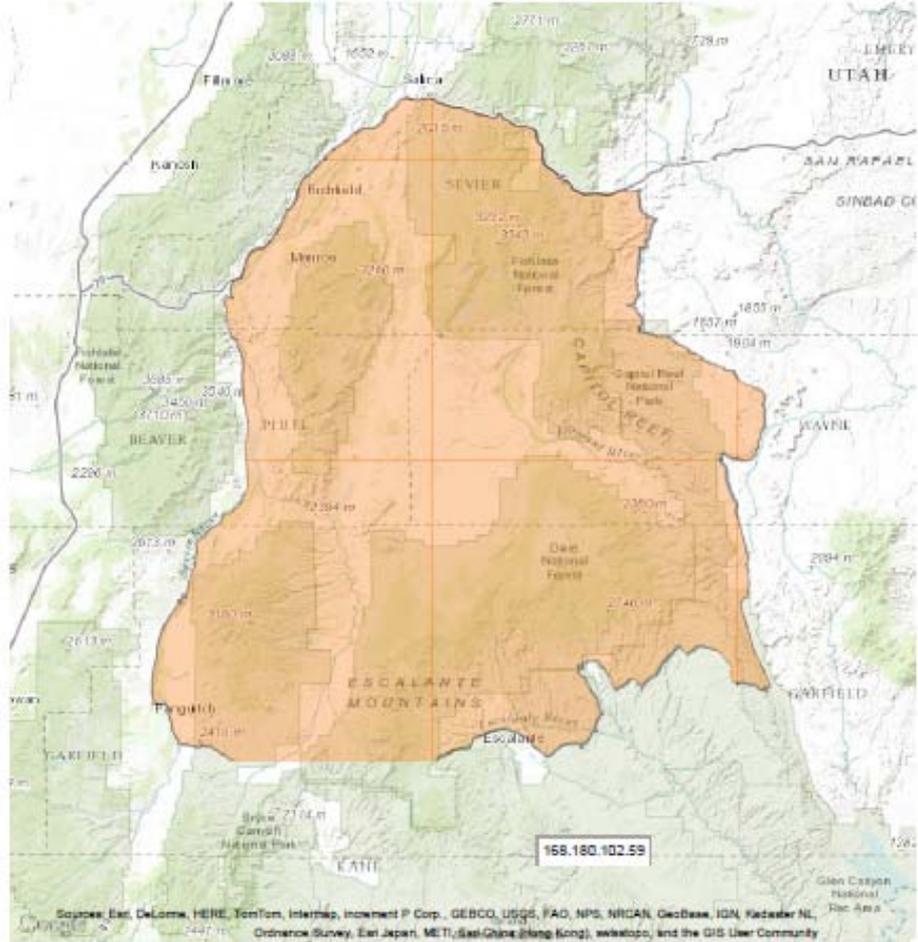
- ▶ Piute and Sevier counties - Boundary begins at the junction of SR-62 and the Burrville rd; north on the Burrville rd to the four-way intersection in Burrville; west at the four-way intersection to FR1161; west and south on this road to the intersection of FR1160; from this intersection, go south, cross-country 1/2 mile to the Koosharem canyon rd. (FR076); west on this road to a point 3 miles from SR62; south cross-country along an imaginary line 3 miles from and parallel to SR62 to a point 3 miles south of Greenwich; east from this point to SR62; north on SR62 to the Burrville rd. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Loa. Boundary questions? Call Cedar City office, (435) 865-6100.

Monroe, Mt Dutton, Plateau

Proposed Monroe/Mt Dutton/Plateau boundary

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- ▶ Boundary begins at US-89 and I-70 near Sevier; south on US-89 to SR-12; east on SR-12 to the Burr Trail at Boulder; east on the Burr Trail to the Notom road; north on the Notom road to SR-24; east on SR-24 to the Caineville Wash road; north along the Caineville Wash road to the Cathedral Valley road; west on the Cathedral Valley road to Rock Springs Bench and the Last Chance Desert road; north on the Last Chance Desert road to the Blue Flats road; north and east on the Blue Flats road to the Willow Springs road; north on the Willow Springs road towards Windy Peak and the Windy Peak road; west on the Windy Peak road to SR-72; north on SR-72 to I-70; west and south on I-70 to US-89 near Sevier. EXCLUDES ALL NATIVE AMERICAN TRUST LANDS WITHIN THIS BOUNDARY. . EXCLUDES ALL NATIONAL PARKS. EXCLUDES ALL CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Beaver, Loa, Richfield, Salina Escalante, Panguitch. Boundary questions? Call the Cedar City office, 435-865-6100

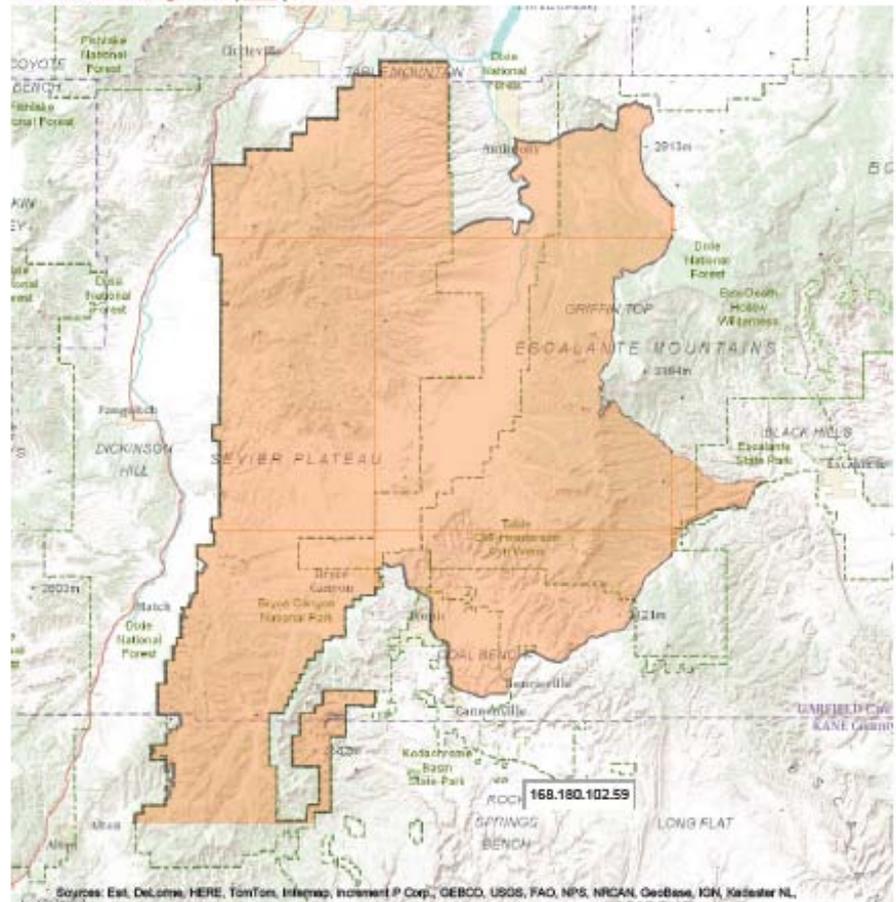
Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt, Johns Valley (doe pronghorn)

Proposed Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt, Johns Valley (doe pronghorn) boundary



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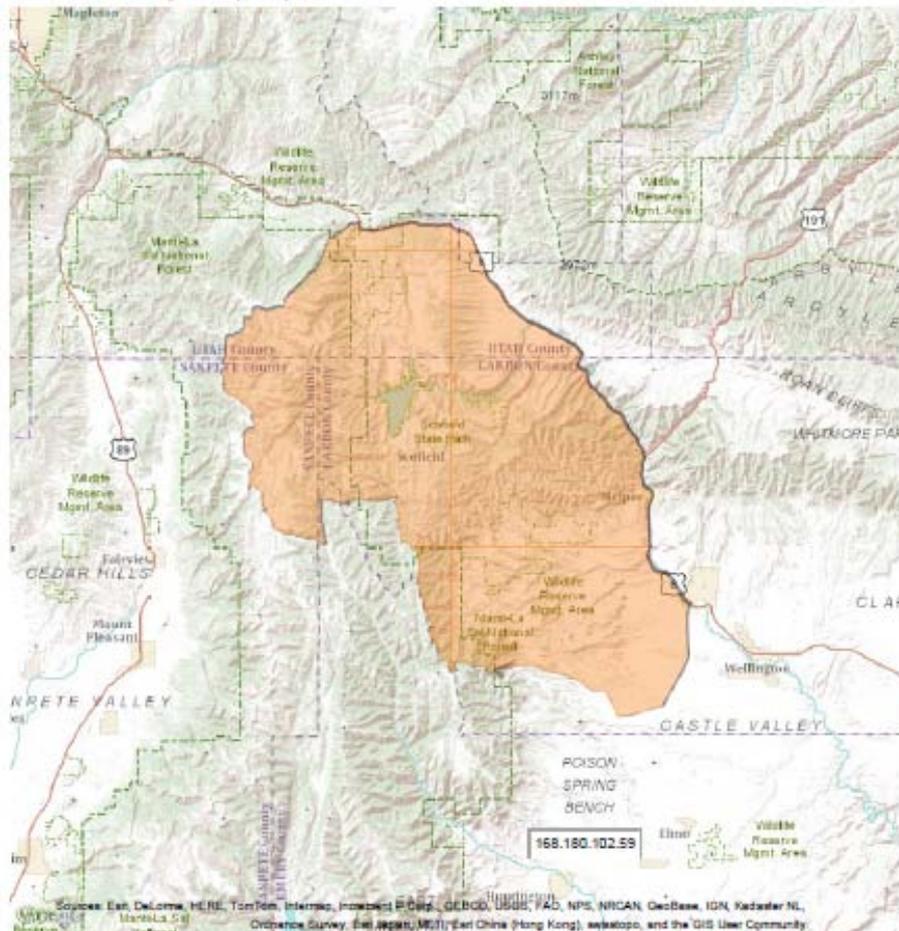
- ▶ Garfield, Kane and Piute counties--Boundary begins at SR-12 and the Bryce Canyon National Park west boundary; south on park boundary, around the southern tip of the park, then north up the east side park boundary to the BLM/USFS boundary; southwest and west (approx. 20 miles) on this USFS boundary then north and east continuing on this USFS boundary (approx. 61 miles) then due south on this USFS boundary to the Deer Creek road on Mt Dutton; east on this road to SR-22; north on SR-22 to Antimony Creek; east along Antimony Creek to the Griffin Top Road (140), south on that road to the Widstoe Road (FH17) southeast on that road down Main Canyon to Highway 12; west on SR-12 to the Bryce Canyon National Park west boundary. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Beaver, Escalante, Kanab, Loa, Panguitch. Boundary Questions? Call Cedar City office, 435-865-6100.

Central Mtns, Gordon Creek – Price Canyon

Proposed Central Mtns, Gordon Creek-Price Canyon boundary

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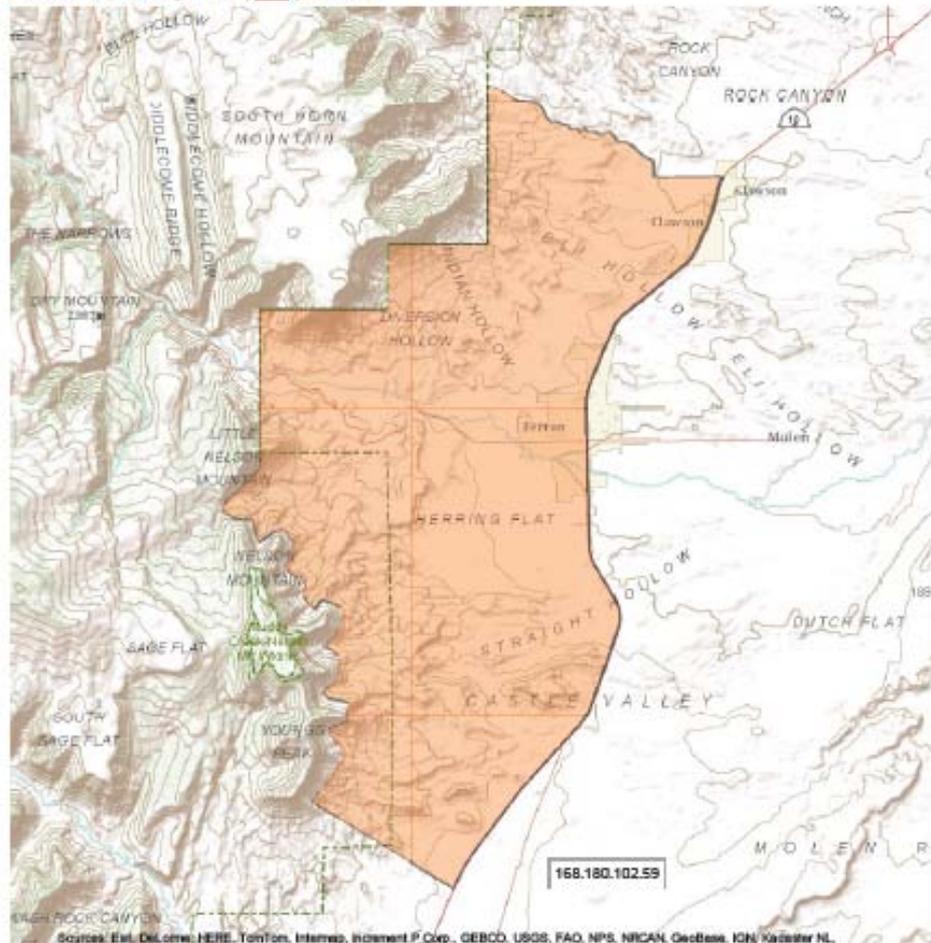
- ▶ Carbon and Utah counties--Boundary begins at US-6 and SR-10 at Price; south on SR-10 to Hiawatha Junction and SR-122; west on SR-122 to the Wattis road; northwest on this road to Wattis and over Star Point to Castle Valley Ridge (Carbon-Emery county line) and USFS Trail 068; west down USFS Trail 068 to the Nuck Woodward Road (USFS Road 110); west on the Nuck Woodward Road to SR-31; northwest on SR-31 to North Skyline Drive; North on North Skyline Drive to US-6 near the Tucker Rest Area; southeast on US-6 to SR-10 in Price. Hunters may encounter seasonal road closures after Dec. 1 in portions of this unit where natural gas wells have been developed. Excludes all CWMUs. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Huntington, Nephi, Price. Boundary questions? Call Price office, 435-613-3700.

Central Mtn, Ferron Lower

Proposed Central Mtns, Ferron Lower boundary

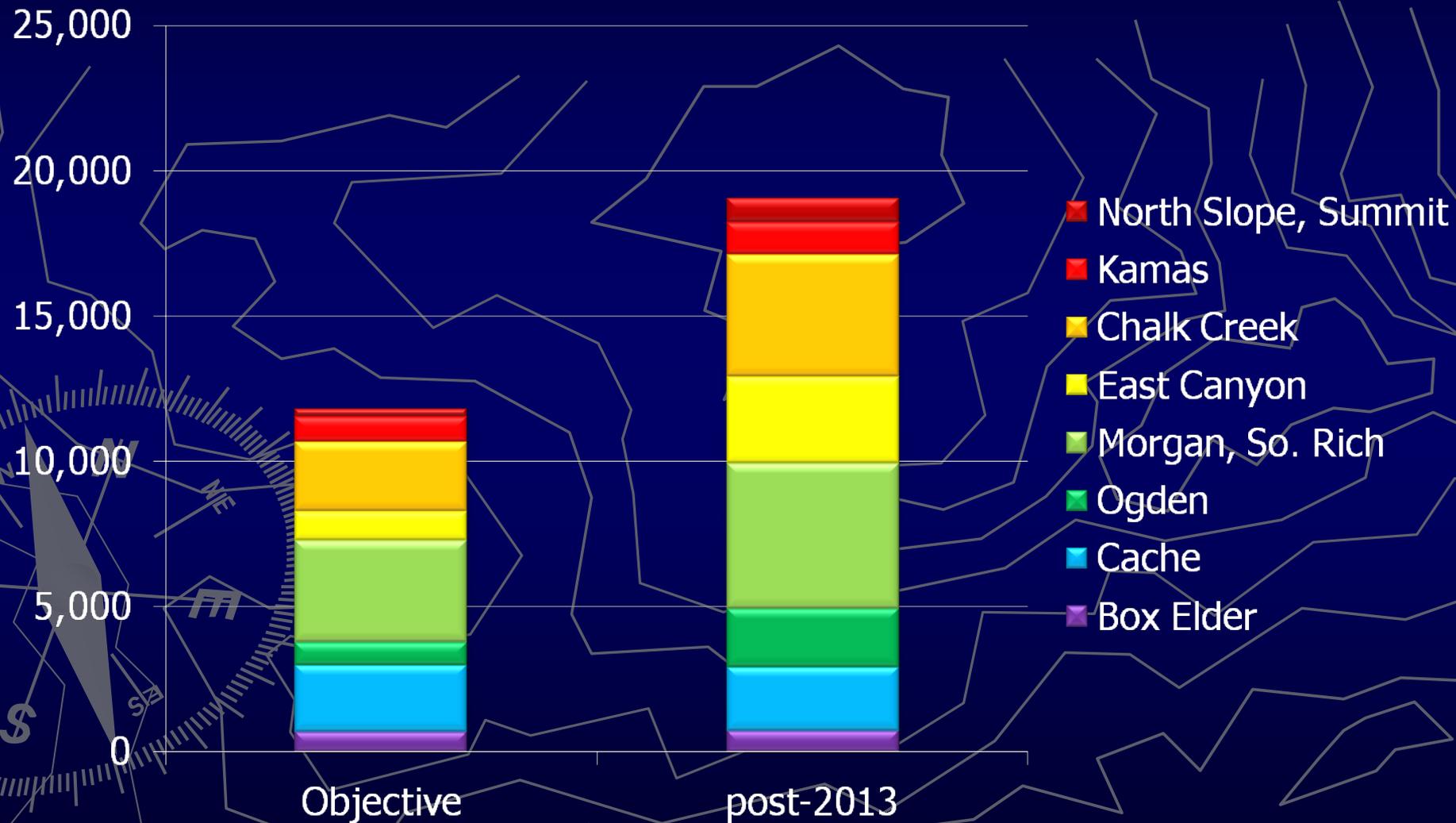
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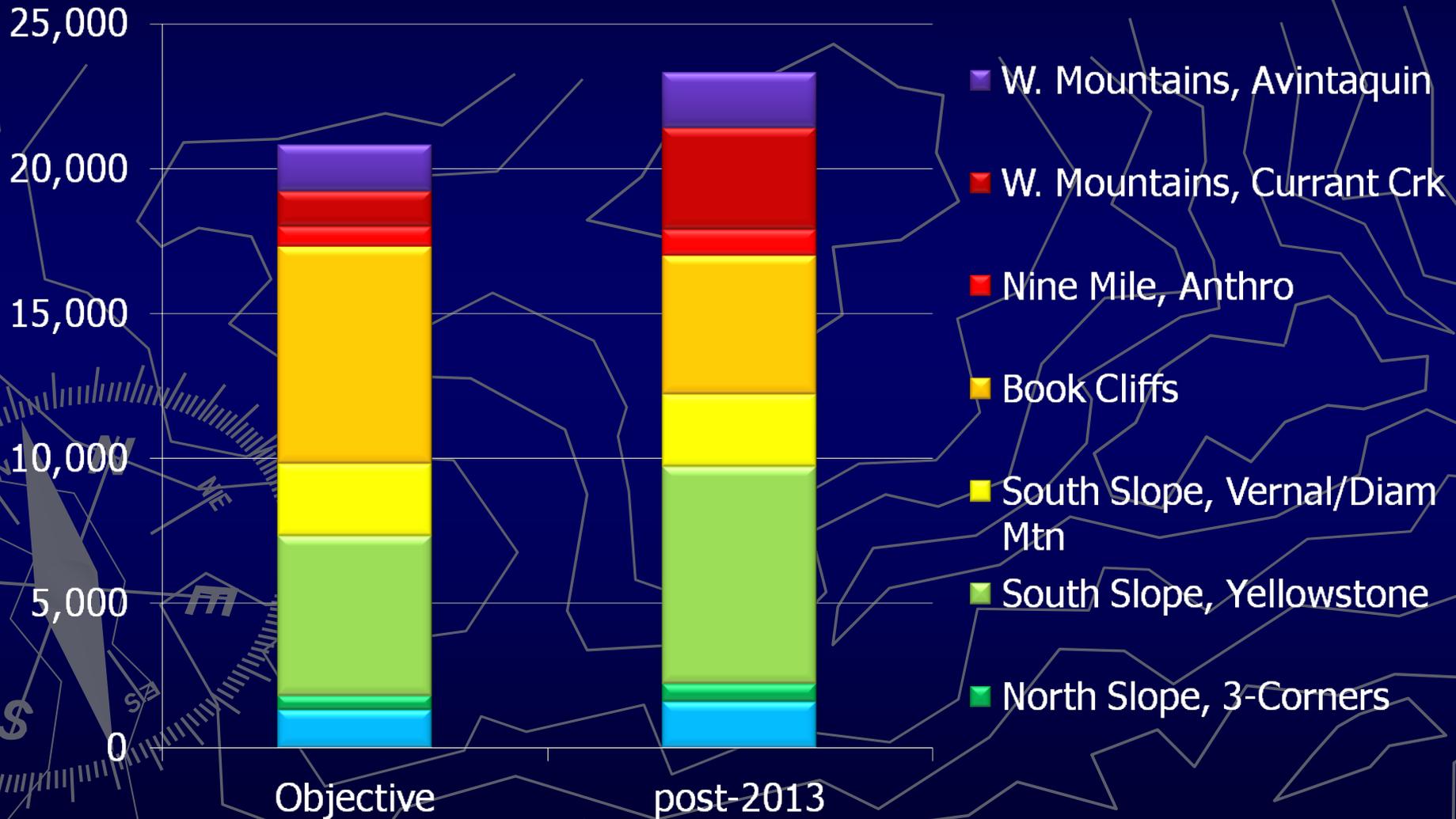


- ▶ Emery county--Boundary begins at SR-10 and the Rock Canyon road (north of Clawson); west along the Rock Canyon road to the USFS boundary; south along the USFS boundary across Ferron Creek to Little Nelson Mountain; south from this mountain across Dry Wash to the Nelson Mountain escarpment; south along the Nelson Mountain escarpment to the base of Young's Peak; then southeast to SR-10 at mile-marker 19; north along SR-10 to the Rock Canyon road. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Manti. Boundary questions? Call the Price office, 435-613-3700.

Population Objective/Estimate NR



Population Objective/Estimate NER



2014 CWMU ANTLERLESS VOUCHER/PERMIT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS



2014 CWMU Voucher/Permit Review

- Forty-two CWMU COR's previously approved
- Nine CWMUs request changes to previously approved numbers
- Nine CWMU's require Wildlife Board approval for new three year COR's
- Summary - CWMU's are requesting 312/1224(vouchers/permits) or 1536 total.

Antlerless vouchers/permit allocation to the CWMU is determined by the allocation the CWMU received during the bucks and bulls process.

Buck/Bull Permit Options

Antlerless Permit Options

			<u>2014</u>				
	<u>Prv.</u>	<u>Pub.</u>		<u>CWMUs</u>		<u>Prv.</u>	<u>Pub</u>
deer & elk	90%	10%	←	(32)	→	0%	100%
	85%	15%		(07)		25%	75%
	80%	20%		(16)		40%	60%
	75%	25%	←	(01)	→	50%	50%
pronghorn	60%	40%	←	(08)	→	40%	60%

Recommendations By Region

Northern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Grass Valley/ Clark Cyn.	Elk - antlerless	0	40	Renewal	Approve
Grouse Creek	Elk - antlerless	1	5	Renewal	Approve
Hardscrabble	Elk - antlerless	0	15	New	Approve
Jacobs Creek	Elk - antlerless	0	5	Renewal	Approve
Mountain Top	Elk - antlerless	0	10	Renewal	Approve
Woodruff Cr. South	Elk - antlerless	0	8	Renewal	Approve
Deseret	Elk – antlerless	0	160	Change	Approve
Deseret	Pronghorn - doe	63	107	Change	Approve

Southeast Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Minnie Maude Ridge	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Renewal	Approve
Redd Ranches	Elk - antlerless	0	25	Renewal	Approve
Emma Park	Elk - antlerless	12	18	Change	Approve
Preston Nutter Ranch	Elk - antlerless	0	20	Change	Approve
Conover-Jensen	Elk - antlerless	0	0	Change	Approve
Spring Creek Dodge	Elk - antlerless	20	30	Change	Approve
Summit Point	Elk – antlerless	20	30	Change	Approve

Southern Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Black Point	Pronghorn - doe	2	3	Renewal	Approve
Alton	Elk - antlerless	3	7	Change	Approve

Central Region

CWMU Name	Species	Private	Public	Status	DWR Recommendation
Heaston	Elk - antlerless	8	24	Change	Approve
Three C	Elk - antlerless	12	18	Change	Approve

2014 OVERVIEW - RECOMMENDED CWMU ANTLERLESS PERMITS

79.7% of antlerless permits for CWMUs are public permits.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>PRIVATE PERMITS</u>	<u>PUBLIC PERMITS</u>
Deer (2doe)	0	10
Elk	238	1090
Pronghorn	74	124
TOTAL PERMITS	312	1224



Thank you



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 SHEEHAN
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: April 17, 2014

To: Utah Wildlife Board

From: Scott McFarlane, Private Lands / Public Wildlife Coordinator

Subject: DONATION OF UNUSED 2013 CWMU VOUCHERS TO A 501(c)(3) TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION FOR A CHARITABLE CAUSE

The CWMU rule R657-37 allows for a CWMU to donate a voucher that is not redeemed during the previous year to a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization for a charitable cause under the following conditions:

1. The donation is approved by the Wildlife Board;
2. No more than one voucher is donated per year by a landowner association;
3. The voucher is donated for a charitable cause, and the landowner association does not receive compensation or consideration of any kind other than tax benefit; and
4. The recipient of the voucher is identified prior to obtaining the Wildlife Board's approval for the donation.

A CWMU voucher approved for donation may be extended for no more than one year.

In February of 2014, the division sent a letter to all CWMU landowner associations, making them aware of the opportunity granted in the CWMU Rule to provide a memorable hunt to a deserving individual (i.e. youth or veteran with a disability). As a result, the division received three requests to take advantage of this program to provide hunting opportunities for three deserving individuals. The following is a brief synopsis of the individuals that would receive this opportunity, the CWMU donating the voucher, and the sponsoring non-profit organization.

Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife (SFW), in cooperation with the CWMU Association, is requesting that an unused 2013 elk voucher made available for donation by the Preston Nutter Ranch CWMU, be converted to a 2014 voucher to provide a hunt opportunity for a wounded veteran through SFW's "Sportsmen for Warriors" program. If approved, SFW has selected Specialist Seth Wakeling, US Army, as the recipient of the voucher for a 2014 elk hunt. Specialist Wakeling, was deployed to Afghanistan in February, 2013. On September 26, 2013, Specialist Wakeling, while on a foot patrol, stepped on an IED and lost his lower left leg. During his on-going recovery process, he expressed concern on whether he would ever be able to hunt elk, a lifelong dream. Specialist Wakeling has plans to compete to become eligible for promotion to the Special Forces or pursue a degree in biology.

Kurt Lewis, operator of Spring Creek Dodge CWMU, is requesting to donate an unused 2013 deer voucher to be used through the WildBone Youth organization, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to providing hunt opportunities for deserving youth. If approved, the recipient chosen to receive the deer voucher would be Adri Black, who resides in Monticello. Adri was born with Spina Bifida, which confines her to a wheelchair. She loves to hunt but has been very limited due to her condition and has never been able to harvest a deer.

WildBone Youth, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization, requests that an unused 2013 deer voucher made available for donation by the Blue Creek CWMU, be converted to a voucher for the 2014 hunting season. The voucher would be used to provide a memorable deer hunt through the organization's program. If approved, the recipient of the hunt opportunity would be Turner Koyle of Holden, Utah. Turner is a 14 year old boy who has experienced tough things beyond his years. His father Spencer was a BLM firefighter who was killed while fighting a wildfire above Oak City, Utah in 2006. Spencer was an avid hunter and would often take his young and only son to scout for deer and elk. Turner is the oldest of three children. Turner maintains excellent grades in school, has earned his Eagle Scout award, and would like to carry on his father's passion for hunting and the outdoors.

Proposed Action Item – Wild Horses

Background:

Western and eastern Utah contains 22 Herd Management Areas, two of which have burros. Each HMA is managed through wild horse management plans prepared by the BLM through the NEPA process. The wild horse management plans establishes Appropriate Management Levels (AML) of wild horses in each areas based on multiple-use factors which takes into account the needs of wild horses, wildlife, and domestic livestock, as they relate to the arid ecosystems in Utah. The intent of the management plans are to establish AML in each HMA, and manage wild horse numbers at a level that will maintain the range in a condition that it will sustain the usage by the various resources and not cause harm or degradation to the fragile arid ecosystem.

In September, 2013, in letters sent to the livestock permittees and Iron and Beaver counties, the BLM indicated that they will not have the resources to gather wild horses in the HMAs and will not be able to maintain wild horse at AMLs as indicated in their planning documents. They have asked a number of the livestock permittees to voluntarily reduce their livestock Animal Use Months (AUM) by as much as 50% to compensate for their inability to keep wild horses at AMLs and prevent range deterioration due to excessive numbers of wild horses.

What does this mean to wildlife, specifically big game?

Wildlife share the same habitat as wild horses and depend on the same water sources to survive in the arid desert areas. Wild horses are known to dominate water sources, especially during drought conditions, and prevent or curtail wildlife from watering. Excessive wild horse numbers also consume available forage and cause deterioration of range conditions if left unchecked. The negative impacts on the range will be magnified as the whole state is in a drought condition. Some of the wild horse areas contain premium elk and deer areas that the have been managed as such for years, and that hunters wait over 15 years to hunt. It is hard to believe these areas will become dust bowls from an over-abundance of wild horses and years of careful planning and management will be set back. Many of the local economies depend on big game seasons and will surely feel the impact of reduced hunting for years to come.

What can the RACs and the State Wildlife Board do?

The RACs and State Wildlife Board can recommend the state of Utah to become proactive in telling the BLM to manage the wild horses at appropriate management levels. The State should insist on being a full partner to develop an action plan to bring all HMAs under the Appropriate Management Levels that have been established in the horse management plans.

2014 RECOMMENDED LIMITED ENTRY BULL ELK PERMITS

4/8/2014

Archery Hunts (25% of Total)			2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
2014 HUNT #	HUNT NAME	UNIT #	Res	Nonres	Total	Res	Nonres	Total
3000	Beaver, East	22	8	1	9	7	1	8
3001	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	10	29	3	32	30	3	33
3002	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	10	13	2	15	13	1	14
3003	Box Elder, Grouse Creek	1				3	1	4
3004	Cache, Meadowville	02	15	2	17	17	2	19
3005	Cache, North	02	16	2	18	12	1	13
3006	Cache, South	02	29	3	32	32	4	36
3007	Central Mtns, Manti	16	96	11	107	102	11	113
3008	Central Mtns, Nebo	16	22	3	25	21	2	23
3009	Fillmore, Pahvant	21	14	2	16	13	2	15
3010	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	13	22	2	24	23	3	26
3011	Monroe	23	6	1	7	6	1	7
3012	Mt Dutton	24	22	3	25	22	3	25
3013	Nine Mile, Anthro	11	5	0	5	6	0	6
3014	North Slope, Three Corners	08	10	1	11	11	1	12
3015	Oquirrh-Stansbury	18	9	1	10	9	1	10
3016	Panguitch Lake	28	18	2	20	18	2	20
3017	Paunsaugunt	27	13	2	15	15	2	17
3018	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	25-26	19	2	21	19	2	21
3019	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lake	25	40	5	45	43	5	48
3020	San Juan	14	15	2	17	13	1	14
3021	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	09	12	1	13	11	1	12
3022	Southwest Desert	20	31	4	35	33	4	37
3023	Wasatch Mtns	17	177	20	197	190	21	211
3024	West Desert, Deep Creek	19	11	1	12	11	1	12
	Total		652	76	728	680	76	756

Any Weapon Hunts (60% of Total)			2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
2014 HUNT #	HUNT NAME	UNIT #	Res	Nonres	Total	Res	Nonres	Total
3025	Beaver, East (early)	22	12	1	13	8	1	9
3026	Beaver, East (late)	22	7	1	8	8	1	9
3027	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South (early)	10	43	5	48	44	5	49
3028	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South (late)	10	23	3	26	23	3	26
3029	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	10	22	2	24	21	2	23
3030	Box Elder, Grouse Creek	01	2	0	2	6	1	7
3031	Box Elder, Pilot Mountain	01	3	0	3	3	0	3
3032	Cache, Meadowville (early)	02	22	3	25	25	3	28
3033	Cache, Meadowville (late)	02	12	1	13	13	2	15
3034	Cache, North (early)	02	23	3	26	18	2	20
3035	Cache, North (late)	02	12	1	13	9	1	10
3036	Cache, South (early)	02	43	5	48	49	5	54
3037	Cache, South (late)	02	23	3	26	26	3	29
3038	Central Mtns, Manti (early)	16	143	16	159	139	16	155
3039	Central Mtns, Manti (late)	16	78	9	87	93	10	103
3040	Central Mtns, Nebo (early)	16	22	3	25	21	2	23
3041	Central Mtns, Nebo (late)	16	13	1	14	11	1	12
3042	Fillmore, Pahvant (early)	21	13	2	15	13	1	14
3043	Fillmore, Pahvant (late)	21	20	2	22	18	2	20
3044	La Sal, Dolores Triangle	13	5	0	5	5	0	5
3045	La Sal, La Sal Mtns (early)	13	31	4	35	35	4	39
3046	La Sal, La Sal Mtns (late)	13	17	2	19	19	2	21
3047	Monroe (early)	23	10	1	11	9	1	10
3048	Monroe (late)	23	5	1	6	4	1	5
3049	Mt Dutton (early)	24	29	3	32	31	3	34
3050	Mt Dutton (late)	24	22	2	24	20	2	22
3051	Nine Mile, Anthro (early)	11	5	1	6	6	1	7
3052	Nine Mile, Anthro (late)	11	5	1	6	5	1	6
3053	North Slope, Three Corners	08	15	2	17	17	2	19
3054	Oquirrh-Stansbury (early)	18	8	1	9	8	1	9

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Any Weapon Hunts (60% of Total)			2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
2014 HUNT #	HUNT NAME	UNIT #	Res	Nonres	Total	Res	Nonres	Total
3055	Oquirrh-Stansbury (late)	18	12	1	13	12	1	13
3056	Panguitch Lake (early)	28	23	3	26	24	3	27
3057	Panguitch Lake (late)	28	17	2	19	16	2	18
3058	Paunsaugunt (early)	27	19	2	21	22	3	25
3059	Paunsaugunt (Late)	27	11	1	12	12	1	13
3060	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits (early)	25-26	28	3	31	28	3	31
3061	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits (late)	25-26	14	2	16	14	2	16
3062	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lake (early)	25	60	7	67	64	7	71
3063	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lake (late)	25	32	4	36	34	4	38
3064	San Juan (early)	14	22	3	25	19	2	21
3065	San Juan (late)	14	12	1	13	10	1	11
3066	South Slope, Diamond Mtn (early)	09	18	2	20	16	2	18
3067	South Slope, Diamond Mtn (late)	09	9	1	10	8	1	9
3068	Southwest Desert (early)	20	36	4	40	36	4	40
3069	Southwest Desert (late)	20	35	4	39	40	4	44
3070	Wasatch Mtns (early)	17	180	20	200	193	22	215
3071	Wasatch Mtns (late)	17	96	11	107	103	12	115
3072	West Desert, Deep Creek (early)	19	11	1	12	11	1	12
3073	West Desert, Deep Creek (late)	19	6	1	7	6	1	7
	Total		1329	152	1481	1375	155	1530

Muzzleloader Hunts (15% of Total)			2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
2014 HUNT #	HUNT NAME	UNIT #	Res	Nonres	Total	Res	Nonres	Total
3074	Beaver, East	22	4	1	5	4	1	5
3075	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	10	17	2	19	18	2	20
3076	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	10	9	1	10	9	1	10
3077	Box Elder, Grouse Creek	1				2	1	3
3078	Cache, Meadowville	02	9	1	10	10	1	11
3079	Cache, North	02	10	1	11	7	1	8
3080	Cache, South	02	17	2	19	20	2	22
3081	Central Mtns, Manti	16	58	6	64	61	7	68
3082	Central Mtns, Nebo	16	14	2	16	13	2	15
3083	Fillmore, Pahvant	21	9	1	10	8	1	9
3084	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	13	13	1	14	14	2	16
3085	Monroe	23	3	1	4	4	0	4
3086	Mt Dutton	24	13	2	15	13	2	15
3087	Nine Mile, Anthro	11	3	0	3	3	0	3
3088	North Slope, Three Corners	08	6	1	7	7	1	8
3089	Oquirrh-Stansbury	18	5	1	6	5	1	6
3090	Panguitch Lake	28	11	1	12	11	1	12
3091	Paunsaugunt	27	8	1	9	9	1	10
3092	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	25-26	11	1	12	11	1	12
3093	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lake	25	24	3	27	26	3	29
3094	San Juan	14	9	1	10	8	1	9
3095	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	09	7	1	8	6	1	7
3096	Southwest Desert	20	19	2	21	20	2	22
3097	Wasatch Mtns	17	118	13	131	127	14	141
3098	West Desert, Deep Creek	19	7	1	8	7	1	8
	Total		404	47	451	423	50	473

Premium Hunts			2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
2014 HUNT #	Hunt Name	Unit #	Res	Nonres	Total	Res	Nonres	Total
3099	Beaver, East	22	1	0	1	1	0	1
3100	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	10	4	0	4	4	0	4
3101	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	10	2	0	2	1	0	1
3102	Cache, Meadowville	02	2	0	2	2	0	2
3103	Cache, North	02	2	0	2	2	0	2

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Premium Hunts			2013 Permits			2014 Permits		
2014 HUNT #	Hunt Name	Unit #	Res	Nonres	Total	Res	Nonres	Total
3104	Cache, South	02	4	0	4	4	0	4
3105	Central Mtns, Manti	16	12	1	13	13	1	14
3106	Central Mtns, Nebo	16	2	0	2	2	0	2
3107	Fillmore, Pahvant	21	2	0	2	2	0	2
3108	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	13	3	0	3	3	0	3
3109	Monroe	23	1	0	1	1	0	1
3110	Mt Dutton	24	3	0	3	3	0	3
3111	Nine Mile, Anthro	11	1	0	1	1	0	1
3112	North Slope, Three Corners	08	1	0	1	1	0	1
3113	Oquirrh-Stansbury	18	1	0	1	1	0	1
3114	Panguitch Lake	28	2	0	2	2	0	2
3115	Paunsaugunt	27	2	0	2	2	0	2
3116	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	25-26	2	0	2	2	0	2
3117	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lake	25	5	0	5	5	1	6
3118	San Juan	14	2	0	2	2	0	2
3119	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	09	2	0	2	1	0	1
3120	Southwest Desert	20	4	0	4	4	0	4
3121	Wasatch Mtns	17	18	2	20	19	2	21
3122	West Desert, Deep Creek	19	1	0	1	1	0	1
	Total		79	3	82	79	4	83