

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 5, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
AGENDA

Thursday, June 5, 2014 – 9:00 am

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|--|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Turkey Management Plan
– Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Turkey Transplant Proposed List
– Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Upland Game and Wild Turkey 3-yr Recommendations
– Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. R657-46 – Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment
– Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Waterfowl Recommendations
– Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator | ACTION |
| 10. Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68
– Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator | ACTION |
| 11. CWMU Variance Request
– Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator | ACTION |
| 12. Certification Review Committee – Recommendations
– Staci Coons, CRC Chairman | ACTION |
| 13. Other Business
– Jake Albrecht, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

May 1, 2014, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, May 4, 2014, Board Meeting 9:00 am

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

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
May 1, 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 Bill Fenimore, seconded by Calvin Crandall and passed unanimously.

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

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

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 9, 2014 Wildlife Board meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log (Contingent)

The Mule Deer Committee will address some of the upcoming action log items: premium limited-entry deer tags, Mineral Mountain Range, additional muzzleloader pronghorn hunting opportunity, and non-resident sheep permit quota.

4) R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit, and COR Forms Rule Amendment (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit, and COR Forms Rule Amendment with the addition of the Northern Region's stipulation to include veterans with disabilities and seniors to purchase multi-year permits.

5) R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendment for R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented by the Division.

6) R657-13-7 Fishing With More Than One Pole Rule Amendment (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendment for R657-13-7 Fishing with More than One Pole as presented.

- 7) R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented by the Division.

- 8) Bucks, Bulls, and OIAL Permit Recommendations for 2014 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4-3. Jake Albrecht broke the tie in favor of the motion. Mike King, Calvin Crandall, and Bill Fenimore opposed the motion.

MOTION: I move that we keep the same number of trophy buck permits on the Pansaugunt and Henry Mountain units as approved in 2013.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the recommendations for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit numbers as presented by the Division and keep the 2014 number of bull permits on the Manti unit at 453.

- 9) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we increase the permit recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers in the Southwest Desert from 365 to 425.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2014 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented by the division.

- 10) Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2014 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Antlerless CWMU permit recommendations for 2014 as presented by the division.

11) Donation of CWMU Vouchers (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the proposal for Donation of CWMU Vouchers as presented by the division.

12) Wild Horse Issue/Discussion (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we support and endorse the Wild Horse proposal as presented and make the necessary corrections as discussed to the letter that will be sent to the BLM and Juan Palma.

13) Stipulation and Orders (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Stipulation and Orders for Brent Baldwin as presented by the Division.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
May 1, 2014, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/14-5-1.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

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

RAC Chairs Present

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

Public Present

Lee Tracy, UWC	Ken Strong	
Byron Bateman, SFW	Ben Lowder, UT Bowmans	
Troy Justensen, SFW	Cameron Hallows, Cattleman’s Association	Mike Worthen
Bill Christensen, RMEF	Mack Morrell	Sterling Brown, UT Farm Bureau

Division Personnel Present

Mike Canning	Justin Shannon
Mike Fowlks	Scott McFarlane
Rory Reynolds	Jordan Nielson
Staci Coons	Kenny Johnson
Thu Vo-Wood	Judi Tutorow
Bill Bates	Teresa Griffin
Justin Dolling	Dax Mangus
Roger Wilson	Greg Hansen
John Fairchild	Marty Bushman
Kevin Bunnell	Randy Wood
Boyde Blackwell	Covy Jones
Chris Wood	Karen Caldwell
Rick Olson	Lindy Varney
Mike Styler	Phil Gray
Riley Peck	Ben Nadolski
Mark Hadley	Robin Cahoon
Norm Johnson	Troy Davis
	Avery Cook

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

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:38 – 00:02:51 of 04:25:11**

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

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

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:02:52 – 00:03:22 of 04:25:11**

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the January 9, 2014 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) **00:03:24 – 00:05:56 of 04:25:11**

The Mule Deer Committee will address some of the upcoming action log items in November after their meeting. These items include: premium limited-entry deer tags, Mineral Mountain Range, additional muzzleloader pronghorn hunting opportunity, non-resident sheep permit quota, management buck tags on the Book Cliffs, and goat seasons.

4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:06:12 – 00:30:03 of 04:25:11**

Greg Sheehan updated the Board on several items including: the conclusion of the legislative session; funding from various wildlife groups and legislation for projects; Wildlife Services helicopter accident during a DWR project; good fishing news; opening of Lee Kay Hatchery; angler recruitment marketing; animal transplants; hunt application sales; expos and upcoming events; WAP; and sage-grouse issues.

5) R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit, and COR Forms Rule Amendment (**Action**)
00:30:55 – 00:44:01 of 04:25:11

Kenny Johnson presented the recommendations and rule amendments.

Board Questions 00:35:50 – 00:36:45

The Board asked for clarification on the Northern RAC's motion for disabled veterans and seniors. Kenny confirmed that the Division supports their motion with the exception of not adding further discounts to the multi-year license.

RAC Recommendations 0:36:46 – 00:41:16

Southern RAC voted 8-2 in favor of the amendment. They stipulated 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.

Greg Sheehan expounded on the Southern Region's stipulation and the Division's response.

Northeast, Southeast, and Central RAC unanimously accepted the rule amendment as presented.

Northern RAC also accepted the rule amendment unanimously with the inclusion of a multi-year license discount rate for seniors and veterans.

Board Discussion 00:41:23 – 00:44:00

The Board clarified DWR's proposal and fee differences entailed for seniors and veterans.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept R657-45 Wildlife License, Permit, and COR Forms Rule Amendment with the addition of the Northern Region's stipulation to include veterans with disabilities and seniors to purchase multi-year permits.

- 6) R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment (Action) 00:44:02 – 00:46:37 of 04:25:11

Kenny Johnson presented the recommendations and rule amendments.

RAC Recommendations 00:45:48 – 00:46:37

All the RACs unanimously approved the Utah Hunter Mentoring Program Rule Amendment as presented.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendment for R657-67 Utah Hunter Mentoring Program as presented by the Division.

- 7) R657-13-7 Fishing With More Than One Pole Rule Amendment (Action) 00:46:38 – 00:50:50 of 04:25:11

Kenny Johnson presented the recommendations and rule amendments.

Public Questions 00:47:36 – 00:48:07

The Board accepted public questions and comments.

RAC Recommendations 00:48:08 – 00:48:21

All the RACs unanimously approved the Fishing with More Than One Pole Rule Amendment as presented.

Board Discussion 00:48:22 – 00:50:54

Kirk Woodward noted that a purchase of a second fishing pole permit is still required until after July 1, 2014.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the rule amendment for R657-13-7 Fishing with More

than One Pole as presented.

- 8) R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment (**Action**) **00:50:55**
– 01:06:16 of 04:25:11

Jordan Nielsen presented the recommendations and rule amendments.

Board Questions 00:56:06 – 01:03:02

Calvin Crandall ascertained whether these check stations were permanent or if there were going to be random stops, and how long tags stay affixed to checked boats.

Public Questions 01:03:06 – 01:04:03

The Board accepted public questions and comments.

RAC Recommendations 01:04:05 – 01:05:50

All the RACs unanimously approved the Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented.

Board Discussion 01:05:51 – 01:06:16

Jake Albrecht expressed similar sentiments of others present in the meeting to keep the Henrys a premier hunting unit.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept R657-60 Aquatic Invasive Species Interdiction Rule Amendment as presented by the Division.

- 9) Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Permit Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2014
(**Action**) **01:06:56 – 02:39:24 of 04:25:11**

Justin Shannon presented the recommendations and rule amendments.

Board Questions 01:15:51 – 01:17:09

Jake Albrecht asked about the 5-year plan. It should have been updated last year, but was extended when the Division switched to the unit-by-unit hunt so more data could be gathered.

Public Questions 01:17:11 – 01:25:56

The Board accepted public questions.

RAC Recommendations 01:26:00 – 01:30:51

Northern RAC passed the recommendations for 2014 without opposition. Central RAC passed it 7 to 1.

Southeast RAC unanimously accepted the recommendations on condition that the number of mature bull permits on the Central Mountains-Manti unit remains the same as approved in 2013 – 430.

Northeast and Southern RACs proposed various amendments to the recommendations and passed with some opposition.

Public Comments 01:30:52 – 02:05:20

The Board accepted public comments.

Jake Albrecht summarized the RAC's recommendations and addressed some of their discussion. Greg Sheehan responded to the public comments.

Board Discussion 02:06:20 – 02:36:06

John Bair addressed the Pansaugunt and Henrys permit recommendations. Mike King expressed concern about adjusting numbers in the recommendations.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed 4-3. Jake Albrecht broke the tie in favor of the motion. Mike King, Calvin Crandall, and Bill Fenimore opposed the motion.

MOTION: I move that we keep the same number of trophy buck permits on the Pansaugunt and Henry Mountain units as approved in 2013.

The Board tackled the Manti unit recommendations. Calvin Crandall noted the inequity of livestock concerns to wildlife issues.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the recommendations for Bucks, Bulls and OIAL permit numbers as presented by the Division and keep the 2014 number of bull permits on the Manti unit at 453.

Calvin Crandall excused himself for the afternoon session. He implored the Board to do more for the elk and strongly consider the inequity of livestock to wildlife ratio as they move forward in their decision process today.

10) Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 (**Action**) **02:39:37 – 03:19:11 of 04:25:11**

Justin Shannon presented the 2014 antlerless permit recommendations.

RAC Recommendation 02:49:24 – 02:53:26

All the RACs except Southern RAC unanimously accepted the Antlerless Permit Recommendations for 2014 as presented. Southern RAC voted 6 to 4 in favor of the recommendation.

Public Comments 02:53:33 – 03:05:30

The Board accepted public comments at this time. There were no questions from the public.

Board Discussion 03:05:31 – 03:19:11

Jake Albrecht proposed the Division add the drought issue to the June and/or August Board meeting to address permit numbers. An emergency meeting can also be called to address the drought.

John Bair opened a discussion on the southwest desert.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we increase the permit recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers in the Southwest Desert from 365 to 425.

The following motion was made by Mike King, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the remainder of the 2014 recommendations for Antlerless Permit numbers as presented by the division.

11) Antlerless CWMU Permit Recommendations for 2014 (**Action**) **03:19:15 – 03:34:28 of 04:25:11**

Scott McFarlane presented the antlerless CWMU permit recommendations for 2014.

Board Questions 03:28:44 – 03:32:02

Jake Albrecht inquired about CWMUs that did not receive tags last year and the hunter success rate on CWMUs.

RAC Recommendations 03:32:04 – 03:33:19

The antlerless CWMU permit recommendations for 2014 passed unanimously at all RACs except Southeastern RAC. Two RAC members had to abstain due to conflicts of interest.

Board Discussion 03:33:21 – 03:34:28

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Antlerless CWMU permit recommendations for 2014 as presented by the division.

12) Donation of CWMU Vouchers (Action) 03:34:30 – 03:46:47 of 04:25:11

Scott McFarlane presented the proposal to donate CWMU vouchers.

Public Comments 03:40:37 – 03:43:09

The Board accepted public comments.

Board Discussion/Comments 03:43:11 – 03:46:47

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Steve Dalton and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the proposal for Donation of CWMU Vouchers as presented by the division.

13) Wild Horse Issue/Discussion (Action) 03:46:49 – 04:21:20 of 04:25:11

Kevin Bunnell presented the wild horse issue. Mike Worthen from Iron County updated the Board on actions that have been taken with BLM to address the problem.

Board Discussion 03:52:57 – 03:59:14

Greg Sheehan echoed the Governor's position on this matter.

The Board discussed potential plans of action to leverage its influence on the BLM.

Public Comments 04:00:14 – 04:09:56

The Board accepted public comments at this time.

Board Comments 04:10:00 – 04:21:21

A letter was prepared in anticipation of the Board's support and was read into record. More comments were made.

Kirk Woodward suggested correcting the vernacular in the letter (feral horses instead of wild horses) and expanding the boundary beyond southern Utah.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we support and endorse the Wild Horse proposal as presented and make the necessary corrections as discussed to the letter that will be sent to the BLM and Juan Palma.

14) Stipulation and Order (Action) 04:21:23 – 04:24:52 of 04:25:11

Greg Hansen presented the stipulation for Brent Baldwin.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the Stipulation and Order for Brent Baldwin as presented by the Division.

Meeting adjourned.

Draft

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: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review
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: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review
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: To be addressed with hunt recommendations in November 2014
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: To be presented June 5, 2014
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: To be presented June 5, 2014
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: To be presented June 5, 2014
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: To be presented June 5, 2014
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: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review

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: Refer to the Mule Deer Committee for Review

Placed on Action Log: December 5, 2013

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
May 2014
Summary of Motions**

1. TURKEY MANAGEMENT PLAN

SRO, SERO, NERO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Management plan as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

NRO:

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Management plan as presented by the Division.

VOTE: passed 9:2

2. TURKEY TRANSPLANT PROPOSED LIST

SRO:

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented by the Division with the exception to include additional transplant sites of Marysvale Canyon, Birchville and City Creek.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To add the additional transplant sites of Mammoth Creek, upper stretches of the Sevier, Minersville and Coal Creek.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Unanimous

VOTE: Unanimous

SERO, NERO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

NRO:

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented by the Division excluding the units that are listed in the Central region but located in the Northern Region.

VOTE: passed 10:1

3. UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE 3-YR RECOMMENDATIONS

SRO:

MOTION: To accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr recommendations as presented by the Division.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To increase the Turkey youth hunt days to 5 days by having the general season hunt start 2 days later.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Carried 7:2

VOTE: Unanimous

SERO:

MOTION: To accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr

recommendations as presented by the Division, except that there be only one turkey permit per hunter per year.

VOTE: Unanimous

NERO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr recommendations as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

NRO:

MOTION: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Upland Game recommendations excepting the turkey limited entry season and establishing the turkey general season throughout the overall recommended frame work.

VOTE: Passed 10:2

MOTION: Motion to amend the previous upland game and turkey recommendation motion to allow the youth hunt as DWR determines within the established frame work.

VOTE: Passed 10:2

4. R657-46 USE OF GAME BIRDS RULE AMENDMENT

All RACs:

MOTION: To accept R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

5. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS

SRO:

MOTION: To accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented with the exception that the season dates on crows for the Southern Region start on Nov 1st with no split season dates.

VOTE: Carried 8:1

SERO:

MOTION: To accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division

VOTE: Carried 4:3

NERO:

MOTION: To accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division

VOTE: Unanimous

CRO:

MOTION: To accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division

VOTE: Carried 7:2

NRO:

MOTION: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Waterfowl Recommendations excluding the American crow.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-3 as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTION: Recommend the Wildlife Board enact a falconry hunt for the American crow within the frame work recommended by the Division.

VOTE: Passed 10:2

MOTION: Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the American crow hunt as proposed by the Division.

Motion Fails: For 3 Against 9

MOTION: Recommend the Wildlife Board not enact any American crow hunt other than falconry.

VOTE: Passes 8:4

6. UTAH TRIAL HUNTER PROGRAM – NEW RULE R657-68

SRO: **MOTION:** To accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program - New Rule R657-68 - as presented with the exception that a minimum age requirement for participants to be set at 18 years.

VOTE: Unanimous

SERO: **MOTION:** To accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program - New Rule R657-68 - as presented.

VOTE: FAILED 3 in favor and 4 opposed.

NERO, CRO:

MOTION: To accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program - New Rule R657-68 - as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

NRO:

MOTION: To accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program - New Rule R657-68 - as presented.

VOTE: passed 11:1

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Snow College Administration Building
Richfield, UT
May 6, 2014
7:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. TURKEY MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Management plan as presented by the Division.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. TURKEY TRANSPLANT PROPOSED LIST

MOTION: To accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented by the Division with the exception to include additional transplant sites of Marysvale Canyon, Birch Creek and City Creek.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To add the additional transplant sites of Mammoth Creek, upper stretches of the Sevier, Minersville and Coal Creek.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Unanimous

VOTE: Unanimous

4. UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE 3-YR RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr recommendations as presented by the Division.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: To increase the Turkey youth hunt days to 5 days by having the general season hunt start 2 days later.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: Carried 7:2

VOTE: Unanimous

5. R657-46 USE OF GAME BIRDS RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION: To accept R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

6. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION: To accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented with the exception that the season dates on crows for the Southern Region start on Nov 1st with no split season dates.

VOTE: Carried 8:1

7. UTAH TRIAL HUNTER PROGRAM – NEW RULE R657-68

MOTION: To accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program - New Rule R657-68 - as presented with the exception that a minimum age requirement for participants to be set at 18 years.

VOTE: Unanimous

MOTIONS THAT FAILED:

MOTION: To *not* accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68 – as presented.

VOTE: Failed 3:6 (3 in favor, 6 opposed)

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting
 Snow College Administration Building
 Richfield, UT
 May 6, 2014
 7:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Clair Woodbury Cordell Pearson Layne Torgerson Mike Staheli Rusty Aiken Dave Black Brian Johnson Mack Morrell Sean Kelly Dale Bagley	Lynn Chamberlain Stephanie Rainey Teresa Griffin Kevin Bunnell Kirk Smith Josh Pollock Blair Stringham Eric Bond Riley Peck Jason Robinson Lynn Zubeck Kody Jones Jason Nicholes Fred Pannunzio Vance Mumford Jim Lamb	Jake Albrecht Steve Dalton	Harry Barber Mike Worthen (excused) Sam Carpenter

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were approximately 13 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Dave Black: I'd like to welcome you to the Southern Region RAC meeting this evening. We appreciate your attendance. Before we get started I'd like to recognize two of our Board members that are in the audience, we have Jake Albrecht, he's the chairman of the Wildlife Board that's here. And we also have Steve Dalton that's here with us. We appreciate them attending. We appreciate the work they do as Board members. Um, I'd like to introduce myself; I'm Dave Black from St. George. I'm the Southern RAC chairman. And maybe I could start down on my far right and we'll have the RAC members introduce themselves and who they represent.

Clair Woodbury: I'm Clair Woodbury from Hurricane. I represent the public at large.

Cordell Pearson: I'm Cordell Pearson from Circleville, and I represent the public at large.

Layne Torgerson: Layne Torgerson from Richfield. I'm a sportsman's representative.

Mike Staheli: Mike Staheli from Delta. I'm an at-large.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken from Cedar City; agriculture.

Kevin Bunnell: I'm Kevin Bunnell. I'm the regional supervisor for the Division of Wildlife for the Southern Region.

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson; I'm from Enoch, Utah. I represent the non-consumptives.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell, Bicknell; representing agriculture.

Sean Kelly: Sean Kelly from Fillmore; representing the Forest Service.

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

Dave Black: Thank you. It looks like most of you have been to a RAC meeting before. But just real briefly on the order of the meeting, as we go through the presentations following each presentation there will be questions that will be asked from the RAC, and then there will be an opportunity for questions from the public. And then at that point we want you to limit your comments to questions. Following the question period then we'll have a comment period. And in order for the public to comment please get one of the comment cards and provide those to one of the DWR representatives and they'll bring them up to us. And we'll allow five minutes for comments. And then we'll ask for any comments from the RAC. And following the comments we proceed for motions and voting. First First order of business that we have is to approve the agenda and the minutes. Do we have a motion from the RAC to do so?

Layne Torgerson: I would like to make a motion that we accept the agenda and the minutes from the last RAC meeting.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion from Layne and a second from Rusty. All those in favor? Any opposed? Okay, it's unanimous.

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

**Wildlife Board Update:
-Dave Black, Chairman**

Dave Black: The next item is to provide a Wildlife Board meeting update. I was at the board meeting last week. Just in summary, for the most part the Wildlife Board approved the recommendations from the Division with the following exceptions: That the southwest desert area for the limited entry bulls, instead of increasing the number of bulls by 10, they left the number of bulls in that area the same and they increased the number of cows by 60, over and above what was recommended by the Division. Also, there was a lengthy discussion about southwest desert area regarding the horses and the number of horses in the area. And there was a letter that had been drafted from the Division to present that letter to the BLM with our concerns about the habitat and the negative impacts that the horses were having in that area. Also, with regards to the Paunsagaunt and the Henry Mountain deer recommendations they elected

not to increase the number of tags and to use the 2013 tag numbers for 2014. And then there was also a lengthy discussion about the drought that we're in, especially here in southern Utah, and what's projected throughout this summer. What was discussed was, which I was impressed with, is at each of the upcoming board meetings there will be a discussion on how the range is doing and a discussion on the possibility of maybe having to increase the number of cow tags on emergency basis to pull some of the animals off of these areas that would be heavily impacted by the drought. And so in the June meeting and in the August meeting that will be on the agenda and there may be some recommendations at that time to increase cow tag numbers in specific areas. I'll turn the time over to Kevin for an update.

Regional Update:

-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor

Kevin Bunnell: All right, thank you Dave. I will just run through each of our sections and give you an update on what's going on. From our aquatics section, the higher elevation lakes are coming, the ice is coming off early this year and recent reports from the Boulder Mountain is that on many of those lakes the ice is off and the fishing has been very good. The ice is off of Fishlake, which is earlier than normal, and fishing should be very good. Ice is also off of Navajo but unfortunately it appears that we may have had a significant winterkill on Navajo. Which I know a lot of my staff is heartbroken over because they love going up there and catching big splake this time of year. And we'll know more about that, they're actually going to set nets and access that situation later this week but early indications aren't good. And that lake has a history of doing that occasionally and it's unfortunate that it probably happened this year. Panguitch Lake, they actually did the survey on that today and it looked very good. I expect fishing on Panguitch Lake to be similar to previous years, which has been very good. From our law enforcement staff, the focus continues to be trying to contain Quagga mussels to Lake Powell. Now that we know they're there and so there's a lot of effort going into working on the boat ramps and there's been some administrative check points along Highway 89 coming out of Wahweep and coming out of Bullfrog. We will be shifting our efforts actually to the ramps with law enforcement officers beginning this weekend while the park service is in the process of kind of changing their direction, going more from prevention to containment. And that will continue to be an evolving situation as we try to protect the rest of the waters in Utah from having or getting Quagga mussels. From the wildlife section, they're in the middle of their spring range assessments, which may become very important this year to give us an idea of where we're starting the year in terms of habitat conditions if water conditions continue to be poor. Last weekend there was also a big project in cooperation with SFW in planting a bunch of bitterbrush on the Parowan Front. That's some of that range that we've been concerned about and been removing deer of and we appreciate the efforts there. From our habitat section, relative to what Dave mentioned in terms of kind of following the conditions of habitat through this summer, they've put together kind of a drought assessment plan for the region; right now primarily focused on the southwest desert because that's where the issue is most acute, but we'll also be staying in close contact with the federal land management agencies and making sure we're, if we need to make additional recommendations to make sure that we're not damaging habitat we'll do that as the summer progresses. And then lastly from the habitat section, Gary just wanted me to mention that our seasonal road closures on our wildlife management areas ended April 30th, so access to the wildlife management areas is now open. So that's all I have Dave but I'd be glad to take any questions if there are any.

Dave Black: Okay, um, before we move to the first action item and presentation I also wanted to mention that two of our RAC members were at the Board meeting, Mac was there and had some comments and we appreciate him for going up there and expressing those comments. I felt like the

Board was very attentive to his concerns, also to the concerns of the, is it the Cattleman's Association? Who was the representative there? Yeah, I thought he did an excellent job in some of his comments. And then we also had Mike Worthen was there and commented on the wild horse issue. So we appreciate them by going to Salt Lake and their comments and again, the work that they do as RAC members and the concerns that they have. So it looks like our first action item then is um, we're on item number 5, which would be the Turkey Management Plan by Jason Robinson.

Turkey Management Plan (action) 11:18 to 17:02 of 2:50:56
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Do I have any questions from the RAC?

Dale Bagley: I'm not sure, it might come up later but I read that you are discontinuing the landowner draw. Is there still going to be landowner tags or is that done away with? What's going on there?

Jason Robinson: We can either talk about this now or it comes up in the guidebook portion. Whatever you'd prefer.

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Do I have any questions from the public?

None

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: Do we have comment cards?

None

Kevin Bunnell: Paul, yours says crows, turkeys, etc. Are you interested in commenting on the plan or on the recommendations?

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any comments from the RAC? It looks like we're ready to entertain a motion.

Dale Bagley: I will make a motion that we approve the Turkey Management Plan as proposed.

Dave Black: We have a motion from Dale to approve the management plan as proposed. A second from Sean. Do we have any discussion on the motion? Okay, all those in favor? Is that unanimous? Okay, thank you.

Dale Bagley made the motion to accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented. Sean Kelly seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: All right, we're ready to move on to item number 6, which is Turkey Transplant Proposed List.

Turkey Transplant Proposed List (action) 19:19 to 21:46 of 2:50:56
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Do I have any questions from the RAC? Cordell?

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, your sites where you've had turkeys before and it's been a pretty good population but in the last two years, like City Creek which is out of Junction, and Birch Creek which is out of Circleville, I mean I'm up there all the time and I have not seen a turkey in the last two years. I'm sure there are a few there but there's very few. The other one is Marysville Canyon; I drive that road every day and I used to see turkeys all the time and I no longer see any turkeys. Now does that mean they've moved or does that mean that we've had a problem with them and they're all dead? And have you looked at any of those sites about transplanting turkeys in there?

Jason Robinson: Uh, well maybe I'll have one of the local biologists that know the area a little bit better try and address some of those concerns if that's all right.

Vance Mumford: The Marysville Canyon turkeys there, they used to be fun to watch. The winter of 010, um, that reduced that population severely, at least that's when they disappeared was in that time period. And so, and I haven't noticed them in there since. And so, but I don't think that's on the current transplant list.

Cordell Pearson: What about, you cover City Creek and Birch Creek too?

Josh Pollock: I don't cover it where it's on the Beaver but I was a CO up there and it's the same thing that Vance said, in 2010, 2011 when we had all that snow we lost a lot of birds that were in there. So, um, I don't know if it's on the transplant list or not. Riley covers the Beaver. But I know that's why a lot of those birds in that area died was from that winter.

Cordell Pearson: S my next question to you is are you going to look at those areas that have had turkeys for years and now have none when you do this transplant?

Jason Robinson: Yeah, so um, within the management plans that we just passed, one of the objectives is to look at these areas where we have declining populations and try and identify what may have caused that and then look at options. If it's habitat try and create habitat. If it's some kind of severe winter look at importing birds, transplants. So that's part of the plan. And part of our strategy is if it's good habitat . . . The one thing we've got to make sure we do is try and identify why the birds are not there now and make sure that it's still a good turkey site, which I think these areas are, and then identify what we need to do to make sure that they stay there.

Cordell Pearson: Thank you

Layne Torgerson: Jason, um, on this transplant list, will some of these birds . . . I know that one of the concerns of the Division is the depredating and the nuisance birds, is that where some of these transplant birds will come from?

Jason Robinson: Yeah, um so the example I gave of the Northern Region were areas where like the town of Mendon has a whole bunch of turkeys that come out in the winter, um, so we've caught birds there and transplanted them. One of the things that people get concerned if they're kind of bad birds if they're going to be bad where we put them in a new area. And often what we've found is if you put them in an area that has sufficient habitat a lot of the time they don't become bad birds somewhere else kind of thing. And we're pretty careful to make sure we put these birds in areas where we're hoping they won't become an issue.

Kevin Bunnell: And Layne, just for you guys' information, we moved I think 500 birds within the region this year, a bunch out of Parowan and a bunch out of Enterprise that were, they were in town causing problems, you know, crapping on people's front porches and stuff. And so we're pretty active doing that within the region and moving them out to areas where they're not going to have conflicts and you know putting them in areas where we need to supplement or start new populations.

Clair Woodbury: So, can I ask Kevin, in areas like Cordell is mentioning, can they be supplemented without being on this transplant list with these nuisance birds?

Kevin Bunnell: I would say the safest thing, and Jason correct me if I am wrong, if you have areas that you would like to see on that list I would make that part of your motion as you address this agenda item; to add those if there's areas that you want, that you think ought to be added to the list that you include that in a motion. That's probably the safest way to have it covered.

Dave Black: Mack.

Mack Morrell: There we go. I was looking on our stuff that was sent out on the initial transplant, or the supplemental transplant. And I don't see any down in the Southern Region down on the Fremont River, down in that Kaneshville area. And they've got a bunch of turkeys there. I don't know where they came from. Old John Jackson he's having quite a problem down there. And I don't go down there very often; I just happened to go down to church in Hanksville one Sunday and there was about two or three hundred birds all through that country there. So I don't know where they came from. But it's not on your transplant list. They must have, Jim, maybe he knows.

Jim Lamb: They came there in 1993. That was a really old list. That's where they came from.

Mack Morrell: Oh, okay. Yeah, I was going to say, I was about to call John but maybe we want to transplant some out of there.

Jason Robinson: So this transplant list covers where they go to. Um, it doesn't cover where we capture them from, if that makes sense. So . . .

Mack Morrell: What do we need to do to add something to capture from?

Jason Robinson: Tell Jim.

Kevin Bunnell: We don't need that on a list Mack. If there's a problem we can go address it without it being on a list.

Dale Bagley: On some of your transplant sites it looks like you got the wrong counties, not that it matters, like Monroe, Dry Creek, and the range above Dry Creek, it shows Sevier County. It should be Piute on those. Pole Canyon, not that it's a big issue.

Jason Robinson: We can either have you guys correct those or work with our local folks to get it corrected for the Board.

Dave Black: Do we have any additional questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the public? Please come forward.

Scott Christensen: I was just wondering if I could get Mack's help. I've tried to get permission down there to hunt with my kids and . . . Oh, Scott Christensen. Is there any way you could help me facilitate some of that access so we could bring some hunters in there?

Mack Morrell: Down in Kanerville?

Scott Christensen: Yeah. I mean that would be great because we never, we've asked before and we've been asked, yeah better not. I don't know all the landowners down there. But yeah, if you could help us we'd love it. We'd love to go hunt those birds.

Mack Morrell: Call me tomorrow.

Scott Christensen: We'll do it. Thank you

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: Do we have a comment card? Oh, that's it. Okay we have Scott's comment card. Was that your comment Scott? Okay. We don't have any additional comment cards.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? It looks like we are ready to entertain a motion on this item.

Brian Johnson: I think that maybe Cordell, if you could add your items in there that would be great.

Cordell Pearson: Okkie dokie, I'll do it. Okay, I'd like to make a motion that we approve the plan presented by DNR but I'd also like to, and I don't know if I amend that at this point in time that we

include Marysvale Canyon, Birch Creek out of Circleville, and City Creek out of Junction up Highway 153.

Kevin Bunnell: So that's good just like that. The motion is to approve it with the addition of those three sites.

Dave Black: Then we have a second on that motion. Is there any discussion?

Rusty Aiken: Can we add others too?

Dave Black: Yeah, with an amendment.

Rusty Aiken: I would like to make an amendment to include the Mammoth Creek, the upper stretches of the Sevier, and the Minersville and Beaver drainages, and Coal Creek.

Dave Black: Okay, we also have a second on the amendment. Do we have any discussion on the amendment?

Mike Staheli: In the plan, I think the DWR is studying the sites. And I'm wondering if instead of just saying let's transplant them there, maybe these aren't suitable; I don't know, but that should be addressed before the transplant I think.

Kevin Bunnell: It will be.

Mike Staheli: Okay that was my comment.

Dave Black: Do I have any further discussion? Okay, so we need to address the amendment first. So we'll vote on the amendment. And the amendment was to include (off mic). Okay, all in favor? It looks like the motion carries.

Dave Black: Okay, now we'll address the main motion which is to include the plan as presented with the addition of Birch Creek, City Creek, Marysvale Canyon. All those in favor? Motion carries.

Cordell Pearson made the motion to accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented with the exception that they include in their transplant sites, Marysvale Canyon, Birch Creek and City Creek. Layne Torgerson seconded. Rusty Aiken made an amendment to the motion to also include in the transplant sites Mammoth Creek, Upper stretches of the Sevier, Minersville and Coal Creek. Layne Torgerson seconded the amendment. Amendment passed unanimously. Original Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay we're ready to move on to the next item which is number 7, which is the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-year Recommendations.

Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations (action) 34:02 to 50:55 of 2:50:56
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the RAC?

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, I have one. What we're going to vote on this and then later on the crow thing is going to come up. So how are we going to approve this if we don't approve that? How can we vote on it first?

Jason Robinson: What we would recommend is um, approving it after you've heard the proposal from the migratory game bird coordinator. Uh, there's several species that fall within that program, and so there's a few species that you would approve through that process.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, let me ask then about crows, is it legal to hunt crows now?

Jason Robinson: It is not. Depending on, well I'll let Blair answer that.

Blair Stringham: It's currently not legal to hunt them or to kill them in any form, even if they're depredating or doing anything like that.

Cordell Pearson: Is that like a federal statute or is that a state statute?

Blair Stringham: Yeah and I can get in to it a little bit more when I do the migratory upland game regulations.

Dave Black: Sean, did you have a question?

Sean Kelly: Yeah, Jason on the fall turkey hunt where that overlaps big game hunts will there be a hunter orange requirement for people that draw that tag?

Jason Robinson: We didn't have that in there but that's something that we'll have to . . . one of the things we'll have to do is make sure we're consistent with a lot of the other laws and regulations, so, um we'll have to look at that specifically.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, it says you recommend a 10 to 28 gauge; so hunting with centerfire rifles won't be legal?

Jason Robinson: Correct. So although legal, (unintelligible) within dwellings, all those laws in place would apply. So for the fall turkey hunt it would be legal weapons, which is archery, crossbow and the shotgun, within those ranges.

Dave Black: Now we have some more questions down this way.

Rusty Aiken: So a 12 gauge is not legal?

Jason Robinson: It is legal. What we are doing is allowing 28 gauges in addition. It used to stop at 20 gauge; we're now allowing, or recommending 28 gauge.

Rusty Aiken: Why not a point system on your fall hunt?

Jason Robinson: The main reason is we didn't want bonus points to get carried over and because we're trying to use this as a hunt to mostly address conflicts. And so to be kind of flexible each year it's less predictable than the spring hunt and so we thought it might work better this way so people aren't accumulating a bunch of points that in a few years maybe there's less opportunity or more, it's not as consistent as spring. But, you know, I guess we're open to suggestions.

Rusty Aiken: So if you did points you'd have to have a fall point and a spring hunt, or spring point, something like that?

Jason Robinson: Yep, that's kind of what we thought.

Rusty Aiken: It seems like where ever you do a draw eventually they end up having to have a point system.

Jason Robinson: And that may happen with this.

Rusty Aiken: You always got the lucky ones that draw every time and the unlucky ones that don't.

Jason Robinson: Yeah, and we would most likely recommend a preference point for the fall because it's more of a general season. But that's something that we could look at.

Kevin Bunnell: Jason, I am just curious, what you have heard on, or have you heard enough to say anything on sage grouse counts for the year? I know on our west desert units down here we were up. Do you have any general feel for the state?

Jason Robinson: In the general sense I haven't got any of the data, but talking with our biologists it seems like we're up this year, maybe quite a bit. But we'll see when the final numbers come in, which is very consistent with the cycle. The sage grouse we see they kind of go through this cyclic nature and it's following that cycle very closely actually. So uh, so I think we'll see an increase in the number of birds this year.

Brian Johnson: I just noticed that the 10% falconry, you're having those guys go through the draw. Were those tags even being used? Or is that why you went to it is just so we could get the unused ones into the?

Jason Robinson: What we saw is very little utilization. We were only seeing about 30 people taking advantage of that. Um, again it was pretty difficult in the time because we're using within your information and so we were getting really crunched for time. And honestly we thought it would be fair to have those guys compete.

Brian Johnson: Yeah, I think it's fine. I was just wondering if it's a way to get more opportunity. If there was opportunity left on the table I'm all for it because it sounds like there was..

Dave Black: One question I had with the fall turkey hunt; this 15% to the youth, is that kind of a

standard percentage?

Jason Robinson: Yeah, we use that for sage grouse, sharp tail.

Dave Black: It just seems like if we are taking females it might be more geared to youth but maybe not. I didn't know if . . .if we'd want higher percentage or maybe that will be taken care of just with the normal draw or something. But it seems to me like it's kind of a youth hunt but maybe not.

Jason Robinson: You know I think we will have a lot of adults that are interested in the fall hunt. The youth we have 15% set aside, which is pretty standard, and that's why we recommended that.

Dave Black: One more question I had. This came from the comment from some people down in St. George. Have we always had an hour requirement, you know like the turkey hunt it starts at a certain time each day and ends at a certain time each day, has that always been in place?

Jason Robinson: Um, as far as I can remember.

Dave Black: Because it seems to me like you hunt turkeys when they hit the ground and you hunt turkeys until they go back to the roost. Uh, well the story that I heard, I'll tell you the story and you guys can take it for what it is. But okay the guy's out hunting with his 14 yearold boy; first time he's hunted turkeys. They are hunting on private property. The turkeys are there for a few minutes in the morning and they're there for a few minutes in the afternoon, cause they're coming through. And they're all set up, they're calling, they got a real nice tom coming and he gets there like 2 minutes after the closing time. And they don't shoot it. And uh, I don't know. Is that hard to enforce? Are we still, are we hunting from turkey on the ground to turkey in the tree? It seems to me like . . .Turkey hunting is new to me. I love the hunt. It's a lot of fun especially with the youth, with my kids. I hope my grandkids hunt. But it seems to me like you get an opportunity early and you might get an opportunity late and it's kind of hard to watch the clock.

Jason Robinson: Well you know the hunt times are standard that we have for the Division; they're the same as deer and elk, that kind of thing. And the main reason for turkeys is we don't want to promote people shooting roosting turkeys, shooting them out of the trees.

Brian Johnson: That's illegal at 12:00 noon in the day though, right?

Jason Robinson: Shooting a roosted tree turkey is illegal.

Brian Johnson: That's what I am saying. Shooting a turkey in a roost is illegal, correct?

Jason Robinson: Out of a tree, yeah.

Brian Johnson: So it wouldn't matter if it were at noonday or if it's at 6:42 am, that's illegal. So sorry.

Dave Black: Yeah, again, it's new to me, but it just seems like once they come out of the tree we ought to be able to hunt them until they're back in the tree, we ought to be able to hunt them.

Jason Robinson: The hunting hours are pretty standard. Most hunters are familiar with it. And actually

it's an advantage with turkeys because they're active during the day. They're not like deer or elk that can be nocturnal. So you actually have more opportunity for turkeys than even like big game because they're more active during daylight hours.

Dave Black: Okay, well it was just a question. Do we have any other questions from the RAC? Mike.

Mike Staheli: On this crow situation, do other states actually consider a crow a game bird? It just baffles me that we're considering them a game bird, a migratory game bird

Jason Robinson: Um, other states do and when Blair goes into the details, I think he has some details on how many other states and that sort of thing.

Dave Black: Okay, we have one more question, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: Can you bait turkeys?

Jason Robinson: No, you may not.

Brian Johnson: Rusty, you can't spill a grain bag out on a gravel road for turkeys. Okay?

Kevin Bunnell: He asked if you could for crows.

Brian Johnson: Well absolutely.

Dave Black: Do we have any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: There are questions from the audience. Come forward and please state your name.

Mike Clark: My name is Mike Clark. A question on the late hunt for the turkeys. Why would we let you put in for spring and fall when people don't draw in the spring should have a better chance at equaling out and letting them draw in the fall is kind of a bonus chance to hunt rather than give everybody in the state thrown in again and ruin their chances of drawing a turkey that year, and giving other people a chance to draw too?

Jason Robinson: Um, so in the spring hunt, anyone can hunt turkeys. You know we have an over the counter season, unlimited permits. The limited entry, it is a little bit tougher to draw. But what we thought was everyone would have an equal opportunity in the fall to draw the permit. And anyone can hunt turkeys in the spring. So that was kind of our rationale for the recommendation.

Dave Black: Another question?

Mike Staheli: But that would still leave the limited entry is what I'm talking about. They're both limited entry hunt basically because you're limiting the hunt for the fall to these areas and so many permits and you're limiting the limited entry for the early hunts, which is more productive, and things. And then you go to the general hunt and you're just kind of up in the air whether you're going to be successful or not.

These would be basically more of a, you know, a guaranteed good hunt like a limited entry hunt is on the turkey in the normal season.

Dave Black: Do we have any other questions from the public? Please state your name Jake.

Jake Albrecht: Jake Albrecht. What's the hunter success rate on the sage hens? Last year, the last couple of years?

Jason Robinson: Uh, it varies on the four different hunt areas. But it usually ranges from about 60 to 80 % depending on the year and the unit. And that's the number of hunters that harvest at least one bird, which is what we consider successful. They can harvest two; we track at least how many harvested one bird.

Dave Black: Come forward.

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, just representing myself. I just wanted to make a comment on the upland game and mostly just thank the Division for the birds that they put together last year on everything and gave sportsman the opportunity to raise. We took advantage of that over in Wayne County. A friend of mine and I, Kevin New, we raised about 200 birds and let them go down at the Bicknell Bottoms which is a WMA of the state. Just had a lot of fun. I was really excited to see the change date, my only complaint about it was we were cramming and trying to kill with only two birds a day we raised way more than we could give away. It seemed like we had probably 30 youths at different times trying to come down. And we were planting birds and letting them shoot them and we had just a great time. And I think there were a lot of people that didn't realize that that was going on that had some phenomenal hunting. Between what I was able to do and SFW was able to do, I think we let go about 400 roosters on a pretty small area. We invite you guys that said they're on private, come over to Wayne County, we've got a lot of birds. We're going to do it again this year. I think the SFW is going to fund the birds. But I'm really excited to see the extended time on those areas. We could definitely use it; give more opportunity to hunt upland game. So I just want to thank the Division for that. It's been a great program

Dave Black: Is that your comment that you had there Scott? We appreciate your comment. We need to train you a little bit in the meeting procedure so when you go up to the Wildlife Board meeting that we do questions, and then we do comments off the cards. So when you get up in front of Jake he'll keep you in line. But we do appreciate your comments and you being here. Thank you very much. If there are no further questions from the public then we'll go to the comment section now.

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: And we have cards from Paul Neimeyer and then DeLoss. So Paul if you want to come and then DeLoss next.

Paul Niemeyer: I am representing Sports for Fish and Wildlife. We concur with everything that was just presented with one exception, we would like the youth hunt between the spring draw and the general season spring to be 5 days instead of 3. It will give him a little more chance if he wants his kids there. Because that's kind of what most of what we're doing around here any more it trying to get this opportunity going for kids. So we'd just ask for 5 days instead of 3, between those two hunts.

Dave Black: So let me ask you Paul, then do you have to shorten one of the hunts or how would you propose that be done? Because you have the limited entry and that usually ends on a Thursday. And then you'd have 5 days before you start the general season. Is that what you'd be, so the general season would start in the middle of the week . . .

Paul Niemeyer: We don't necessarily want to shorten that second hunt. But just move it back two more days. And you could add two days on the end.

Dave Black: So you'd have to change the date and extend it. Okay.

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen, Glenwood, Utah. I'm just representing myself. I'd like to support the Divisions' recommendation. I particularly appreciate the extended pheasant hunt for the state lands. Give these youth and these upland game hunters a little more time to shoot some of these birds that we're raising for that purpose. So I really appreciate that. And I have a question, it may be out of place in the process, but the question I've got is whether or not crows are known to bother sage grouse eggs? Is that a reality or just a rumor that take place?

Jason Robinson: Um, so one thing to keep clear is that ravens are different than crows. And so there's good research documenting that ravens can have impacts to sage grouse nests. Not as good of information about crows. Often crows live in a little bit different habitat than sage grouse. But if they were to overlap, crows are intelligent just like ravens are, they might be able to take advantage. But I think the issue is probably more of a raven issue than a crow issue.

DeLoss Christensen: My comment would be then with regards to the many concerns for agriculture and use of public lands for livestock grazing and hunting, of course, that we give some serious thought, if not today then soon, into harvesting these ravens then. If they're putting our lands at jeopardy we need to take care of that and it needs to be put on the agenda. Thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you DeLoss. Okay, that's all the comment cards. That's all that we have.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? Okay, Dale.

Dale Bagley: So on the youth hunt, why is it just 3 days? Would it be a problem to have a 3-day youth hunt and then have that permit continue on through the remainder of the general season along with the other hunters? I mean can you extend that youth permit? (Unintelligible) 3 -day hunt and then hunt along with the other hunt afterward?

Jason Robinson: You're talking turkeys?

Dale Bagley: Yeah.

Jason Robinson: So what we would do, as was mentioned, is we have the hunts running pretty much continuous, and so we would either have to shift the limited entry hunt forward and add the days there or cut into the over the counter season and shorten the hunt there. We don't generally want to go into June with the turkey hunt because you start to have poults, chicks on the ground and we don't want to impact

that.

Kevin Bunnell: I think you misunderstood the question Jason. Dale, so right now if a youth buys and over the counter tag they can hunt those three days but then they can continue to hunt clear through the end of May right now.

Dale Bagley: They can already do that. All right.

Kevin Bunnell: So the question would be, do we make that 3-day hunt a 5-day hunt and then still, I think them being about to hunt through the end of May has always been on the table. That's the way we do it now and I would suspect we would continue to do it that way.

Jason Robinson: Correct, sorry I misunderstood.

Dale Bagley: I was just under the impression they could only hunt 3-days and their hunt ended.

Kevin Bunnell: So what it amounts to is their over the counter hunt starts 3 days before everybody else's does right now.

Brian Johnson: I just have a logistical question. What if, and I'm just asking, we've got laws on the books that are hard to enforce, but say with turkeys what if you hunt them from when they hit the ground to when they hit the roost? Do you see a problem with that, with taking the times out of it and going with the commonsense approach with that or do you see . . .? Is this a? Yeah, just answer that.

Kevin Bunnell: Well sometimes, and we have always been there; common sense and hunting don't go together at times. You know there's a strong drive there and you know having some limits on it is sometimes good. Kody, you know it's really an enforcement issue as much as anything. Do you have anything you'd like to, I mean, to respond to that from a . . .? You know right now it's a half hour before official sunrise and a half an hour after official sunset and that's pretty standard for everything. Um, you know for the case of simplicity I think it makes a lot of sense to keep it the same just so it doesn't matter what you're hunting it's the same.

Kody Jones: From a law enforcement standpoint, you know, the last 6 years that I've been doing this job, one of the common complaints I get is people shooting them out of a roost but it's really tough to catch. We do occasionally catch them shooting them out of a roost. To be honest, the hours thing I've really never had a lot of problems with that. I had one call last year, an individual called and stated, hey they just shot this out of a roost. Or excuse me, they shot before shooting hours but it actually turned out they shot . . . Usually if you look at those shooting hours we're allowing you to shoot pretty much from the point you can see the bird until you can't. It's pretty dark when you can shoot and it's pretty dark when you can't shoot. My concern would be, especially with the spring hunts, are they going to be able to see the beard. Are they going to know they're shooting a rooster versus a hen. If it's that dark are they going to know what they're shooting. So from a law enforcement standpoint that would be my concern. I don't want to waste my time pinching . . . you know my goal is not to be out there harassing, and to be harassing good people that make simple mistakes. So the cleaner we can keep it from a law enforcement standpoint the better it is for us. So we can focus on the bad guys. I mean that's . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks Kody. Hey Eric, next one's yours.

Dave Black: Okay, any additional comments from the RAC?

Rusty Aiken: I tend to agree with Mr. Clark on the draw and the point system. I think if you're going to do a point system they should be the same and provide opportunity or fairness. If someone draws then they're out and then you have a new batch that puts in for the fall hunt. It provides opportunity for more people through the draw system. I'd like some discussion on that to have the point system the same.

Brian Johnson: The one down side to that is, I'm just sitting here thinking about it, is there may not be an opportunity every year so these guys might be acquiring points because that's what we do as hunters, we just, oh yeah a point we'll buy it. And it may not even be something that they use very often and with points comes entitlements, sometimes.

Rusty Aiken: Yeah, but it would be the same point. If you had a fall point it would be for fall.

Brian Johnson: Oh, you're saying combine the fall, both hunts.

Rusty Aiken: It would be a turkey point. So if you didn't draw, if you didn't draw on the spring hunt you could apply for the fall hunt. And you have a better chance of drawing a fall hunt than somebody that had already drawn a spring hunt.

Brian Johnson: I think you're going to run into a lot of people who would want to smoke their spring points on a fall bird.

Rusty Aiken: Well that's okay. There are very few permits. There's only two or three hundred permits so it wouldn't be a big.

Brian Johnson: Well no, but if you put in, I mean I like the idea of keeping them separate all the way around because it is two very separate hunts. I mean if it's a . . .

Rusty Aiken: If it's a turkey.

Mike Clark: I understand that they are 2 separate points but there both would be like you say, people would want to burn their points on the fall hunt. And a guy puts in to burn his point on the spring hunt and he draws it and then he says, gall I can put in for a fall hunt any time because I don't need to any more, we're all going to put in for that. The guy that didn't draw the spring hunt gets aced again by the guy that already drew the spring hunt and draws a fall permit. Which, you know, if you draw a spring turkey you're out for the fall. And it makes you do a little bit of, you know, everything isn't free in this world, you've got to make a decision. You know, do you want to hunt spring or fall or take your chances.

Dave Black: Do we have any additional comments or discussion in regard to that? That can be addressed as a separate item. It could be addressed as an amendment or it could fail from a motion. So you guys can, Clair, are you ready?

Clair Woodbury: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation on the turkey proclamation as presented.

Dave Black: Do we have a second? Okay we have a motion to accept the recommendations as presented and a second by Brian. Do we have any discussion on the motion? Mike.

Mike Staheli: Is this the time to make an amendment?

Dave Black: Yes.

Mike Staheli: I'd like to make an amendment to the motion that we, the fall turkey hunt is a limited entry hunt that we lump it in with all the limited entry hunts. It's just a different time, it's the same species, it should just be limited enter fall turkey hunt, Southern Region, or limited entry fall turkey hunt Northern Region, if those are the two areas. So it just basically adds two more limited entry hunts. Is that right? Same point system, same, basically the same thing.

Dave Black: Okay we have an amendment to the motion. Do I have a second on the amendment? We have a second by Rusty. Do we have any discussion on the amendment?

Brian Johnson: I have a question. On this map of the Northern Region, are those primarily private property areas that we're talking about here? Or, I mean, we're, problem birds?

Jason Robinson: Uh, depends on the hunt areas. So some of the Southern Region proposed hunts have quite a bit of public land. The Northern Region has quite a, I didn't do an analysis on the percentage of private, but a lot of it is private in the Northern Region. But I think it varies by the region and the hunt unit.

Brian Johnson: And you guys would obviously put your little notation in there once it reaches a certain percentage you guys usually put a notation in there saying this is a primarily private hunt so these guys know what they're getting into when they put in for it?

Jason Robinson: Correct.

Brian Johnson: Okay.

Dave Black: Any additional comments? Rusty?

Rusty Aiken: Can I make another amendment?

Kevin Bunnell: You've got to vote on the one you've got first.

Dave Black: Do we have any other discussion on the amendment? Okay, we have an amendment and a second to the amendment that the fall turkey hunt be included in the limited entry point system. We're ready to vote. All those in favor of the amendment? Those opposed? The amendment fails, 5 to 4.

4 in favor, 5 opposed – fails.

Dave Black: Clair?

Clair Woodbury: Dave, I need to reinstate my motion to include also the upland game portion, I just mentioned the turkey; turkey and upland game in my motion.

Dave Black: Okay, that's the main motion.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah the main motion. I just mentioned turkey and I need to add the upland game also in it.

Dave Black: And who had the second on it? Okay, all right. Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: I would like to make an amendment to the motion to increase the youth to the 5 days rather than the 3 days on the turkey hunt.

Dave Black: Okay. Do we have a second? We have a second from Layne. Do we have any discussion on this amendment?

Brian Johnson: I just want to be clear, would you be taking from the back end of that two more days then? Or would you be taking from the front half of the limited entry to make that a 5 day?

Layne Torgerson: I think the easiest way to do that Brian would be just to, the limited entry, leave the limited entry because those dates are already set and then not start the over the counter hunt until Wednesday. I mean that's the simplest common sense solution to that.

Brian Johnson: I just wanted to be clear of what we were doing.

Layne Torgerson: That's how, that's how I would look at it. Yeah, still end on May 31st.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have any further discussion on the amendment? Clair.

Clair Woodbury: We do realize that Monday and Tuesday these kids are in school. Are you encouraging truancy here?

Dave Black: Well we have a half hour before sunrise, and half hour after sunset. Okay, are we ready to? Okay we're ready to vote on that amendment. All those in favor? Those opposed? The amendment carries. That was, what was the count on that? 7 to 2.

Vote on amendment 7 for, 2opposed, (Mack Morrell and Clair Woodbury opposed). Passes

Dave Black: Now we're ready to vote on the main amended motion. To accept the plan as presented with the amendment for turkey and upland game. All those in favor? It's unanimous. Motion carries.

Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr recommendations as presented. Brian Johnson seconded. Rusty Aiken made an amendment to the motion to increase the youth turkey hunt days to 5 days by having the general season hunt start 2 days later. Layne Torgerson seconded. Vote on Amendment carried 7:2 (Mack Morrell and Clair Woodbury opposed) Original motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay now we're on, which one? Eight? Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment.

R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment (action) 1:22:45 to 1:24:15 of 2:50:56
-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Do we have any questions, further questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the public?

None

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: Do we have any comment cards on this item?

None

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Do we have any comments from the RAC? We're ready to entertain a motion. Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I would like to make a motion that we accept Rule R-657-46 Use of Game Birds as presented by the Division

Dave Black: Do we have a second? Second by Dale. Okay, so we have a motion and a second to accept the new rule R657-68 as presented. All those in favor? Motion carries, unanimous.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept the R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: We're on waterfowl.

Waterfowl Recommendations (action) 1:25:31 to 1:38:36 of 2:50:56
-Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Any questions from the RAC? I have question: I don't know that I can tell the difference between a crow and a raven. Is that going to be an issue?

Blair Stringham: The way the other states have addressed it around us, they've put out literature to kind of explain the differences. For the most part there's a large size difference, there's also behavioral differences, typically ravens are more solitary and crows tend to be in larger groups. And so there are quite a few ways to determine or distinguish the differences and so that is something that we would put out a lot of information about to try to educate our hunters before they actually go out and participate in the hunt.

Dave Black: Mack.

Mack Morrell: What about hunting sandhill cranes in the Southern Region?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so that was an action item I believe last year, possibly the year before that. A few years ago, yeah. And so we looked at that, kind of the constraints we're under now is we only get a certain number of cranes we can harvest each year. And for the most part we've been putting all of our resources towards areas that have high numbers of cranes and high numbers, amount of depredation. And so for instance up in the Northern Region they tend to have about 1/3 of the total number of cranes in the state and lots and lots of damage up there. And so if we were to create a hunt down here we would have to pull permits from some of those other regions that have a lot of depredation. And so what we are currently doing is doing a yearly crane survey to track the number of cranes as well as trying to access any damage that we may have. So at some future point should we get more allocation of sandhill crane tags this would definitely be the first place we would look at doing a hunt.

Mack Morrell: Can you apply for more permits from the flyway? Or is that set in stone?

Blair Stringham: It's based off a 3-year average of the total crane population of the pacific flyway. And so based on whatever the crane populations doing we get a certain percentage of that, usually it comes out to be 9 or 10% of the total permits that are given out that year. And so that's based off of the breeding and winter habitat that we have. And so there's not a lot of flexibility in that just depending upon what the population's doing and that will raise and lower depending on the overall crane population.

Mack Morrell: What about those cranes that stay?

Blair Stringham: So we have a few cranes that aren't migratory. And for the most part they aren't causing a lot of damage, other than the time periods when we have the majority of the cranes in the state. And so they still fall under the category as a migratory bird species and so they fall under all the other rules that apply to all the other sandhill cranes that do leave.

Mack Morrell: We have a bunch in Bicknell Bottoms that stay there year round. They raise their young in the alfalfa field.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so we do have some cranes that do breed here as well.

Mack Morrell: I have another question on crows. I can see where most of the upland game and the migratory birds people kill them and eat them. Do they eat crows?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, there are actually quite a few recipes online where you can look up how to eat crows. So they would be considered a game species and all those caveats would apply to them.

Mack Morrell: I don't know if crows are a nuisance or not but in my limited area I don't see much of a nuisance in crows. I consider those doe deer in my field more of a nuisance more than I do crows I can tell you that.

Blair Stringham: So we do, the nuisance and the depredation damage is primarily on the Wasatch Front, that's by far where the most crows are. And we have seen an expanding crow population. I know there's some in Cedar City, some in the Uintah Basin. And so there are species that probably will pioneer some new areas over time but they are primarily concentrated in urban areas. So the chance of a large crow population occurring in Southern Utah probably isn't a huge threat, I wouldn't think.

Cordell Pearson: I have a question.

Dave Black: Sean first and then Cordell.

Sean Kelly: Will those be available to falconers as well?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, they would be. So any of the things that have fallen underneath upland game bird rule for doves and pigeons would apply (unintelligible).

Dave Black: Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: Yeah, my question is, we do have a state law now that says we cannot hunt crows?

Blair Stringham: Yep. So . . .

Cordell Pearson: How did that happen when 45 other states hunt them?

Blair Stringham: Each state has the right to pretty much kind of pick and choose which regulations they want to include in their rule. And so several years ago we took crows out, and I couldn't give you the specific reason why they were removed from that depredation rule, but we'd like at this time to put them back into that depredation rule.

Cordell Pearson: So does this have to be a legislative thing?

Blair Stringham: It's not; it is just modifying the rules like we do each year. And so we would just be including crows with another list of birds that's already in there, such as magpies and starlings and things like that.

Cordell Pearson: Well why don't we just take them off the list and not make them a game bird and hunt them?

Blair Stringham: I mean we are free to do both, and putting them on this list could apply to depredation still, even if the hunt doesn't go through. And so if we have the hunt go through you would be limited to these specific season dates that we are recommending. Whereas the depredation order that would go

into effect would allow you to take them 365 days a year and remove even if you don't have a license and things like that. So they are actually two separate things. We are just looking to include them both at this time because they're not on either one currently.

Cordell Pearson: But it looks to me like that if we just take them off this list, whatever they're on, and you can shoot them any time you want like Eurasian doves, why do we need to make a special hunt for crows?

Blair Stringham: And that's where it becomes a little problematic because they are allowed to be taken from the Fish and Wildlife standpoint but from the state standpoint they have to be listed as a species that isn't protected under all the other stuff of the migratory bird treaty act. And so by putting them on this list we would allow them to have additional privileges, which would be to kill them. Which currently they aren't on that list and so we aren't allowed to kill them, they're considered like a robin or any of the other birds that are protected by the migratory bird treaty act and can't legally be taken.

Cordell Pearson: Okay.

Clair Woodbury: Just as clarification, we either have a hunting season for them or we don't hunt them at all. We can't add them to the nongame species like a coyote or jackrabbit? Where you can hunt them at any time anywhere?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, you could technically; if you put them on the depredation list you could take them any time of the year. You would just have to validate that they were to be taken for depredation reasons and depredation reasons only. You can't just consider them completely unprotected because they are protected from the migratory bird treaty act. And so like coyotes and skunks and things like that aren't a federally protected species so we can basically do whatever we want with them. But there are still some caveats because they do fall under the migratory bird treaty act.

Clair Woodbury: So it's either a season or we don't hunt them at all, without being a depredation with all the nonsense.

Blair Stringham: Yeah.

Rusty Aiken: On the dove, the mourning dove, is there any way that we can expand the starting date into August to provide more opportunity because by September 1 they're gone.

Blair Stringham: So again, the migratory game treaty acts it becomes kind of the bad thing here. So the migratory bird treaty act says that no hunt for migratory birds can occur before September 1st. And so, you know, ideally...

Rusty Aiken: I understand it's a federal but you guys meet with these people once in a while. Can you, Montana's probably got the same issue, Idaho, it would be nice if they had a bracket that they kind started and (unintelligible) was able to hunt them. It would provide a great opportunity for upland hunting if the seasons were right.

Blair Stringham: Right, and the migratory game treaty act would be like trying to change a huge, huge thing. And the likely hood of that happening is very, very unlikely. And it's really put in place to kind

of protect migratory birds because a lot of them will have their young up until August. And so by the time September 1st comes around there are still a lot of species that can't even fly, the later nesting species like redhead and things like that won't even have their flight feathers developed yet.

Kevin Bunnell: So Rusty, just to clarify that, Blair meets with the flyway folks but the migratory treaty act would have to be a congressional issue. That would have to be done by Congress in Washington to change the act. It's not something that the flyway can address.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, and I mean we can definitely petition them too, but the likelihood of it happening is probably not likely at all.

Mike Staheli: Back to the crows. Because you declare them a game species, you put a limit on them, you're going to make us remove them from the field, now is the wanton waste of wildlife issue going to also apply? In other words if you don't want to eat them you better not shoot them, right?

Blair Stringham: Yep, yeah, exactly.

Mike Staheli: So it would apply then?

Blair Stringham: It would.

Kevin Bunnell: But not in depredation issues.

Mike Staheli: Okay, then let's just depredate them all.

Brian Johnson: Its seems like our youth seasons are never the same. Twenty minutes ago we changed it to 17 before July 31st, and now it's in the waterfowl it's 15 on September 20th. Just wondering.

Blair Stringham: Yeah. So our overall plan as a Division, which tries to make everything consistent as a 17 or younger, the hurdle we can into is the Fish and Wildlife Service only allows us to have youth hunts for kids that are 15 or younger.

Brian Johnson: So that's the federal deal.

Blair Stringham: It is. Yeah.

Brian Johnson: Okay, that's fine.

Blair Stringham: It's something that we're going to try to work on in the future but currently if we want (unintelligible) it does have to be 15 or younger.

Brian Johnson: Now that's something that wouldn't take congress, that would just be through your meetings and you'd say, hey what about 17. Just kind of keep poking them.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, and we explored that option. And what we can do is create a split in the waterfowl season, which by that point I mean we could have youth hunts for any ages. I mean you could have a Teresa Griffin hunt if you want, everybody with that name could hunt. So we yeah, yeah.

But yeah, what we would have to do is move the season up to where it's only a week before the general opener and that didn't fly very well last year. So we decided to keep it like this for the time being.

Clair Woodbury: One last question Dave. By the raise of hands, who's going to hold the first crow barbeque?

Cordell Pearson: Okay, I have a question, do they have to be shot with a shotgun? Can we change that to a rifle or shotgun?

Blair Stringham: So if you were hunting them they would have to be taken with a shotgun. With the depredation scenario they do also have to be taken. There are some other caveats there, I mean they can be taken with bait and things like that, but there are some requirements for taking them that way.

Cordell Pearson: We can't change that? And make a rifle legal along with a shotgun?

Blair Stringham: Um, you can't for sure during the hunting season. And I, I don't think we would probably recommend that for the depredation either just because it would create something that was kind of inconsistent with how we do everything else.

Cordell Pearson: Well if we're going to hunt these things and eat them we'd like to be able to kill them and the easiest way to do it is with a rifle, not a shotgun.

Dave Black: Okay, we are still in the question portion. Do we have any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Okay, I have several comments that we'll get to. Right, I was just going to say I have several comment cards and we'll get to the comments. Right now we just want questions from the public.

Paul Niemeyer: This is probably the most confused that I have ever been. I had some experience with this once years ago. There was a Wildlife Board and the Board of Big Game Control. And at first this treaty first got through Mexico but somehow we let these birds slide through on that and that's why you can't (unintelligible) these ravens is that international treaty. But at any rate I went to the Wildlife Board and they even gave me a special permit to kill some magpies so we could test the blood on them. That's back when Warren Harward was actually on the Wildlife Board. And I'd go shoot them and I couldn't get blood out of them but he knew how to do it. And we sent them in and we got tight, they carried titers for diseases that are fatal to turkeys. And then we, they were doing that experimental vegetable growing deal in Sevier County and I gathered up a lot of vegetables and whatever and showed them what the magpies and stuff were doing to them. But at any rate they made the motion and it passed that we could hunt them. And just hunt them hunt them, not seasons or whatever. And I'm not sure where that ever changed because in my years though the RAC and the Board I don't remember anything ever changing on those crows. But at any rate, well I'll go into comments but. . . And the other thing, why if we're going to hunt them would we put that gap in the middle? Can we only hunt them so many days? Because they don't come into here until usually after the first of October. So you're thinking we can only hunt them like on a federal regulation and you can only hunt them so many days a year?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so um, what the Fish and Wildlife Service gives us as far as framework is they can only be hunted 124 days. And so we pick the 124 days where we were having the most problem with them, and that was when we were having fruit problems, as well as the roosting colonies, which is primarily during the winter months. I can't remember, you had a question before. I'm not familiar with exactly how the hunts were structured a while ago, but I do know that currently they have allowed us to take depredation, depredating birds through a depredation order through the Fish and Wildlife Service. And it's a whole list of birds, include on it is cowbirds, magpies, crows, and so that's probably changed in recent years, I couldn't give you an exact date. As well as, I don't know what the earlier hunting frameworks were versus currently the ones we have to operate under.

Dave Black: Oh good, there you go. Good job Scott. State your name.

Scott Christensen: My name is Scott Christensen from Loa Utah. I guess I'm still confused on, we still do have two choices, if we set it as a depredation season, or not a season but an issue, how could that be structured versus a hunting season? Obviously probably just on private lands and things like that, but how would that work?

Blair Stringham: So currently there is 2 choices but they can both be accepted. And so to address a specific hunting scenario, if you wanted to go out and hunt birds for no other reason other than to just go hunt crows, you could do that any time during the September hunts as well as from December 1st to February 28th. If you wanted to go out and just hunt crows, say in June, you wouldn't be able to do that. So that's why we've created the depredation order which would allow you to shoot them 365 days a year but it would have to be specifically for depredation reasons. And so we're asking for approval of both the hunting season, so more for a sport hunting opportunity, as well as the depredation season which would be for depredation purposes 365 days a year.

Scott Christensen: Okay, just so, and so with the depredation, what kind of process would that be, a Division officer or somebody coming out and meeting with the landowner? Because that's the whole goal isn't it? I mean that and then we're spending hundreds of thousands trying to get some pheasants back and things like that but yet we've got our hands tied on the crows I guess. But, so we could, if we were, if the landowner says hey I've got a problem and stuff like that then those hunts could go 365.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so it's pretty easy for landowners. They don't have any kind of criteria like contact us first or anything like that. The only stipulation is that if you take any crows for depredation reasons you do have to report back to the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the conservation officers and DWR. And then there are a couple other stipulations; you have to like provide access to those authorized individuals if they wanted and things like that. But it's relatively simple and definitely far less complicated than our depredation process for deer and things like that.

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen, Glenwood Utah. The map that up put up showed 45 states that are managed and regulated differently than the 5 states that were in white. Are any of those black states able to do these things, hunt crows year round with a rifle without reporting, without eating, and without caring for the crow?

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so, each state does have some ability to define some of those things. Like for instance, we chose to put under the migratory bird rule because we did want people to remove them from the field and for them to be considered a game species and be consumed and all that. There is some

flexibility there but we chose not to mess with that just because we didn't want it to be viewed as just people going out just to kill stuff to kill stuff. We want them to be taken and to be utilized like any other game species. Um, as far as the hunting though, there are about four criteria that the Fish and Wildlife Service gives us, one of those is that you can't shoot them from airplanes, you have to shoot them with shotguns, you can only hunt for 124 days, and I think there is one other one but I can't remember what it is. So you have to abide by a certain criteria to have a crow-hunting season. The bag limits can vary, the season dates can vary, oh the fourth one is you can't hunt them during their peak nesting time. And so as long as you're abiding by those four things you can pretty much have the hunt whenever you would like and shoot as many as you would like. But they do have to be taken with shotguns. Did I address all the questions you have?

DeLoss Christensen: So there is no state that has made arrangements to shoot them with a centerfire or a cartridge rifle, everything is shotgun and that's by regulation?

Blair Stringham: Yep, yep that's correct. As well as the 124 days, they can't be any longer than that for official hunting season.

DeLoss Christensen: So no state has a 365-day depredation hunt for crows then?

Blair Stringham: Um, the depredation hunt is different than the hunting season. So if you had a crow that was eating your apple crop in June you could go out there and legally shoot it. And it wouldn't be considered hunting. But if you're going out just to hunt them and you weren't doing it for depredation reasons you'd have to abide by the 124 day hunting season.

DeLoss Christensen: I guess the question that I have, and I think it goes back to some of the RAC member's questions, the screen that you put that showed the issues with crows as far as the disease and the other damage that they do, to me justifies removing crows whenever, where ever that you can. Different than deer or other things that we regulate, or upland game birds. Do you believe that you're doing all that you can with this regulation to mitigate against the issues of the negative impact of crows? And can you do more?

Blair Stringham: I think with the criteria that we are given we are pretty much doing just about all that we can do. And we've tried to structure the hunting season when we're having the most damage. And we've tried to make this something that is palatable to the constituent group doesn't like us hunting in general. And so we've tried to make it for a specific purpose and reason rather than just another reason to go out and shoot stuff. And so I think we've been able to satisfy all interests with the recommendation we've presented.

Dave Black: Okay, do I have any more questions? One more.

Mike Clark: Starlings are black, can't you put them on the same basis as a starling?

Blair Stringham: So starlings are included on this list. They aren't covered under the migratory bird treaty act and so they can be legally taken 365 days a year..

Mike Clark: It sounds to me like with your illnesses and disease and everything they're the same thing. You know, just a different size. Can't you get them on that list or does this (unintelligible)?

Blair Stringham: They actually are currently on that list so they are legal game.

Kevin Bunnell: The difference is the migratory bird treaty act, which covers one and not the other.

Comments from the public:

Dave Black: Okay, we're ready to move to the comment cards. The first comment card I have is from Mike Clark, and then following him will be Paul Neimeyer.

Mike Clark: Mike Clark. The one item I had was about the goose limits the feds were allowing four and we were allowing three. But it looks like we've already addressed that problem and jumped there to four by what was on the screen. And the other problem we run into, especially during the waterfowl season and into the spring waterfowl hunt, is the need for written permission. You get a list of people's names, their phone numbers, they say it's okay to hunt and everything and then we're told no you have to have a description of property. Some guys have 20 and 30 pieces of property and you get 20 or 30 guys to hunt on all this property you're going to be packing a damned book with you. It is ridiculous. And why can't, we've always went out and just got their names, it says you have permission to hunt on my property and the guy signs it and puts his phone number there if he wants to. Why can't this be good enough rather than having to carry a map of the county with you and a description of every farmer's property?

Dave Black: Okay, Paul?

Paul Niemeyer: Okay, on the crow thing. I can't hardly remember what I had for lunch but what it was, and this is how the Wildlife Board got by it before, maybe we can't now, but on the federal register it talked about if they were depredate, about to depredate, causing damage, ornamental or shade trees, and congregating in numbers to become a nuisance. Well a crow is either depredate or about to. I mean that's just . . . So I get nervous about protecting them and putting them on a, I can see the methodology but I hope we're not getting going down a road that's going to bite us. And I would leave this to Rusty as much as anybody, but the crows in this area do not get here in September. You don't hardly ever see them until October. Do you see them down there earlier than that? And I'm talking about the, not the Boone and Crocket crows, the regular crows. Do you see them early like that down there? We don't here. I don't think I've ever seen them before really the first of October. So I would recommend if we're going . . . I'd rather not go that route but if we do I would recommend that you put the season straight at least down here because I don't think they're here. Some of you guys may know more about that than I do but I don't . . . In Piute, Sevier, Wayne and where I travel around, I don't see them that early. So that would be a thought. Uh, we thank you for recommending the (unintelligible) not that we kill them but at least it's a thought. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, my last card is from DeLoss

DeLoss Christensen: DeLoss Christensen, Glenwood, Utah. My recommendation is based on the nuisance and health issues associated with birds like starlings, and magpies and crows. The Division has already demonstrated with their chart that they recognize that that's a concern. And I believe that we ought to ask the Division not to be quite so concerned about what might happen if they do the right thing. And the right thing is to try and find the most liberal free accessible way that we can shoot as many of these birds as we can. Whatever that is. Whatever other state has developed a plan that they're

dealing with these crows, the comment was made that there's an issue in Northern Utah, there's an issue here. There are a lot of crows in our valley. In fact I've had numerous people comment to me in the last five years how many more crows we're seeing, flocks of crows here. And we need to deal with this bird. And we need to, and I don't know that we're not already there with this recommendation but if it's not the most liberal recommendation we can have we need to make whatever that is. Thanks.

Dave Black: Do you have a card?

Scott Christensen: Scott Christensen, Loa, Utah. I appreciate you explaining a little bit more. I have a better understanding. It does appear that hands are tied on quite a few issues. The one thing that I saw that I would recommend is the obvious lifting the limit. I don't see any reason to limit it if somebody's having a good day and they can shoot 11 let's let them do it. I think that's pretty awesome. I've never seen anyone shoot one. I've heard they shoot them out the window. I've never seen it done though. But that would be my recommendation is we don't have a limit on that. It seems like we can control that and that would be my recommendation to the RAC. Thanks.

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Okay, we're ready for comments from the RAC. Layne you're up.

Layne Torgerson: I have a comment and it's going to address Paul's question. It's very ironic that just 30 minutes before I came to this meeting I was watching a sportsman's channel at home and meat eater was on. And he was hunting crows in Georgia. And they actually had a segment on there where they breasted those crows like we do morning doves and filleted the meat off of them and they marinated them and they dredged them and they put a wine sauce on them. I don't know what all they did but anyway I think they drank the wine. But anyway just so that everybody knows they did eat them. And the one guy said that they tasted like veal only were chewier. So they can be eaten because I saw them do it.

Mike Clark: What's going to happen if someone does not quite understand the shapes and the faces of the birds and accidentally shoots a raven? What's the go to jail? Boy you'd be big with the other cons wouldn't ya. What are you here for? I killed a raven.

Dave Black: Clair are you ready?

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, I was also going to address Paul's comment there. I've been pretty forceful with my boys that if we shoot something we eat it and I don't imagine we'll be hunting a lot of crows but maybe. I remember, we have an annual trip up on the Pine Valley wilderness area where we either take our horses or backpack in. I made my boys wait until they were 8 before I figured they were strong enough to make that trek. And I got them in there; of course I'm carrying the double pack. My younger son was 8. And I decided to have a nap in the aspen cabin and the boys wanted to go hunting. And I said, okay but if you shoot it you eat it. A couple hours later I wake up and I go out and the fire pits going. There was my younger son 8, sitting on a log with a little pile of bones. I said what did you find to eat? And he said I just finished my chipmunk and my robin dad. It can be done.

Dave Black: Are there any comments down this direction? Brian.

Brian Johnson: I am just looking at these season dates and wondering if this RAC wouldn't want to entertain maybe a split season for the southern part of the state to maybe prolong that 30 days if they're not down here. I'm definitely not for, if we're going to hunt them I think we need to, I think they need to be, I mean obviously part of that migratory bird issue. Another issue I have is I'd like to see if we do starting them, are we doing to do studies that, and this probably should have been in the question to you guys, I'd like to see data back that there are more grouse and less depredation on eggs and things like that if we are going to open this door and start hunting them. Just a thought there. But mostly I wanted to discuss with the RAC about maybe a split season for the southern part of the state.

Dave Black: Clair.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, we do have a precedent set in the other waterfowl where we have a later start down here. So I think that should be entertained.

Kevin Bunnell: Pull your dates up on the crow thing and put it up on the screen please Blair.

Brian Johnson: And Rusty I'm definitely open to input on when do you think these birds get here. I know you're probably not a . . .

Rusty Aiken: I don't keep an eye on them. They seem like they're there all year. I got one that nests in my hay barn. It seems like they're there pretty much year round.

Blair Stringham: I can comment a little bit to that. We typically have 2 different groups of crows. We have a resident population, which is in Utah year round, and we have birds that will migrate in. Typically the birds that migrate in will show up about mid October in the northern part of the state, so I assume it's probably similar down here in the southern part of the state, maybe a little bit later. And typically they'll leave and go north probably about March or so, timeframe. So primarily down here you're probably dealing with more of a migratory crow group rather than the resident crow group. So I don't know if that helps ya.

Brian Johnson: So you think, is there a local biologist that could chime in on that? I was just wondering if, if we only get 124 days to play . . .

Kevin Bunnell: So Brian, looking at the dates that he has up there, if you wanted to do a split you'd just, what would make sense would be to do November 1st through February 28th instead of having a break during the month of October and November.

Brian Johnson: I don't know. I was just wondering if they get here later but it seems like maybe there's a reason to hunt them that first 30 days to hit some of that resident species, I don't know.

Rusty Aiken: I am still hung on the game bird part of it. I don't know if that's where we want to put them. I don't think people are going to hunt them to put in the fridge or the freezer to eat later on.

(Unknown person) The state controls the crow right now you say, the law, the state law.

Blair Stringham: The Fish and Wildlife Service.

(Unknown Person): So if you put it on migratory it becomes a federal bird, correct?

Blair Stringham: It already is.

Unknown Person: You just said that the state had the control over the hunt.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so it currently falls under the migratory bird treaty act, which is, makes it a species controlled by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. But they do offer us some criteria if we want to have a hunting season as well as criteria to have a depredation order for them. And so currently we don't have the hunting season or the depredation order. So they're currently illegal to kill in Utah any time for any reason. And so we're creating the hunting season more to address the sport hunting opportunity and the adding them to our depredation rule to allow them to be taken any time for depredation purposes.

(Unknown Person): But they are a federal bird right now, they're not, the state has nothing to do with them.

Blair Stringham: Right, yep. So it's similar to like waterfowl and geese, we don't technically have authority to manage them either but we are given options to have hunting seasons for them.

Clair Woodbury: Mr. Chairman.

Dave Black: I think we're ready to try to get a motion from the RAC.

Clair Woodbury: Mr. Chairman.

Dave Black: Yes Clair.

Clair Woodbury: I move that we accept the Division's recommendation on the waterfowl and the migratory game birds as presented with the exception of the season date to address the Southern Region, to we start on November 1st and run it through the 124 days, for crows, yes..

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion from Clair. Do we have a second? Brian seconds the motion. Do we have discussion on the motion? If there's no discussion we'll move to a vote. All those in favor? We do have discussion. Go ahead Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, my question is, if we go ahead and we pass this motion and they become a game bird are they going to start putting a lot more restrictions on us for the depredation part? Huh? Who said they're already a game bird? Oh, somebody out there did. Anyway, so my questions is if we make these a game bird then are they going to, is the Fish and Game going to be a lot more strict on a person that shoots a crow? And evidently from what I hear right here as far as the depredation goes you can shoot one any time you want to as long as you say it's carrying a disease or eating an apple, correct?

Blair Stringham: Just eating an apple, don't go with the disease.

Cordell Pearson: Out of a tree, an apple tree.

Blair Stringham: Right, yep.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, so what if from a disease factor? If I say in my mind I know that these birds are carrying diseases, I know that they are eating sage hen eggs out there, so every time I see a crow why is that not a depredation problem?

Blair Stringham: Um, if you said they were on the way to eating your tomatoes in your garden as well then you'd be fine.

Cordell Pearson: The thing that I am trying to get to here is I don't want to pass something that we're going to be stuck with that makes it a whole lot harder to shoot crows in the years to come once we set this precedent like well we think they're a game bird.

Kevin Bunnell: So Cordell I think you're confusing crows and ravens.

Cordell Pearson: No I'm not.

Kevin Bunnell: Because currently you can't even, you can't shoot crows even for depredation, current as of right now. This would just open this up.

Cordell Pearson: Apparently only in this state, right? Over the five states.

Kevin Bunnell: Well Utah, in five states.

Cordell Pearson: The other 45 states can shoot them.

Kevin Bunnell: Under either a hunting season or a depredation. And there's probably a mix of all across the board.

Cordell Pearson: And that's what I'm trying to get through here. If we go ahead and we say we're going to pass this and we do pass it, we're going to hunt them, down the road is there going to be more problem? Because right now with the depredation think I can understand that, you can cover every crow you shoot. Okay, is that going to get more stringent on farmers or crop growers to where that we have to do a 72 hours thing to call the Fish and Game before we can shoot a crow?

Blair Stringham: Currently we are going with everything the Fish and Wildlife Service requires us to do; and that doesn't have anything to do with, you know, 72 hour notice or anything like that. If the Fish and Wildlife Service did require us to do that then we would have to do that as part of our condition of having the ability to take crows. But if they don't require that of us then I don't ever see us requiring that of anybody either.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, I wish we had a little bit more information from these other states, what they do before we pass this thing and say that we're going to have a crow hunting season.

Blair Stringham: I can tell you that most of them currently have a crow hunting season as well as a depredation order. It basically, by having a hunting season it allows you to take them and not to justify them causing depredation. It also allows you to use decoys and things like that and actually show that you're out there just to get crows to come in and shoot them. If you don't have a hunting season then you

aren't allowed to use decoys because you would be trying to lure crows in and shoot them when the assumption would be that you're shooting them because they're coming already to that area to cause depredation issues.

Cordell Pearson: Okay, here's one big issue, is you go hunt, if you go hunting them and you shoot one you have to legally take it home and eat it. If you kill it. . . . No, no, if you take them depredation you can just kill them, right?

Blair Stringham: Correct.

Cordell Pearson: I think it's a no brainer.

Clair Woodbury: This licensing or having a season opens it up to where we can do a depredation. We can't do one without this first one. This just opens the door to take care of the problem birds.

Cordell Pearson: You can't shoot crows right now depredation wise?

Clair Woodbury: No.

Blair Stringham: Yeah, so currently it's illegal to kill crows for any reason whatsoever. So this would allow the depredation part would allow you to take them 365 days a year and the hunting season would allow you to take them outside of depredation issues during those specific seasons dates.

Kevin Bunnell: So but I think there is some confusion here Layne. You could do just the depredation and not do a hunting season. Or you could do just the hunting season and not do the depredation. They don't have to go together. Our, the proposal from the Division is to have both a hunting season and a depredation order but those two aren't necessarily linked to each other. Correct Blair?

Dave Black: So we have a motion on the table and a second to approve the recommendations from the DWR as presented with the exception that we would have a split hunting season for the Southern Region for crows. No split. What, okay, so the hunting season will start November 1st straight. Okay. And we have a second on that motion. All in favor? Any opposed? 8 to 1, motion carries. 8 in favor 1 opposed (Mike Staheli opposed) Motion carries.

Clair Woodbury made the motion to accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented with the exception that the dates for the Southern Region for crows start on November 1st so there is no split season dates. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried 8:1 (Mike Staheli opposed).

Dave Black: Okay; now we're on item number 10, Utah Trial Hunter Program.

Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68 (action) 2:24:56 to 2:34:28 of 2:50:56
-Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator
(See attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Do we have questions from the RAC? Do we have any questions from the

audience? Hold on, Brian's got a question.

Brian Johnson: Would the, and I might have just missed it and you explained it, so if you did I apologize. Is the mentor filling anything out to acknowledging that he's taking on those responsibilities or are we just putting that in the code and it's just his responsibility to research the rule?

Kirk Smith: The supervising hunter does not have to complete any form or anything saying that they're eligible or, to be the supervising hunter. We are leaving that up to them.

Dave Black: I have a question. What's the incentive for including out of state? I mean we limit the number of out of state people that can come on a lot of hunts. Are we trying to recruit more out of state hunters or are we?

Kirk Smith: We're trying to increase our hunting population as a whole, whether they're non-resident or resident individuals. Where we see the non-resident come into play is if it's a family member that's coming in, say Thanksgiving time, and wants to go pheasant hunting with the family the next day. And so we see it as an opportunity for family members or friends that would be coming in for something like that.

Dave Black: So we don't have a cap on the deer hunt or anything? Okay. Okay, that answered my question, thank you.

Questions from the public:

Dave Black: Questions from the audience? Please state your name.

Mike Clark: Mike Clark. Uh, is this a one-time deal? Or if he does it one time a three year shot when he's 12, five years down the road he comes back to town and says, oh I want to go on a memory project again. Is it going to be documented so he can only do it one time or can he come back and forth and do it numerous times?

Kirk Smith: It will be set up in the database to where when he enrolls that there's a start date and we can track when his three years are up. So it is a one time, essentially once in a lifetime opportunity.

Dave Black: Any other questions?

Rusty Aiken: So this is along the line of Brian's. So they don't have to identify their mentor?

Kirk Smith: No, they don't have to identify their supervising hunter.

Rusty Aiken: So how do you know that they have one?

Kirk Smith: We leave that up to their responsibility to ensure that they follow the rules and regulations.

Dave Black: Cordell.

Cordell Pearson: What about the liability factor of this person that's taking them out without no hunter

safety education and whatever? Whether they shoot somebody, accidentally shoot somebody and the kid is 12 years old and his parents turn around and, and I understand, I know what you're going to say well that's up to the person that's taking them out, he's responsible for that. But I think we need to take a long hard look at that, taking a kid out that's never touched a gun and you're putting somebody in charge of them to take them hunting and then an accident occurs, you know what I mean. That could even come back to you people on a state level because you're enacting this law that says they can go hunt. So I think something we really need to take a long look at, and I mean I'm all for kids hunting, don't get me wrong, but I think that especially if you don't have to identify who's taking him out.

Kirk Smith: I doing the research on this and looking what other states are doing, the incident report and the safety rate is one thing that is very critical to this program. Looking at the records, looking at the statistics of other states a hunter that participates in this program is 4 times safer than a hunter that has been through hunter education and is not enrolled in this program. And the numbers are 50 hunters per 1 million that were involved in an incident that had been through hunter education. With the trial hunter it's 11 as compared to 50. So statistically they are safer hunters because they are under that direct supervision. And this program is geared more towards the adult hunter. Capturing that opportunity and that interest of that adult hunter that has say gotten through college and now is established to where he would time and interest to do it. That's where we're focusing our efforts is with the more adult hunter.

Dave Black: Okay, we still have questions from the audience.

Mike Clark: Mike Clark. When you say direct supervision is there going to be a distance that they have to be from their manager hunter or whatever, or are you going to let them run amuck and just turn them loose and well I'm with so and so and he's two ridges over from me? Or is there going to be a distance you know, that they've got to be within sight, verbal command or whatever?

Kirk Smith: Yes, there's already an established supervision rule that has that distance that they have to be within, and verbal communication. They would have to follow that same distance and that same rule that's already established. Where right now it's primarily used in youth hunting, but this one would crossover to all hunters. All trial hunters would have to abide by it.

Dave: Do we have any comment cards on this one?

Comments from the public:

None

RAC Discussion and Vote:

Dave Black: Do we have comments from the RAC? Clair?

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, I'm just wondering if Kirk's going to get fired or just retire. You just sound like we don't need hunter education any more. It's 4 times safer not to take hunter education, well what are we doing? I'm not buying it, I'm sorry.

Dave Black: Yeah, I have a comment too. I guess if we're targeting an older group then let's just target them and not devalue the value of hunter education. I don't, you know for three years we can have youth

out there without going through the program. And my kids have gone through that. We've demanded that they go through that. We have them start early if they're going to handle guns; go through that process. I don't think we should take away from that. And if we want to value or try to get more adults then let's set up a program for adults. And if 75% of them are going to come back in after two years then let's have a two-year program instead of a 3-year program. That's just some of my comments.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah, I think that's a great idea. Youth shouldn't be involved in this, no way. One, one time, one accident, one person dead is not worth it. I like Dave's suggestion if we do it, or if it's done adults only, 21 plus.

Kirk Smith: It is in state code that the age is 12.

Brian Johnson: The state code is that it is the minimum of 12. We can, that's the parameters in which we get to operate in. It can't be less than 12, correct?

Kirk Smith: Correct.

Brian Johnson: So I could make a motion right now to accept your proposal as proposed except have the minimum age be 18. And if someone seconded that it would be a motion. So I'll just go ahead and make that a motion. That's the way I roll.

Dave Black: So I do believe then we do have a motion from Brian; and to accept the rule, the new Rule R657-68 as presented with the exception that the minimum age be 18 years of age. Do we have a second on that motion? This motion fails because of lack of a second.

Brian Johnson: Give me two seconds before we do that. So we don't like the idea of the 18, having to be 18 years or older to do this?

Cordell Pearson: I don't like the idea at all.

Kirk Smith: Mr. Chairman, may I address the safety concern with this rule? Mr. Woodbury I had the same concern that you have on safety. That's my livelihood. That's what I've done for 23 plus years is hunter education, hunter safety. We currently have 450 volunteer hunter education instructors in the state of Utah. Every spring when we travel the state we have banquets for them, we have training sessions for them. So this year I presented this to all of our hunter education instructors in that format and we had very open discussion, and number one is safety. And one question I asked them, and I'm going to ask you in the audience, is who taught you how to hunt safely? Who taught you gun safety?

Brian Johnson: It wasn't the hunter education instructor. Hunting and safety is a lifelong process.

Dave Black: Okay, we need to call this meeting to order. We're still at comments from the RAC right now. Do we have any further comments from the RAC?

Cordell Pearson: I just old enough I remember the pre 65 days when there were actual charts in the newspapers and on the TV's of how many people were killed that deer hunt. I still remember that and how dramatically it's dropped since hunter education.

Dave Black: And you have the ability to make a motion that we don't accept this rule if so be it.

Clair Woodbury: You know I feel strongly enough about it I will make that motion that we reject this recommendation.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second on Clair's motion? Okay, so we have a motion from Clair that we do not accept the new rule R657-68 and a second on the motion. Do we have any discussion on the motion?

Brian Johnson: I've got some, just a little bit. I mean if we're talking about 50 incidents per how many? And it drops to 11 per 1 million.

Kirk Smith: Eleven.

Brian Johnson: Well you've got 38, 32 other states that do it. And when I first heard about it I was against it. I had the same jaw drop, knee jerk reaction that Clair's got over there. I mean same, I mean I, I understand and I just wonder if there's, no I just think, I mean we base a ton of decisions in here on statistics and I've heard you say, I agree with you the before '64 days were bad. But you've elbowed me before and say hey it's not coffee shop biology here. And so I just, I think those statistics say something. I mean if you can recruit somebody that's in your office for an afternoon of dove hunting and you sit on a waterhole and you're sitting right there holding their hand it can be a great experience and then the next thing you know you've got a hunter. I just . . .

Clair Woodbury: That first dove hunt he fetches the doves for me and then he'll go get his hunter education and license.

Brian Johnson: Maybe, maybe. You know and that's how it was for us growing up Clair. We went when, our parents couldn't keep us out of the field. You know we grew up, that was a part of our heritage. These, some of these guys don't have that. So it's a way of exposure. So anyways that's all I've got.

Dave Black: Any further discussion on the motion? Okay, let's have a vote. All those in favor of Clair's motion show by the lift of hand; 3. All those opposed? 6. Motion fails.
3 in favor, 6 opposed, motion fails (to NOT accept it)

Dave Black: We need a new motion.

Cordell Pearson: Brian, you better remake your first motion because if we're going to pass this we better do it your way with the adults only.

Brian Johnson: Good heck, I get dirty eyed 5 min ago and now I'll go ahead and make the same motion as I did before, that we pass it with the minimum age being 18 years of age.

Cordell Pearson: I'll second that.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion and a second. Do we have any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? That passes unanimous.

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program– New Rule R657-68 - as presented with the exception that the minimum age for participants to be 18 years. Cordell Pearson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Cordell Pearson: Brian this is the first time we've ever disagreed on anything. It was fun.

Brian Johnson: I'm going to go ahead and say wait a minute. I'm going to go ahead and say this is the first time I've ever had a motion that passed unanimously. After failing for a second. That's got to be record guys.

Dave Black: Okay, the last item is other business. I just want to thank everybody for their attendance tonight, for your comments. Our next meeting will be July 29th and that will be at the Beaver High School. And I hope you can attend there. And there's no other business so we'll call this meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
May 7, 2014**

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Turkey Management Plan

**MOTION: To accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Turkey Transplant Proposed List

**MOTION: To accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-year Recommendations

**MOTION: To accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-year recommendations as presented, except that there be only one turkey permit per hunter per year.
Passed unanimously**

Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment

**MOTION: To accept the Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Waterfowl Recommendations

**To accept Waterfowl Recommendations as presented.
Passed with a majority vote: 4 in favor and 3 against.
Opposed were Wayne Hoskisson, Sue Bellagamba and Chris Micoz**

Utah Trial Hunter Program--New Rule R657-68

**MOTION: To accept Utah Trial Hunter Program as presented
Failed with 3 in favor and 4 against.
Opposing votes were cast by Charlie Tracy, Wayne Hoskisson, Sue Bellagamba**

and Chris Micoz_

Nash Wash WMA Habitat Management Plan

MOTION: To accept the Nash Wash WMA Habitat Management Plan as presented._

Passed_ unanimously_

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

May 7, 2014 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Kevin Albrecht, USFS

Sue Bellagamba, Environmental

Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official
Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental
Todd Huntington, At Large

Derris Jones, sportsmen

Christine Micoz, At Large
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture
Chris Wood, regional supervisor

Members Absent

Seth Allred, At Large

Blair Eastman, Agriculture
Trisha Hedin, sportsmen

Karl Ivory, BLM

Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen

Others Present

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

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

VOTING

Motion was made by Jeff Horrocks to accept the agenda and minutes as written

Seconded by Todd Huntington
Motion passed unanimously

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

Kevin Albrecht-One of the topics that received a lot of discussion was the Henry Mountains deer tag and the Paunsagunt premium tag. The Wildlife Board had some discussion back and forth about that. The plan is at the five year mark, and the Board would like to keep the numbers the same as last year and let the mule deer committee work through the management of those units, so that was the motion that passed.

Todd Huntington-So the tag numbers are staying the same as they were in 2013?

Kevin Albrecht -Yes. That's just for the trophy tags for both the Henry's and Paunsagunt. They're the same as they were in 2013. The management tags will stay as presented by the DWR.

Charlie Tracy-It wasn't much different than last year, was it?

Kevin Albrecht-No. The Henry's was a difference of three tags and the Paunsagunt was either seven or nine.

About the Manti bull tag, we had voted to stay the same as in 2013. The Board had quite a bit of discussion on that, and talked to Justin Shannon, and the increase in tags were on the late hunt, so they felt that because they were on the late hunt, they may not necessarily be on the trophy bulls, but it was a harder hunt and might help us with the objective we are managing for. So, they allowed the increase to go.

Todd Huntington -That's frustrating that our RAC voted on those bull tags several times and we get no support at the Board.

Chris Wood-It wasn't unanimous though, was it?

Kevin Albrecht-The Henrys and Paunsagunt wasn't, but the Manti was.

In the meeting was a prominent presence from the agricultural community that expressed a lot of concern about the drought in the West Desert. They expressed concern with the wild horse issue too. Some of those ranges are 30% normal in moisture levels, and so when we got to the antlerless issue, the DWR was proactive in issuing a lot of tags, but Kevin Bunnell said they could have never guessed the range could have been so bad when they made those recommendations. He said had they known that, they would have been more aggressive than they were. So the Board approved a 70-75 tag increase over what the DWR recommended. That passed. There was a county commissioner from Iron County who talked about the wild horse issue, and he asked that the Board help represent them and their concern about the horses not only on the West Desert but in Utah altogether. The DWR drafted a letter, expressing concern about the wild horse issue, not only the impact on the livestock community, but also on wildlife. The DWR read the letter to the Board, which made a few changes and was approved. The letter will be sent to the BLM.

4) **Regional Update**
-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Chris Wood- Good evening. We are entering a busy time of year. We are hiring a bunch of seasonals and we have a lot of work lined up for the summer.

Our Aquatics Section is as busy as anyone. We will do three more reservoirs this month. Scofield will be this Friday, and then later this month we will do Miller Flat and then Gooseberry. You are all invited to attend a gill-netting. It's a lot of fun. They put out the nets the day before. We pull the nets the following day. It's good indicator of what's going on at that water. You see how big the fish are, species composition, and so forth. If you're interested in attending, talk to me after the meeting, and I can get you the dates and times.

Our Moab field office is running the rivers all summer long and into the fall. Our native fish biologists have been working at Millsite and Ferron Creek collecting bluehead suckers and getting them disease-certified, because Millsite will be drained and worked on, so they want to gather as many bluehead suckers as possible and transplant them into the lower San Rafael. Our AIS technicians have been hired and will be working waters throughout the state.

With the help of other sections, our Conservation Outreach program has been doing great things. They did a 3-gun shoot in Green River on 4/12 and had a nice showing. Everyone who came had a great time. They worked at the SFW banquet in Price and as the adults did the auction and had fun, Walt and Brent spent hours working with the kids at an archery clinic. We are also working with the Moab Bird Club in going to the Matheson Preserve this week. They were at Desert Lake last week, doing some birding events. Our Outreach Section also helps out with Hunter Education seminars.

Our Habitat Section is working on range assessments and seeing what kind of use the vegetation has had over the winter. They've been counting pellets and running transects. They hired seasonals to work on our WMAs—on Gordon Creek, Nash Wash, Desert Lake and the Huntington Game Farm. All four properties require active farming and irrigation. They are plowing, planting and irrigating. That season has just started. They are also working with our partners such as the SFW, the BLM and dedicated hunters in San Juan County in Beef Basin. They planted 11,000 sage brush plants last weekend. We have a field tour this Monday and Tuesday on the lower San Rafael River. If anyone is interested in attending, let me know. It will be a great time for getting hands-on experience with native and endangered fish on the lower San Rafael. That's the first day and the second day they will go up and down the different properties and look at the restoration work that's happened in the past few years.

Four of our officers: TJ, J, Dennis and Ben were all honored by the governor yesterday. If you remember last fall on the La Sal's, there was a sheep herder from Peru who was gored by an elk and the four officers, one was fluent in Spanish, Dennis, who is here tonight, gave amazing care and were honored by the governor in a big award ceremony in Salt Lake City.

Law enforcement officers have been involved in AIS interdiction. The big news last month was that Lake Powell was declared positive for quagga mussels. It's infested up and down the lake. We've been waiting for weeks to know what the NPS is planning to do. They are still trying to figure out what to do. They've changed a few things already. There's no longer hours when boats can come on and off the lake. That opens up boats to come on and off whenever they want. As a result, our highest priority for law enforcement this year is quagga mussel interdiction.

In May and June and perhaps through the summer, we will have personnel at Bullfrog and Hall's Crossing to educate the public as far as draining and cleaning procedures as well as law enforcement as boaters come off the lake. That will be an ongoing program. Our officers have been busy checking bears, traps and bear baits. I hear that the La Sal's and Abajos are pretty busy.

Our Wildlife Section has wrapped up spring deer classifications and they are working with the Habitat Section in conducting range trend surveys. Our sensitive species biologist is looking at bird surveys and working with our partners in doing raptor nest monitoring.

5) **Turkey Management Plan (Action)**
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht-I just want to say I had an opportunity to work on this committee and there was a lot of dialogue and work that went into preparing this plan.

Derris Jones-How many chronic material damage complaints and nuisance complaints do you have? Do you keep track of complaints?

Jason Robinson- We do keep track. One of our employees is compiling that information for us. We should be able to track that.

Derris Jones -What is the range in dates that other states have as far as fall turkey hunts?

Jason Robinson-There's quite a bit of range. A good range is probably from September through January with a lot of variation between those dates.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Derris Jones - The comment I'd like to make is that calling this a fall turkey hunt is a misstatement. It's really a winter hunt, and more accurately called a depredation hunt. I'm a little concerned that if we start out with a fall turkey hunt being really a depredation hunt, it's going to be hard to switch back to a real fall hunt. To me, a fall hunt is where you break up the flocks and call them back and intercept the birds. We should be calling this a depredation hunt with a November to February season. The other comment I have is every one of your goals has a strategy to secure a funding source. Wouldn't it be better to have goal to get the funding?

Jason Robinson-You touched on an item that we spent five or six hours talking about. Ultimately, the reason it's a strategy is because we thought funding was a mechanism to accomplish some goal, so we used it as a strategy to accomplish habitat work or start new turkey

populations. So funding was talked about more than any other single item, because we realize it takes funding to do each of the things we want to do. The committee thought it made the most sense to keep it as a strategy, because it was trying to accomplish each of those objectives.

Derris Jones-I'd agree with that if your only source of funding was to go to your boss and ask for money, but where the strategy is to come up with funding, you need a strategy to figure out how to get the funding. You can't have a strategy for a strategy, so that's my comment.

Kevin Albrecht - We had a lot of discussion. We knew we needed it, but everyone was all over the board on where that belonged. There was a lot of discussion about the fall turkey hunt and again a lot of this is where there's a need. We talked about legislation that had been brought forward to demand that the state manages turkeys in areas where there are problems. We didn't discuss fall vs. winter, but we knew the DWR needed this as a tool to help manage turkeys in the state.

VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented.

Seconded by Jeff Horrocks.

Motion passed unanimously

6) Turkey Transplant Proposed List

-Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Jeff Horrocks- How many birds do you like to put out?

Jason Robinson -We usually like to put out around 30 per release. This past winter, we moved 805 turkeys statewide.

Charlie Tracy -Where do you get the turkeys for transplant?

Jason Robinson -Most come from areas where we get complaints and where the density is higher than the landowner's tolerance. We also take birds from areas with high populations.

Charlie Tracy-Do you have a lot of people doing this?

Jason Robinson-Most of our biologists move birds during the winter at some point. The northern region is pretty much saturated with turkeys. There are only two new sites proposed. In Cache County, there are some people that don't do much more than catch turkeys.

Derris Jones-What is it about Cache County that they have so many turkeys?

Jason Robinson -Places in the southern region have as high or maybe more turkeys, but the difference is that there are houses all the way up to the forest boundary, so as soon as the birds are pushed out of higher elevations, they are in somebody's yard. Originally, people started feeding them and attracting them. When the number got too high, the public wanted the DWR to take them. Cache County has a lot of good habitat. It's got wet areas, oak brush, and all the things turkeys need. When you look at the map, the southern region has a lot more turkey habitat, but there are fewer people.

Derris Jones -Are the Cache County birds Rio Grande subspecies?

Jason Robinson -Yes.

Derris Jones-Do you think the problem would have never happened, had people not started

feeding birds?

Jason Robinson-It would have helped a lot, Yes.

Wayne Hoskisson- I wanted to note a typo about “Old Women.”

Jason Robinson- I’ll correct that.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht-If you look at the numbers and distribution of turkeys over the past years, the division deserves to be commended. To be part of the turkey management committee and see the knowledge they’ve gained since 2000 and the last plan, there is a big knowledge base that will help in moving this plan forward. I learned a lot. When farmers plant their fields, the turkeys follow behind the grain drill and there’s been a big concern about that. One pro-turkey landowner indicated that the turkeys aren’t seeking the grain so much as they are looking for insects that are turned up. The NWTF did some stomach content studies and found that the vast majority of the contents were insects. This landowner suggested an education effort to let other farmers know that. This man said he managed the whereabouts of turkeys on his property by providing bales of oats. My experience on the committee was very educational for me.

Wayne Hoskisson-What do turkeys eat in winter?

Jason Robinson-Whatever they can find. They are generalists. They will eat acorns, corn, and bird seed. Anytime someone feeds turkeys, they bring them in and you have problems.

VOTING

Motion was made by Todd Huntington to accept the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion passed unanimously

- 7) **Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations**
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Jeff Horrocks-How many pheasants are being raised this year and where will they be planted?

Jason Robinson-We have three sources. Day-old chicks, SFW purchases, and the DWR will

purchase both pheasant and chukars. All that combined, depending on the survival of day-old chicks, the number will amount to about 11,000 roosters for release statewide. They will be released on WMAs and Walk-in Access properties that have pheasant habitat.

Derris Jones-What triggers sage-grouse populations to be a hunted?

Jason Robinson- There has to be a breeding population of greater than 500 individual birds.

Derris Jones-Do we have any populations that aren't hunted but are reaching that trigger?

Jason Robinson-We've just been through the low end of a population cycle, but there's a population in the Panquitch area that is reaching that threshold.

Derris Jones-With a 3-year guidebook, would we have to wait until the end of the cycle before changing a population from non-hunted to hunted?

Jason Robinson-We could come back to the RAC and make an amendment to the guidebook within the 3-year timeframe.

Jason Robinson-The Greater sage-grouse decision to list will be September 2015, so that is a complicating factor in this guidebook.

Derris Jones-When is the fall drawing? Will there be one turkey drawing for spring and fall or a separate drawing for fall?

Jason Robinson-That hasn't been worked out. We're probably going to have a drawing in December to apply for both spring and fall. To get this implemented for this fall, we may have to do a one year first-come, first-served system, if we can't get the draw process set up.

Derris Jones-As far as allowing limited entry youth hunters to hunt through the statewide hunt, what rationale excluded the adults from doing the same?

Jason Robinson -That was the original proposal to the Board. In the committee and summit that were held, there was no support for allowing adult hunters to do it. Most members felt that adults should pick one or the other and that youth should be given a greater advantage.

Derris Jones-Was there concern for more competition?

Jason Robinson-Yes, both crowding and fairness issues were considered.

Derris Jones -You mentioned the listing decision. The Gunnison listing decision was supposed to be right away, but I've heard they've postponed that. Can you tell us why the USFWS did that?

Jason Robinson- The State of Colorado works closely with the USFWS and convinced them that there's a lot of work going on to recover the species and that management plans are in place, and the state needed more time to evaluate the success of its plans and efforts. Their wish was granted, so the listing was postponed.

Kevin Albrecht -Was that a court-mandated six months?

Jason Robinson -Yes.

Charlie Tracy-We were told it would be this or next week.

Jason Robinson-I got an email yesterday, saying it would be postponed. This literally happened two days ago.

Chris Wood-I have a question from Dave Cook through Karl Ivory. Dave is a BLM biologist in Hanksville. Dave's concern is that on the Henry Mountains, if you have additional fall turkey hunters, you are going to impact the premium limited entry deer hunters and OIAL bison hunters.

Jason Robinson-Local biologists will be allowed to weigh the costs and benefits for their own districts. There would be no fall turkey hunt for the Henry Mountains area.

Kevin Albrecht - Usually where the fall hunts would occur would be where there is a large population and depredation issues. Knowing the situation on the Henry's, I don't foresee that ever being a problem.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Derris Jones -I still have a problem with calling this a fall hunt. If you are going to call it a fall hunt, and the DWR can set sub-dates in between, such as October 1 or September 15 or something, so that if we ever get a legitimate fall hunt, we can have a decent fall hunt. The other issue I have is that anyone who puts in for a fall tag should be excluded from putting in for a limited entry spring hunt. I think you should have one or the other for the same reason as adults aren't allowed to hunt the limited entry and the statewide hunt. There's a crowding and fairness issue. There are a lot of people out there who hunt turkeys like pheasants. They like to jump them. Those people need to move to the fall hunt to make it easier for spring hunters to hunt with calls. My suggestion is to allow only one limited entry hunt, either fall or spring. That would exclude them from the general season as well. We ought to allow only one turkey hunt per hunter per year until we have so many birds we can't get rid of them. I don't think it's fair for someone to have two turkey hunts in a year.

Kevin Albrecht -I agree with that. I heard some positive comments about a WMA in Sevier County so I took my boys over, and at one WMA, there were a lot of hunters. There were a lot of young hunters, and from the yelling I heard, these birds were probably the first the boys had ever seen. As the birds would take off, you can't imagine the joy and yelling that went on as kids were seeing the pheasants. I commend the division in this effort. I think this is one of the best recruitment tools they will ever have.

Todd Huntington- I would echo the concern of the BLM biologist. If I had a limited entry tag, I would hate to be aced out by a turkey hunter that got in the way. As long as we can maintain some separation there, then I'm okay with it.

Derris Jones -With the November 1 start date on turkeys, the bison are the only ones you'd conflict with there.

Todd Huntington- Sometime we have had bison hunts clear into January, so by the same token, I would hate to have a bison hunt messed up by turkey hunters.

Derris Jones- One other thing I noticed. Did you mention adding the crow into the rule?

Jason Robinson -I did. It will go into the Upland Game Rule, but because it's a migratory game bird, it falls under the Migratory Game Bird Coordinator, Blair Stringham, and so you'll hear a full proposal with this presentation.

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations as presented with the exception that there be only one turkey tag per hunter per year.

Seconded by Chris Micoz.

Motion passed unanimously

- 8) **R657-46--Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment**
- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Jeff Horrocks to accept the Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented.

Seconded by Charlie Tracy

Motion passed unanimously

- 9) **Waterfowl Recommendations**
-Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Sue Bellagamba-To what do you attribute the rise in the crow population?

Blair Stringham -The crow population across the west has been increasing, largely due to urban expansion. The majority of crows live along the Wasatch Front with some populations starting to increase in the Uintah Basin and Cedar City area

Charlie Tracy-Some of these crows aren't migratory. They stay year-round.

Blair Stringham-We have two groups of crows. We have migratory and non-migratory populations. We have a fair number that come into the state around October and then leave again in March. That's typically when we see the problems with the roosting colonies. They get into large groups in winter.

Charlie Tracy-How do you tell a crow from a raven? Can you get into trouble if you shoot a raven?

Blair Stringham-Ravens will continue to be protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. They can't be legally taken. The way we would address that would be to put out material to tell the difference. Usually ravens are solitary or in small groups, whereas with crows, they will be in

larger groups. There's size differences. There are behavioral differences, and the shapes of tails, so it's something we will try to provide.

Charlie Tracy- That's going to be a problem. There will be a lot of ravens shot.

Blair Stringham-That's definitely an issue we've identified.

Charlie Tracy-So how do they taste?

Blair Stringham-That question comes up a lot. People are required to use the meat. Eating the meat is a perception thing. It's like eating snails, but it's considered a food item. There are a lot of recipes on the Internet. I've heard they taste like a dove.

Derris Jones-You mentioned that doves are under-utilized, but what's the population doing?

Blair Stringham -It's in the millions.

Derris Jones-What's the trend?

Blair Stringham-It's fairly stable. In the past 10 years, we've been looking at banding data. Prior to that, we depended on call counts. That was subjective because the range changed over time, so the calls weren't a good indicator of the population. We've moved to a harvest-based management strategy, which looks at growth rates and harvest estimates, based on band returns like they do with waterfowl. It has given us a better idea of what doves are doing, and we know that hunting mortality is compensatory rather than additive, which means that if they aren't killed through hunting, they will be killed in some other way. That's the main reason for increasing the bag limit.

Derris Jones - Was the main factor in making crows a game species the depredation problems?

Blair Stringham-Yes. We've had complaints from the fruit growers in Box elder County. Some of our roosting colonies have had thousands of birds. It's to address the damage complaints. Also, across the country it's also considered a sport hunting opportunity, so that's one of the considerations.

Derris Jones-Has there been any consideration given to broadening crow hunting to other corvids such as magpies and ravens, due to predation on other species nests, particularly sage-grouse?

Blair Stringham - Currently in our Depredation Rule, you are allowed to take magpies and starlings and things like that for depredation reasons. The crow is the only bird we can have a hunting season for, so it's separate from the Depredation Rule. There is no way to have a hunting season on a magpie, but you can take them for depredation reasons.

Derris Jones-Do you have to report damage done by depredating magpies to the USFWS?

Blair Stringham-Yes. So any of the birds in the Depredation Rule, that are in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, require reporting.

Derris Jones -What's the mechanism for filing a report?

Blair Stringham-You need to submit data by January of the following year after the birds are taken. You have to identify the number that were taken and several other things. It's not a real intensive report. You don't have to collect a lot of data, other than keep track of the number of birds you harvest.

Derris Jones -Do they have an online reporting system or by telephone?

Blair Stringham-I believe it's an address and it's in the Depredation Rule.

Questions from the Public

Debbie Pappas-I'm from Second Chance Wildlife Rehabilitation and know many of those here tonight. I have a couple of questions and then maybe a comment. Blair, could you clarify that currently on ravens and magpies you do have to report them to the USFWS for depredation?

Blair Stringham-Yes, they do for magpies. Ravens aren't covered under the Depredation Order. Even if this is passed, it would still be illegal to take ravens in the state.

Debbie Pappas-Has the USFWS has come up with something new with regard to hunting for crows? I didn't realize there were that many states involved in this.

Blair Stringham-It's something that's been on the books for some time now. It's something we haven't addressed, because we haven't had a lot of crows in the state. In the last little while, we've seen a lot more problems with them and that's basically the reason for implementing the hunting season.

Debbie Pappas-As a rehabilitator, I know they are a protected species, so I was concerned how this could happen on a protected species.

Blair Stringham-Yes, so with crows, they've been on our Depredation Order for a long time. It was taken out three years ago. At that time, we weren't fully aware of the problems that were occurring, so we have chosen to put them back in, because we've had more issues than we thought we would.

Debbie Pappas -You mentioned the Perry area. I'm not familiar with that area.

Blair Stringham-It's just south of Brigham City and north of Ogden.

Debbie Pappas -Are you seeing it in a localized area? In 20 years of depredation work, I've only seen three crows. We aren't seeing them in this part of the state.

Blair Stringham -They are largely associated with urban areas. For the most part, we haven't had a lot of populations across the state, except along the Wasatch Front.

Debbie Pappas-Was it considered to handle the problems on a regional rather than statewide basis?

Blair Stringham-It wasn't, mostly for simplicity issues. We've tried to keep our bird regulations statewide, unless we've had a compelling reason to make things otherwise, such as our goose zones. For the most part, we decided there wouldn't be a lot of impact on crow populations across the state, so we chose to make it statewide.

Debbie Pappas -In talking to people, who have come from areas where there are crow hunts, they tell me the hunts have made no difference in the populations, so I question why we're doing this, if it's not going to make a difference.

Blair Stringham-We'd like to provide our landowners with more tools to deal with problems on their own property. Currently, we can't do much to help them, other than to provide non-lethal techniques. Those typically work short-term, but not long-term. Because we do have that option, that's what we've chosen to use.

Debbie Pappas -Don't the current rules take care of depredation problems?

Blair Stringham-They don't, because we don't have crows in our Depredation Rule, so there's two parts to what we are proposing. There's the hunting portion and the depredation rule change. The Depredation Rule change would address more of the damage that's occurring.

Debbie Pappas -So when is it going to be decided which of these two options will be selected?

Blair Stringham -Basically, we are presenting it as one big package. It goes to each of our five RACs and then to the Wildlife Board, which will consider all five RACs and make their final decision on June 5.

Debbie Pappas -In a depredation situation, do the bodies have to be retrieved?

Blair Stringham-In the Depredation Order, the bodies don't have to be retrieved. If you did harvest crows under the hunting option, you would have to retrieve them.

Debbie Pappas -Are they going to be shot with lead?

Blair Stringham-They have to be taken with non-lead shot under the Depredation Order.

Debbie Pappas-If the hunt option were approved, would lead be an option?

Blair Stringham-The hunt would allow for any type of shot a person wants to use.

Gary Blake-Regarding mourning doves, it's been my experience that most doves migrate south before the hunt starts. Is it possible to create an earlier hunt for that species and shorten it on the back end?

Blair Stringham -The problem is with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It specifies that no migratory bird hunt can start before September 1, so that's where we are stuck with a beginning date. So there's really no option to go earlier. That's why we've put it on the tail end.

Kevin Albrecht-Will there ever be any dialogue between the division and USFWS about moving the date?

Blair Stringham -It's a hard and fast date. You'd have to reopen the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and that would never happen.

Comments from the Public

Debbie Pappas -My comment is I don't have a problem with the crows being added to the Depredation Rule. If we are going to do that, I don't see a reason for a hunt, especially when other states report it's not changing the population issues. So let's give the landowners that are having issues the right and ability to take care of them in a responsible way, but not do an all-out hunt. I'm just not seeing the large populations in my work as a rehabilitator. My other concern is misidentification. There will be lots of mistakes out there. There will be other black birds and ravens shot along with crows.

RAC Discussion

Charlie Tracy- Around town in Monticello, they are thicker than thieves and everybody puts up with them. This is one way we can take care of them. Even on the golf course, they come and steal the balls, and take off and the field to the south is full of golf balls. Kids can make a small fortune retrieving them. They are a problem down there. In my hay fields south of town, there are literally thousands of them.

Kevin Albrecht-Going back to the sage-grouse issue, ravens are known to destroy sage-grouse eggs. Do crows also depredate on sage-grouse eggs?

Blair Stringham-We don't have any documentation to show that crows are affecting sage-grouse at all in Utah. The vast majority don't even occur in areas where sage-grouse are, so it's unlikely.

Kevin Albrecht-Before going forward, I want to say I appreciate the comments made by the audience, especially to take the time to come all the way down. Those comments aren't taken lightly. We appreciate that.

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented.

Seconded by Jeff Horrocks

Motion passed with opposing votes cast by Wayne Hoskisson, Sue Bellagamba and Chris Micoz

**10) Utah Trial Hunter Program--New Rule R657--68
-Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Derris Jones-Why do you exclude limited entry big game hunting from the program?

Kirk Smith-The limited entry big game hunt would be the Paunsagunt and Elk Ridge hunts. The committee wanted to protect those individuals that have been putting in for many years and have 15 points or so. They didn't want to open that up and have that competition with them.

Charlie Tracy- Is that the reason for the CWMUs too?

Kirk Smith -Yes.

Charlie Tracy -Is that for the public draw or private portion of the CWMU program?

Kirk Smith -A participant could purchase a permit from the CWMU operator directly.

Derris Jones-A participant could while in this program?

Kirk Smith -Yes.

Derris Jones -I don't think that's what your rule says. It just says CWMU. It didn't say public or private.

Kirk Smith -Kirk read the statement: "The following big game permits allocated through a drawing."

Derris Jones- I stand corrected.

Charlie Tracy-How much does it cost now to go through the Hunter Safety program?

Kirk Smith -The fee in Utah is \$10

Charlie Tracy -Wouldn't it be cheaper just to do that? Than to go through all this?

Kirk Smith -This is very straight forward and simple. There's no fee attached. You get on our website and in 15-20 minutes do a questionnaire, and you are good to go. If I may add some more information to help with this, there was a study done in 2000 about the recruitment rate of hunters and how we are losing them. All the states were surveyed. Based on the report, statistics show that for every 100 hunters that are leaving hunting in Utah, Utah is only replacing them with 59. The national average is 69. We are losing hunters at a fast rate and not replacing them. This program targets the age groups of people we are losing faster than we can replace them.

Derris Jones -What was the make- up of the committee that helped with this?

Kirk Smith -It consisted of myself representing the hunter education program, our wildlife recreation program coordinator, and licensing personnel, and data processing personnel, and director's office.

Derris Jones-They are the ones that are worried about somebody getting a limited entry permit without having to put in for several years? They were afraid of the competition?

Kirk Smith-Yes.

Kevin Albrecht-I don't see how they could get a limited entry permit without putting in.

Kirk Smith-They would not be allowed to put in for the drawing. When they receive the authorization number, it goes into their customer profile, so when they open up the link to apply, it only gives them the options they are eligible for, so they won't even be eligible to apply.

Chris Micoz-I have a problem with someone not taking hunter safety. You asked us where we

learned hunter safety and implied we learned hunter safety in the field. I disagree with that. I've grown up hunting my entire life and I required my daughters to take hunter safety. They do not hunt. They never have, but because we have guns in the house, I thought it was essential that they take that. And they learned a great deal from taking it. I think hunter safety is a right of passage and I disagree strongly with anyone that hunts in the field without it.

Kirk Smith-Hunter education is my life. I'm very passionate about hunter education. I agree that hunter education is very important. In the big picture of the education of our hunters, it's a very small stepping stone along the way. They have a lot of training prior to and they have to have a lot of training after, so I see your point. Hunter education is important but a small step in the total process.

Chris Micoz-I think it's a very important step though.

Jeff Horrocks-I think your questionnaire should be more of a test to check the knowledge of the individual filling it out to find out how much they know about hunting and guns. My kids have all been through hunter safety, but my son has friends who don't have dads at home and I wouldn't want to be within a half mile of them, if they had their hands on a gun and out hunting. I think it's an important factor to make our hunting seasons safe for those who are out hunting. I would like to see something in this to say that if you cannot pass this simple test, you can't apply or move forward.

Kirk Smith -We use the term questionnaire rather than exam or test for potential liability reasons. We didn't want it to appear we are testing them out on this program. Some statistics from Ohio report four times fewer hunting accidents with trial hunters than with the hunting population in general. It's been shown that the trial hunting program is safer than our traditional methods of getting hunters in the field.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht-I didn't know exactly what the survey was, but I had a youth go through online hunter education, and it's a great program and product. If we want to take someone with us, I wonder if that's the avenue we could use, to have them go through the online portion of the course. The other comment I have is about a Special Needs Fishing Day in Price that I helped get started. In doing so, I've wanted to help some of those kids get into hunting. Being able to mentor special needs kids or kids that don't come from a hunting family would be potentially life-changing for them. I look forward to this and the neat things that mentoring adults could do with this program.

Derris Jones -I sympathize with the poor hunter recruitment. I think we need to do everything we can possibly do, and I'm going to vote for this, but that being said, I'm uncomfortable enough with it that I would never want to be a hunter supervisor and I don't think I would ever let someone who I had control over do this without going through hunter education first.

Jeff Horrocks -If an applicant doesn't pass the questionnaire, do you process them anyway?

Kirk Smith -No.

Jeff Horrocks -Like Derris, I'll probably vote for it, but I have my reservations as to how it's

going to work and the liabilities that go with it and the hunter that's going to mentor these people. It's huge.

Kevin Albrecht -Is this mostly geared to help youth recruitment into hunting?

Kirk Smith-It's actually geared toward these older-aged groups that we are not recruiting. That's where our focus is.

Kevin Albrecht-One of the comments I heard last night was that the southern region actually voted that the age limit be 18, so anyone over 18 could do this program. With that amendment, would that hinder what the division is trying to do to bring in those age groups?

Kirk Smith -Based on that question last night, I did some research and from the legislation found that the Wildlife Board is not authorized to make a minimum age requirement.

Kevin Albrecht - So the minimum age would be 12.

Charlie Tracy-You feel like this will increase hunter participation?

Kirk Smith -The statistics show a big increase in urban persons getting involved in hunting. They are also seeing a huge increase in getting women involved in hunting. The return rate is very high. In one state, 50% of the trial hunters took hunter education in the first year. In the second year, another 25% took hunter education, so within the first two years, 75% took hunter education. There's a lot of information on the "Families Afield" website. They are the organization doing the studies.

VOTING

Motion was made by Jeff Horrocks to accept the Utah Trial Hunter Program as presented.

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion failed. In favor were Derris Jones, Jeff Horrocks, Todd Huntington.

Opposed were Charlie Tracy, Wayne Hoskisson, Sue Bellagamba, Chris Micoz.

- 11) **Nash Wash WMA Management Plan**
-Makeda Hanson, regional habitat biologist

Questions from the RAC

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht-Big game studies show the importance of winter ranges. With that understanding, this property is so important, because of its importance to the Book Cliffs and the winter range. All of the work you do there is very important.

Derris Jones-Do you have other SITLA properties you want to obtain?

Makeda Hansen-In March of last year, we did acquire a SITLA section, section 16 that was part of the Lee Kay Center trade. Other than that, there are no other SITLA sections that are adjacent to our property.

Derris Jones-Is the division interested in improving the trail into the head of She Canyon or do you prefer to have it revert back to rough country?

Makeda Hanson-The plan focuses on definable short term objectives and so that would maybe be an appendix to this plan. I would like to do some maintenance at least at the trailhead, because it's really overgrown right now, but further up where it goes into the roadless area, we don't have any authority to improve that.

Derris Jones-If an organization like the Backcountry Horsemen approached the BLM and requested to improve that trail, is that something the division would support, or would you rather not have that traffic?

Makeda Hanson-I think it's something we would support. We do have that identified as a parking area and trailhead at the rock house, and have that identified as horsemen and walking traffic, so I think we would support it. I'm not sure, but that's something I could discuss that with some of the other biologists and may incorporate that into the short term plan. I don't have the answer to that right now.

Derris Jones-One last thing, do you allow camping on division properties there?

Makeda Hanson-We know that some people do use the property for hunting. We put in the plan to have the right to close the property to camping if we have issues.

Derris Jones-Because the trailhead is close to the water, big camps set up near the water and preclude horse trailers from parking there, so if you want to encourage back country hunting from the trailhead, I'd suggest you not have camping allowed there.

Makeda Hanson-I'll make note of that. Ill make a comment in the camping section to not use the main trailhead area. That's a good point.

Charlie Tracy-So the public can just go up there and drive through it any time?

Makeda Hanson-You can use the county roads, but not the road that goes to the facility. That's the only road we have closed. The rest is all accessible by county road.

Charlie Tracy-Can people go through the area marked in purple?

Makeda Hanson-Yes, they can. That's still the county road.

Wayne Hoskisson-I like Nash Wash. It's a nice place to go. You don't see a lot of people and can see animals like bears.

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the Nash Wash WMA habitat management plan as presented.

Seconded by Sue Bellagamba

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Public in attendance: 3

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on June 5 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 July 30 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
May 8, 2014

5. TURKEY MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION to accept the turkey management plan as presented

Passed unanimously

6. TURKEY TRANSPLANT PROPOSED LIST

MOTION to accept the transplant plan as proposed

Passed unanimously

7. UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE 3-YR RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION that we approve it as outlined

Passed unanimously

8. R657-46 - USE OF GAME BIRDS RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION to accept as proposed

Passed unanimously

9. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS

MOTION proposal to accept

Passed unanimously

10. UTAH TRIAL HUNTER PROGRAM - NEW RULE R657-68

MOTION to accept this proposal as presented

Passed unanimously

NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC MEETING SUMMARY
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal
May 8, 2014

RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rod Morrison, Sportsmen
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen
Wayne McAllister, Chair
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor
David Gordon, BLM
Andrea Merrell, Non consumptive
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service

RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Beth Hamann, Non consumptive
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Carrie Messerly, At Large
John Mathis, Public Official
Joe Batty, Agriculture

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator
Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator
Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator
Alex Hansen, NER Wildlife Biologist
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist
Amy VandeVoort, NER Wildlife Biologist
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager
Ron Stewart, NER Conservation Outreach
Randy Scheetz, NER Law Enforcement

1. WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTIONS AND RAC PROCEDURE - Wayne McAllister

2. APROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES - Wayne McAllister

David Gordon/Randy Dearth

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE - Wayne McAllister

All items were passed unanimously. There was discussion on the bucks and bulls regarding adjusting tag numbers and also on the Ferrell horse issue. The Wildlife Board will write a letter to the BLM regarding the Ferrell horses in Iron County, San Pete County and Beaver County. They're destroying the resources because of the numbers that exist out there.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE - Boyde Blackwell

Aquatics:

The Division will be doing carp removal from Pelican Lake, tentatively May 15, weather permitting. We're asking anglers and bow hunters to come help. Carp are competing with bluegill for the resources. They're having a serious impact on bluegill and bass populations. RAC members are encouraged to come out and give us a hand.

Aquatics will be gillnetting in Starvation soon, and doing the majority of gillnetting in other waters in June and July. If any of you are interested and want to go work with Trina, it's fun to see what comes up in the nets and what the populations are. There are good populations of walleye, rainbows and browns in Starvation.

Native Aquatics are starting their work at Stewart Lake and will be going full bore the last week of May. They are blocking the entrance to large fish, which will allow more of the young-of-the-year fish to produce and to grow.

Habitat and Aquatics:

Will be doing work in Meadow Creek. The first phase is to fix and build fences. In the future, we will be installing in-stream flow structures and adding fish hotels. They're not high rise. They're dug down deeper in the streams so they can find cover under banks.

Habitat will be doing Book Cliffs lop and scatter work at Indian Springs, then Park Ridge.

Wildlife:

The April big game and sage grouse surveys are completed. The deer herds look healthy and should be able to have healthy fawns. We just need rain. Sage grouse counts are up on almost all leks, some leks are showing record numbers. For more details, contact Dax Mangus or your area biologist.

Outreach:

Will be teaching fishing classes, starting May 14 in cooperation with the Uintah Recreation Center. Class time and fishing times will be announced.

Flaming Gorge Aquatics:

The crew completed their electro-fishing this year even with high winds and pouring rain. They collected 477 fish at the spillway below Flaming Gorge dam and 400 fish at Little Hole. Those are pretty good numbers. The fish are doing well. You guys are always welcome to give us a hand. There are some big trout below the spillway.

5. TURKEY MANAGEMENT PLAN - Jason Robinson

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: When were turkeys extirpated from Utah?

Jason Robinson: We don't know. We have found nothing in pioneer journals but there have been turkey bones found in southern Utah.

Rod Morrison: What about the increase?

Jason Robinson: We are recommending increasing the number of permits to 11,680, a 20% increase from 2013.

Dan Abeyta: What are some of the examples of problems with turkeys?

Jason Robinson: There's a big difference between damage and large numbers of turkeys. Sometimes they're not causing damage, they're just a nuisance if they're on top of hay bales or decorative landscaping, or gardens. Most responses are to nuisance turkeys and so they are removed.

Wayne McAllister: In southern Utah are the turkeys doing well in the lower elevations?

Jason Robinson: They like piñon pine nuts, but they're not expanding really well there unless they're near a drainage.

Wayne McAllister: The ponderosa country looks strong.

Jason Robinson: Merriams like ponderosa pine.

Randall Thacker: They like Greendale and the South Slope.

Dan Abeyta: When were they reintroduced?

Jason Robinson: There is a long history of trying to reintroduce turkeys going back to the 1950s. They used an eastern subspecies which didn't do as well. Catching wild birds and moving them is a critical link in their success. The Merriam and Rio Grande turkeys do well.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments by RAC:

None

Comments from Public:

None

MOTION:

Andrea Merrell moved to accept turkey management plan as presented

David Gordon: Second

Passed unanimously

6. TURKEY TRANSPLANT PROPOSED LIST - Jason Robinson

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Rod Morrison: Where are the birds going to come from?

Jason Robinson: Most will come from in-state. Also some out of state if we're lucky, South Dakota if we can. This last winter 805 were moved in-state from areas from where the population is at social carrying capacity or habitat carrying capacity.

Dan Abeyta: Are you putting the Rio Grande in certain riparian areas and Merriams on Forest Service land?

Jason Robinson: We manage turkeys on a species level but the subspecies is important. Rio Grandes we put in riparian areas and Merriams are put in higher elevation areas.

Questions from Public:

J.C. Brewer: What did you put in the Book Cliffs?

Alex Hansen: Merriams.

Randall Thacker: We have quite a few that are hybridized as well. It doesn't seem to cause a problem for us.

Jason Robinson: Most people can't tell the difference between the two.

Rod Morrison: I was excited to see some birds transplanted. I think it will be great.

Comments from Public:

None

MOTION

Dan Abeyta made a motion to accept the transplant plan as proposed.

Rod Morrison: Second

Passed unanimously

7. UPLAND GAME, TURKEY AND CRANE 3-YR RECOMMENDATIONS - Jason Robinson

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Wayne McAllister: Will youth hunters roll over from limited entry tags or will they have to buy a general season tag?

Jason Robinson: They would use the same limited entry permit to hunt the general season.

Randy Dearth: Are we going to buy more birds from another state because we kill more birds here, or do we have enough birds in-state to allow more harvest?

Jason Robinson: If the population is increasing we'll increase permits. If it declines, we'll decrease permits. Most of the state has in-state populations and increasing populations. We'll look at in-state birds first but if there was an opportunity to use birds from another state we would take advantage of that.

Questions from Public:

Blake Bess: I would like some clarification on hunter harvesting two birds in one year.

Jason Robinson: The spring turkey hunt is self contained. The fall hunt is separate. A hunter could get a spring limited entry permit and harvest a bird, not getting an over-the-counter permit. Or they could get an over-the-counter permit and be done. Both could apply for a fall permit and harvest a fall bird.

Blake Bess: We're trying to build turkey populations and some people are harvesting two a year?

Jason Robinson: Where the hunts are occurring is where we have a surplus. In some cases we're not able to catch them; this gives us another tool to address them and still be able to move birds. We haven't proposed a fall hunt in NER for that very reason.

Comments from RAC:

Rod Morrison: If we go with the Division's objective of 11,000 permits, etc, I have a concern about a fall hunt if we have a tough winter, of wiping our birds out.

Jason Robinson: If there was a bad winter, we wouldn't have the hunt. We want the flexibility to respond to that sort of event. That is one of the objectives, to respond to a catastrophic event by moving birds, closing hunts, etc.

Rod Morrison: Is there anything in the plan then if this does happen?

Jason Robinson: That's one of the strategies is to develop a guideline on what our response is, to have that in place in case that does happen. Harvesting birds in the spring would help in case there was a severe winter.

Randy Dearth: So, if we had a bad winter in the Northern Region, you might shut the permits down to 100 birds?

Jason Robinson: Yes. That's why we would like to have you approve the process and not have to call an emergency RAC to approve the numbers. That very event would be input into that recommendation; at the end, the local biologists have the ability to tweak it.

Comments from Public:

None

MOTION

Randy Dearth moved that we approve it as outlined

David Gordon: Second

Passed unanimously

8. 654-46 - USE OF GAME BIRDS RULE AMENDMENT - Jason Robinson

(See handout)

Question from RAC:

None

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

Comments from Public:

None

MOTION:

David Gordon motion to accept as proposed

Randy Dearth: Second

Passed unanimously

9. WATERFOWL RECOMMENDATIONS - Blair Stringham

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Randy Dearth: I received an e-mail saying in Utah County there are four breeding pair.

Blair Stringham: I would suspect there are more than that. In Layton you can see a couple hundred birds in any given day but I don't have hard data to back that up.

Tim Ignacio: On the crow and raven, why aren't we hunting for ravens? We have a big problem with ravens here.

Blair Stringham: Both crow and raven are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For crows, we have a specific depredation order allowing us to take them. With ravens, they're looked at differently; the Fish and Wildlife does not offer any form of killing, depredation or hunting seasons. If the Fish and Wildlife Service changes that, it's probably something we would consider.

Tim Ignacio: I've seen them get into quail eggs, etc. They're a big problem for hunters. Can you shoot ravens along with crows?

Blair Stringham: We would have to view them as different. We do have significant crow damage as well.

Dan Abeyta: What about safety concerns regarding legalizing crossbows for waterfowl? When I think of crossbows, I think of birds flying around and arrows shooting into the air.

Blair Stringham: We've allowed their use for quite awhile now. There have been no particular concerns. It is not used very commonly.

Randy Dearth: Why did that opening date come to be?

Blair Stringham: If you go back, we had a noon opener, and it's slowly been reduced to 8:00 and 7:30 last year. We haven't had other problems. The chance of being shot at noon is probably just the same as being shot at 7:00 in the morning.

J.C. Brewer: If a big black bird's flying around, how does the public know the difference?

Blair Stringham: We will put out information on how to tell the difference. If you study, there are behavioral differences as well as physiological differences in size. Along with that, the hunters' responsibility is to be able to identify their target.

J.C. Brewer: I have maintained for years the raven is the biggest problem with sage grouse. When there's a pile of black feathers, how do you tell if it's from a crow or raven?

Blair Stringham: We'll leave that for law enforcement to figure out.

Comments from RAC:

None

Comments from Public:

None

MOTION

Dan Abeyta proposal to accept

Randy Dearth: Second

Passed unanimously

10. UTAH TRIAL HUNTER PROGRAM - NEW RULE R657-68 - Kirk Smith

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: Can we look again at the Trial/Apprentice Hunting Safe slide showing hunting related shooting incidents per 1,000,00 participants?

Kirk Smith: There were 11 apprentice accidents as opposed to 50 regular license holders accidents.

Randy Dearth: In the mentoring program I can take my 11-year old grandson and use my tag. In this program, he can go with me?

Kirk Smith: The mentoring program says they have to have hunter education. The trial hunter doesn't have to have hunter education because they would be directly supervised.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: I appreciate how the division is trying to promote hunting and fishing.

Comments from Public:

Ron Stewart: We're missing a group. You're going to have a lot of parents take an 11-year old wasting this opportunity on him for three years. Later, when they're in college and someone wants to take them out as an adult, they won't have that opportunity. I would like to see the opportunity given twice. Once between 12 and 18 and the other 19 and older. It should be expanded to twice in a lifetime.

MOTION

Dan Abeyta motion to accept this proposal as presented

Rod Morrison: Second

Passed unanimously

Rod Morrison: May I ask Jason Robinson one last question?

Wayne McAllister: Yes

Rod Morrison: Jason, did the Southern Region pass the turkey proposal with the large number of fall permits allocated?

Jason Robinson: Yes. I looked at the ratio of Northern Region permits spring and fall and Southern Region ratio in spring and fall. The numbers are pretty consistent. They're aware of how many turkeys they have.

David Gordon MOTION to have meeting adjourned

Rod Morrison second

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm

Next meeting: July 31, 2014

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville
May 13, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

MOTION: To accept the agenda and minutes as written
Passed 6 to 2

Turkey Management Plan

MOTION: To approve as presented
Passed unanimously

Turkey Transplant Proposed List

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented
Passed unanimously

Upland Game and Turkey 3-yr Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented
Passed unanimously

R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Waterfowl/Migratory Bird Recommendations

MOTION: To accept the proposal as presented
Passed 7 to 2

Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68

MOTION: To accept the rule with the addition of allowing participants over 14 years of age to accumulate points but lose the points if they do not complete hunter education by the end of their trial period
Failed 4 to 5

MOTION: To accept as the proposal as presented
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Public Library
45 S. Main Street, Springville
May 13, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Timothy Fehr, At large, excused
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service
Michael Gates, BLM, excused
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair
George Holmes, Agriculture
Kristofer Marble, At large
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair
Jay Price, Elected
Jacob Steele, Confederate Tribe Goshute

Members Absent

Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive

Others Present

Calvin Crandall, Wildlife Board Member

-
- 1) **Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**
- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair
 - 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**
- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair
 - 3) **Regional Update (Information)**
- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

Aquatics

- Moving 50,000 yellow perch from Fish Lake to Yuba Res. through May 23
- Deer Creek and Jordanelle gillnetting completed
- June sucker crew sampling Utah Lake this week

Wildlife

- Lek counts all completed except at Strawberry
 - Ibapah counts up
 - West Desert counts down
 - Little Valley counts way down
- Pronghorn flights completed over Easter weekend (numbers continue downward, wild horse numbers up considerably)
- Mule Deer Management Plan working group convened, developing survey questions, will reconvene after survey and continue with the plan revision
- Central Region deer unit management plans submitted to Salt Lake for review
- Starting range rides this week (May 14, 22 and 29)

Habitat

- MDF Field and Stream Day May 31 at Santaquin WMA
- Livestock grazing has begun on most WMAs (May-June)
- Bullhog project starting up again at Dairy Fork
- Hilltop Phase II project will continue after Dairy Fork

- West Vernon 1000-acre lop and scatter in progress

Conservation Outreach

- Salem Pond Fishing Event today involving about 1000 special needs kids, many volunteers
- Scheels fishing event to be held on May 17
- Big Hollow Shooting Range Open House May 31
- Utah Lake Commission Field Trips completed (3)

Law Enforcement

- Quagga checkpoints at Lake Powell
- Juab and Heber CO districts to be filled by August

4) Approval of Agenda and Minutes (Action)

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

VOTING

Motion was made by George Holmes to accept the agenda and minutes as written

Seconded by Kristopher Marble

In Favor: Jacob Steele, Sarah Flinders, Kristofer Marble, Timothy Fehr, Michael Gates, Jay Price

Opposed: Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen

Motion passed 6 to 2

5) Turkey Management Plan (Action)

- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Mike Pritchett – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – I had the privilege to serve on this committee and we put in 20 hours of work on it. We really support it and think it is a good management plan. It was a great effort by Jason and all the other people involved in it. Things went really well. I appreciate Jason extending the offer for me to be a part of it. I would like to recommend that the RAC support it and pass it. Thank you.

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to approve as presented

Seconded by Timothy Fehr

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

6) Turkey Transplant Proposed List (Action)

- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Mike Pritchett – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – Again, I worked with Jason through the management plan and also with the trap and transplant list and it's a very good list and we hope

to help them financially in whatever obligations they need to reach their objectives to fill those and we would like to let the RAC know we support it and would like the RAC to support the transplant list.

RAC Discussion

George Holmes – I see there are several areas in Wasatch County being listed for transplant. Of those how many of them are new?

Jason Robinson – If you look in the recommendation it is there. I don't know off the top of my head I would have to look. They are marked with either being new or supplemental.

George Holmes – How do you count how many turkeys there are?

Jason Robinson – It's though. They like thick woody cover especially trees so it's hard to get an exact number. A lot of times in the winter there are large concentrations in areas where there is food and that at least gives us some kind of index of a growing or declining population. It really comes down to our biologists being out there on the ground but it's hard to do anything formally.

George Holmes – So are you saying you guess then?

Jason Robinson – An education guess I would say.

Richard Hansen – Where are you getting the turkeys from do the transplants mainly?

Jason Robinson – The vast majority come from within the state. We do look to other states to get turkeys if they have a surplus. As an example, two years ago we got some birds from South Dakota in the Black Hills they had a surplus. The majority of our birds come from within state. This year all of them were caught and moved within state. A lot of them came from the northern region in areas where they have met their social carrying capacity so there are more turkeys than people want to see especially in the winter months. We go in and capture those birds and move them to areas where they won't be a conflict and where we can use some additional birds.

Public Question

Wayne Whaley - After the transplants what is the success rate in terms of survival? Is there any indication of that when you bring them from the Dakotas to new habitat and the mountains they may not be used to?

Jason Robinson – We don't have exact estimates on what it is here in Utah. We know it's high because the populations are expanding very well.

VOTING

Motion was made by George Holmes to accept the proposal as presented

Seconded by Kristofer Marble

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

7) Upland Game and Turkey 3-yr Recommendations (Action)

- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kristofer Marble – Out of curiosity what is the purpose for the proposal for a fall hunt? Is that to increase hunter opportunity as opposed to just transplanting birds, was it a timing issue?

Jason Robinson – All of the above. Not every circumstance can we go in and capture the birds. We wanted to increase turkey hunting opportunity. In some areas we really do need to probably reduce the population so it allowed another tool for us to use having these hunts. It can reduce the population if we wanted, it does increase opportunity and it still allows us, as you saw in the northern region recommendation, to still be able to move some birds if we want to. It really just gives us more management options to deal with our growing turkey population.

Richard Hansen – I'm aware of a couple places in the central region where turkeys are a problem for some people and I wondered if that's not going to be an issue or are you going to trap them or what are you going to do?

Jason Robinson – We will probably go and capture those birds. We have been actively catching birds. This last year in the central region moved 228 turkeys within the region. The region felt at this time the better recommendation would be to capture and move them as we are trying to fill those sites.

Richard Hansen – The problem is some of those sites that you are going to try to increase the bird numbers are near those areas and if you don't kill them they are just going to keep coming in there so I just wondered if from a management point of view would it be better to kill them and put pressure on them and move them away?

Jason Robinson – We do have other options. We do have the spring season that can help us with that. We also have a depredation hunt in areas where they are causing damage we can do a very specific hunt to remove individual birds. That is still an option for the region to utilize that.

Richard Hansen – I really like this fall hunt and I hope that it will expand into all the regions.

Jason Robinson – I think it will.

Gary Nielson – We looked at that and I am familiar with the areas he is talking about that have lots of turkeys and that would be a really easy time to cull the population if it was beginning to be a problem.

Jason Robinson – One of the things we have learned is that once you start hunting turkeys they are smarter than people give them credit for. You probably see that in the spring if you hunt turkeys. They get smart quick which is kind of what we are hoping to do is put a little bit of wildness back into them in the fall so they are not relying so much on people.

Questions from the Public

Mike Pritchett – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – We do support the recommendations that the DWR is making and the guidebook. There are a couple items we would like the RAC to entertain and take a look at one being the youth hunt on the turkey and extending it from the three day to possibly five days. Turkey hunting as you well know can be dictated enormously by weather and this year was the prime example. The kids youth hunt was a wash, the weather was horrible. With the religions and Sundays I feel realistically we are giving the kids two days to hunt and I would like to ask the RAC to entertain giving the kids five days. All it would do is start the hunt on a Wednesday. I don't think that is a big hurt to anybody. This isn't on there or talked about but we don't currently offer a reduced license for our youth for turkey hunts. Our current price structure is 35 dollars for anybody to get a tag and I would like to see that looked at and possibly adjusted for the youth to get a discounted license in the future. I know all our surrounding states offer discounted youth hunting licenses. I think we need to look at it in our state to offer that too and help grow our youth population and encourage them to participate in turkey hunting. Thank you very much.

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Kristofer Marble – Going back to Mike's comments was the youth hunt going from three to five days addressed in the turkey management plan committee?

Jason Robinson – It wasn't. We do have a strategy in there to try to optimize season lengths but we didn't go into that fine of detail. Just a point of clarification so you are aware a youth can hunt the youth hunt for the three days and then they can then hunt the rest of the over the counter season so what Mike is proposing would give them two additional days before the rest of the hunters go out there.

Kristofer Marble – Is there any concern with that?

Jason Robinson – It's inconsistent because we are recommending three day youth hunts for the others. It does shorten the over the counter season for the other hunters by two days. Biologically I don't think there is a concern.

Kristofer Marble – It would curtail the general season by two days if you extended it. You couldn't just make it earlier two days?

Jason Robinson – I wouldn't recommend moving the tail end into June then you get into issues with broods and that sort of thing. The easiest solution would be to reduce the hunt by two days. They have them to hunt already it would just reduce the adults out there.

Kristofer Marble – His other comment was about discounted turkey tags. Is there any reason why you don't have discounted turkey tags?

Jason Robinson – Not that I know of. It's a pretty involved process to get license dollars changed but again the turkey plan that was passed earlier has a recommendation or a strategy to look at the current fee structure to see if we can offer some if it is optimal.

Kristofer Marble – It sounds like it is already addressed there.

Jason Robinson – It's addressed in the fact that we would take a look at it but it doesn't specifically say we would offer a youth reduced price.

Kristofer Marble – Which is probably all we could recommend here anyway. Thank you.

VOTING

Motion was made by Richard to accept the proposal as presented

Seconded by Kristofer Marble

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

8) R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment (Action)

- Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – Are you talking about domestic birds?

Jason Robinson – In most cases they are pen reared game birds or waterfowl. Pheasants and chukars.

Richard Hansen – Are you not allowed to use wild birds?

Jason Robinson – You can train your dogs on wild birds and the rule outlines when that is appropriate and when it is not.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by Timothy Fehr

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

9) Waterfowl/Migratory Bird Recommendations (Action)

- Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Larry Fitzgerald – How are you going to distinguish between crows and ravens?

Blair Stringham – Most of the states around us that have ravens also currently have a crow hunting season. They have provided a lot of literature in their upland game guidebooks as well as things they have published and put on their web site. They show some of the behavioral differences as well as some of the physiological differences between crows and ravens. For the most part you tend to see crows being in large groups and they are also smaller in size than ravens and have different shaped tails. There are some key things to look for.

Larry Fitzgerald – Could you not include the ravens in with the crows?

Blair Stringham – Currently the Fish and Wildlife Service only gives us the option of crow hunting and taking them for depredation reasons. Because ravens are covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and have jurisdiction under the Fish and Wildlife Service and they don't offer any of those options currently for ravens.

Larry Fitzgerald – I think most people consider a raven a crow and those are the ones people are going to go after.

Blair Stringham – What we hope to do is publicize a lot of information that there are some definite differences between the two. We have the assumption of our hunters that if they go out and participate in hunting they are going to be able to identify their target and gather some background information. It is likely that some people won't but we hope that most people will and we are definitely going to provide all the information we can for those people.

Sarah Flinders – We have had a lot of opposition to this. A lot of folks have written in and let us know that they don't agree with adding the crow into this new rule. Do you think they are getting the two confused, are they lumping the ravens and crows together?

Blair Stringham – I think most of the comments I have received have been more anti-hunting sentiment than anything. We have received quite a few comments from people who are excited about the crow hunt, particularly people who aren't from Utah who lived back east where crow hunting has been going on for quite some time now. The feedback I have been getting has been both positive and negative but probably not one more so than one or the other.

Kristofer Marble – On the damage that these crows are causing do you have solid data evidence that you are really seeing damage caused by crows?

Blair Stringham – A lot of it has come from just the complaint calls we have had. Wildlife Services typically fields a lot of these calls specifically in the Layton area. There are huge numbers of birds so they have had quite a few issues around Hill Air Force Base and in that general vicinity.

Kristofer Marble – I'm just curious, do they go up and look at those cases and document them or is it purely the amount of complaints that they've got?

Blair Stringham – It is largely based on the number of complaints. We do have some limited data on what we have documented but it is largely based on complaints we have had.

Gary Nielson – One of the reasons they get after them in other states is the damage they do to bird nests for upland game as well as waterfowl. They are really hard on eggs and pretty devastating on those kinds of things. Are they taking that into consideration? Is that part of their thinking besides agriculture and nuisance?

Blair Stringham – They have definitely been documented to be nest predators. They are corvids and they are really smart birds. We have seen definite increases in populations around Farmington Bay and Ogden Bay and some of those production areas we have on the Great Salt Lake. We haven't collected any data on that but the increase in numbers would suggest that there are likely some nests being destroyed by crows.

Questions from the Public

Rod Andrew – I am a duck hunter. Is there any consideration to lengthen the white goose hunt in February and March? It seems like we are having a tough time hitting when the geese are coming through and know they are causing a fair amount of damage.

Blair Stringham – We have really maximized our season dates as much as possible to coincide when light geese are here in the state. Typically we see a couple thousand geese come through in the fall so we have tried to push that season date back from our general hunt to be about the timeframe they come through in October, November and the first part of December. We have also split that season to coincide with when they return from their wintering grounds headed north which are those last few weeks of February and March. The restrictions we do have though do come from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that does not allow us to have a hunting season beyond March 10th. Currently we have put it as far back as we possibly can to try catch when they are moving back north. There are growing concerns with agricultural damage as well as habitat conditions in the breeding grounds. As we collect more data it may be a possibility to extend it.

Comments from the Public

Margaret Wynne – Herriman – I have had a lifelong passion for birds and am an active birder. I have a particular soft spot for corvids. I was hoping some other birders would be here, hopefully there are some. Crows are highly intelligent animals, very resourceful cooperative creatures and they are commonly known as the most intelligent of all birds. They manufacture and use tools, solve problems, communicate dangers to other flock members and groom other members of the flock. A recent study at the University of Washington found that they do facial recognition of human beings that are a danger to them and they pass it down several generations and within several miles of their territory. Paternal care is very prolonged in corvids in general. They will spend two to three years with their parents and will help take care of the younger brood so it's hard to see how a parent corvid would do as well as they do without those younger birds. They also discovered recently that American Crows live in cooperative groups and that provides you an opportunity to compare them with primates in that all of these characteristics I've listed are the same that you would consider as being of a higher mammal order such as caring for young and staying in social groups and having territorial behavior and all of that. Speaking of primates, this is all related, George Schaller and Jane Goodall recognize that the study of animals is best suited when they are not feeling threatened. For crows which considering we are still making scientific discoveries on them if they are being threatened then the case can be made that we would not be able to make any scientific discoveries, or fewer. Because of West Nile virus there has been a 45 percent decline in American Crow populations since 1999. Back east it has been worse around Baltimore there has been a 90 percent decline in population. It may be that the American west is the last refuge for American Crows. The other concern that you brought up was about the impact to ravens. I have some pictures here that show juvenile ravens versus a crow and you can see they are very difficult to tell apart.

Larry Fitzgerald – They are really not hard to tell apart if you know what you are looking at.

Margaret Wynne – In the time it takes to raise a gun from your hip to your shoulder it might be a flutter of black wings.

Larry Fitzgerald – I'm sorry for interrupting.

Margaret Wynne – Okay. The question is how quickly can someone determine does it have a wedge shaped tail, is it shorter or longer compared to what if there is nothing else to compare it to. I have seen the other states Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado how they educate the hunters and it's usually an inset in their guidebook that is not very descriptive of the difference between a crow and a raven. I think that there will be a large impact on ravens which is protected as you said under the migratory bird act. The other thing I have seen in your press releases it was mentioned that the main reason behind this was not so much about fruit crops or anything like that; it was about providing extra hunting opportunities in Utah as opposed to neighboring states. While it is true that neighboring states do provide crow hunting the season that we are putting

forth is actually longer than the other states around us except for Nevada. If you look at the bird hunting opportunities that are already out there there is already the Eurasian collard doves which is all year long, 365 days a year. Utah has the highest amount of hunting opportunities for birds. They have 1,806. This is not counting youth hunter days or falconry. Wyoming has 866, Nevada has 980, Idaho has 771, Colorado has the closest at 1,103 and Arizona has 399. Even at that I think that there is more than enough hunting opportunities for bird hunters and there are 49 million birders in the U.S. spending 55 billion dollars a year on looking at live birds so I would recommend that we try to capitalize on that instead.

Dr. Wayne Whaley – Utah County Birders – Professor of biology at Utah Valley University – I am an ornithologist and I have studied raptors most of the time. I have done several studies on raptors in various places in Arizona for my master’s degree and also here in Utah. I consider myself fairly good at being able to identify species. There is going to be a problem recognizing a crow and a raven. As an ornithologist I have problems with that especially when you only have a short time to see the bird so I agree with her 100 percent. There will be ravens shot illegally in the state of Utah if we do this. I want to go to some things I have written down here. First of all I am going to present three DWR inferences that have been made about this proposed crow hunt and then I am going to make comments on those inferences. Most of these are right from the DWR web site. I will quote Blair Stringham for these. “Crows damage fruit crops in Utah”. I need the data, where are the data? Before we can go shoot these birds we need data. It is unethical to do this without the data. We need to know what we’ve got here before we can go shoot crows. They are more common in the northern part of the state, yes. So I have called the Logan office for the Utah Department of Agriculture and talked with them and asked questions. There have been no reports of crow damage to crops. Crows were not mentioned but geese, sandhill cranes and raccoons were. In fact raccoons are probably the biggest problem on waterfowl in the state of Utah especially around the wet areas. I also talked with Melissa Burns, the migratory bird coordinator of the Fish and Wildlife Service and she said there has been no mention of crow damage in Utah to her. In fact she was quite concerned and apparently she wasn’t real familiar with what was going on herself. That was just today I talked to her. I have had conversations twice with Dr. McGowan who is the crow guru I would say. He studied crows for 26 years at Cornell University Ithaca. They have many more crows back there. I am going to quote him. “Studies do not indicate that they are a serious problem with crop grain. In New York there is no indication that they are a serious problem with fruits but maybe sometimes some predation on certain pecan orchards” Dr. McGowan also stated that depredation problems are minor where they occur and can easily be solved by means other than having an annual crow hunt”. He continued by saying that “most states that have a crow hunt season at least in the east have a season based on sociological issues and not because of crow depredation”. In other words, as he said specifically it was because the local wildlife clubs requested it because before the laws were passed the migratory bird treaty act of 1972, which brought the crow into possibly being hunted because of pressure on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service they finally bent in and allowed crow hunting. Now what is on the menu for crows? In personal communication with Dr. Kevin McGowan he said on May 8th some early 1900 studies show that economic benefits are positive for crows via the substantial numbers of harmful insects eaten. For example in corn fields the corn borer larvae in the base of corn stalks are eaten in substantial numbers and the studies show that in fields that have crows in them during winter months had better yields the following summer. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service U.S. biological survey bulletins, several of those have mentioned crow diets and they come out generally positive for crows because of the insects they eat. I could read much more of this on crow diet but I wouldn’t have time to do it.

Gary Nielson – Mr. Whaley, you have one minute.

Dr. Wayne Whaley - Number two issue that has been brought up is the sociological issue. This is a quote again from Blair Stringham “giving hunters another chance to hunt is the major reason for wanting to start a crow hunt”. This is the wrong reason for a crow hunt. Because other states are

doing it does not mean it's the right thing to do. This is a non-consumptive hunt. No matter what people say and there may be some recipes out there on the internet but they are not going to be eaten.

Gary Nielson – Would you conclude your remarks please.

Wayne Whaley – I don't think I have had five minutes.

Gary Nielson- You have.

Wayne Whaley – The last thing here is that the crows are now very common. Where is the data? We need data before we can start a crow hunt. They are more common than they used to be. We have four nesting birds in Utah County, that's it. They started nesting here in 2010 and I discovered the first nest and have been studying that nest now for four years and the other new nests that we have now. We've got four of them now. These last four years I have noticed animal behavior and those birds need to not be hunted. It is a very intelligent bird. I agree with everything she said and it is very important we avoid this hunt.

Pam Petty – I am from Orem, Utah and I am also here on behalf of the crows. They aren't able to represent themselves. They have an interest in living. I agree with everything in the previous two comments. They have families, they are individuals. They not only want to stay alive for themselves but if they are killed their families will miss them as well. The adult children help raise the younger children. There is just no reason. I was outraged when I saw in the Salt Lake Tribune that the main reason for having this crow hunt is to provide opportunities to hunt. That isn't a sufficient reason to kill and that is the main reason I wanted to say that.

Patti Richards – Great Basin Wildlife Rescue – I just wanted to come up and say we are opposed to the crow hunt also. In the rehab process you can tell the amount of species that are out there by how many come in for rehabilitation purposes. Like a Great Horned Owl. We get plenty of them so we know the species count is up. But in ten years of doing rehab I have only received one crow in Utah County so that can tell you that we just don't have it here. I also want to state that on an educational permit we do have a crow and a raven and anytime I take my raven out we always get the same question, what is the difference between a crow and a raven, people don't know. That is all I wanted to say.

Ken Strong – I would like to take the time to thank the DWR for taking the time to investigate this crow hunt and looking at what happens in some of the other states and looking at the hunting opportunity it provides us here in this state. I think it is a very good thing to be able to hunt crows. I look at what goes on in the spring with them raiding the nests of the birds. I have them in my pine trees at home where the birds nest and the crows are enjoying the baby birds. We have pheasant chicks and especially the sage grouse that are local here west of Nephi where the ravens really aren't as much as the crows are and they are destroying what few sage hens we do have left and that is an endangered species. I would like to thank the fish and game for taking the time to think this out and offer the crow hunt and I am 100 percent behind it. Thank you.

Mike Pritchett – Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife – We support the Division's recommendation on this crow hunt and would like RAC to support also. Thank you.

Ben Lowder – Utah Bowman's Association – We support the recommendation on the waterfowl recommendations including the crow hunt as presented. The question has been asked, where is the data? We saw the data and the data shows an increasing trend in population, a very exponential increasing trend in population. We have seen just very recently in the last week or couple months where we see other populations increase like this we are asked to reduce them. Just last week the cattlemen were asking us to reduce elk populations at the Wildlife Board meeting because elk populations are very high. We're currently asking the BLM to reduce horse populations because they are way beyond objective and out of control. Again the data has been

presented. The populations of crows are increasing as we have seen in the last 20 to 25 years very exponentially and I believe that there is room to hunt them. Hunting crows doesn't mean that we are going to wipe them out. Hunting is a management tool and used to manage populations and to keep them in a stable healthy population so I don't see any detriment to doing so.

Wayne Whaley – Can I comment on a comment? Is that legal?

Gary Nielson – I can only give you five minutes and you used those already.

Wayne Whaley – There is a lot to be said that hasn't been said.

Gary Nielson – That is true.

Wayne Whaley - You need to talk to some people at Cornell University who have studied these crows. The bird populations do not go down. Yes, western scrub jays eat bird's eggs and young too. All the corvids do. You can talk to the people who studied crows for many years and the populations of birds are not affected. Songbirds are still here. The crows have been around for a long time. It's not like they suddenly appeared. I have crows in my yard every day because I feed birds including crows and I have robins nest there every year since 2010 and the robins still nest there. What is going on? I watch birds. I feed birds. They are here. So the idea that the crows are going to destroy other birds.... Talk to Dr. Kevin McGowan at Cornell University who is the crow guru who studied them for 26 years. We don't need this hunt. We do not need this hunt. It is unethical to shoot those birds. They are very intelligent and family oriented, it's not right.

Gary Nielson – We appreciate you and your efforts to make your point and you have made your point. We run these meetings with the rules and regulations that everybody has to play by and you have made your point. Thank you very much.

RAC Discussion

Richard Hansen – When I read about this I wanted to know how you tell the difference between a crow and a raven etc. but I talked with an individual that raises sheep and goes from the dessert to the mountains each year and he told me specifically that they lose several lambs every year to crows. As soon as those lambs hit the ground those crows come in and peck their eyes out and the lambs die. It happens. I'm not saying how much because I don't know if there are any studies but he said he has seen it personally happen many times. Excuse me, I'm just giving a comment that was given to me by someone who raises sheep and has done so for over 30 years. I am just saying that they do cause some problems, let's be honest about it, just like anything does. I think that needs to be part of the record here too that they do cause problems and I don't know what their natural predators are or if they have any or if it's just disease only that keeps their numbers in check but I wanted to enter that comment from someone that has dealt with that situation.

Sarah Flinders – I just wanted to clarify that the chart that you had up there with the growing population, you did mention that you really don't have solid numbers for that and that was just an inference. Could you clarify your comment because I thought I heard you say that was what you think is happening, not what you know for sure.

Blair Stringham – That actually comes from the breeding bird survey data that is done each year in the spring so it tracks the breeding trend of many different bird species. That is definitely data.

Sarah Flinders – That is what you are seeing?

Blair Stringham – Yes.

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the proposal as presented
Seconded by Jay Price**

**In Favor: Jacob Steele, Larry Fitzgerald, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble,
Michael Gates, George Holmes, Jay Price**

Opposed: Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr

Motion passed 7 to 2

- 10) Utah Trail Hunter Program - New Rule R657-68 (Action)
- **Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator****

Questions from the RAC

Kristofer Marble – Can a trial hunter accrue preference points?

Kirk Smith – No we did not include that in there.

Richard Hansen – Did you consider if they are a trial hunter over the age of 14 allowing them to accrue a preference point?

Kirk Smith – That was discussed very heavily through the whole process of doing that and we decided to exclude that at this point.

Richard Hansen – I just wonder if that would encourage them to stay in it and with it.

Gary Nielson – I just received a note here that says the legislature allows us to have a trial hunter program. They actually directed us to do so. It wasn't something they said you should think about this, they directed us to do it. That is where this one lies and that might help clear up some of the questions or wonderings about where it is coming from and all of that. They have been directed to bring it up and to do it.

Sarah Flinders – So what exactly does that mean? Does that mean this is going to happen either way?

Gary Nielson – Usually.

Sarah Flinders – So this is more informative? I have never heard of this before.

Richard Hansen – I think it's more a thing of how to structure it. They want us to do it and it's up to these guys to structure it and figure out how to do it.

Sarah Flinders – That makes sense, I just had never heard of that.

Gary Nielson – And that is based on long studies done in other states. My concern about it was the safety. You know how kids are and you know how adults are that are not used to guns but the safety record speaks for itself. They are a little more careful maybe. The mentors were a little more conscience because they are aware of what is at risk but we have been directed to figure out a way to make it work is what it sounds like to me.

Kirk Smith – That is correct and this that is on the screen that I summarized, those are the key points that the Wildlife Board had got to make a decision on of how we are going to run this program.

Gary Nielson – The other concern I heard from people when it was talked about is they were concerned about the draw permits. The premium permits and stuff like that and if these people would have an opportunity to get in on that and yes they would if they do the hunter safety and go the regular route but not just as a trial hunter.

Kirk Smith – Correct, the limited entry highly coveted permits are protected from this program.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Ben Lowder – Utah Bowman’s Association – We supported the legislative part of this when it went through the legislature this spring. The best way to introduce somebody and get them hooked into an activity or a sport is to let them participate. We can talk about it all we want and it can generate excitement but until you participate that is when people really get hooked. The hunter education program, while definitely a very good program and necessary, places a barrier in front of hunting and allowing us to introduce new people to hunting. This program removes that barrier in a very safe manor and provides people the opportunity to introduce people to hunting that may not otherwise do so. We support this proposal as it has been presented. I think that the bullet points you see here with the licenses and the permits that are and are not allowed as part of this program is a very good compromise and we support it as presented. Thank you.

RAC Discussion

Richard Hansen – Since I have been on this board I have seen a lot of effort made to try to engage the youth and to bring them into the hunting community and I have often thought that sometimes we bend over backwards to try to get them there. I see the graph that shows where you are losing them and I think a lot of it is because of old guys like me that told our kids I remember the day, I remember going out and seeing 100 deer in one day. Now I take my grandkids out and sometimes we are lucky to see two does in a day. I know that the Division is working their tails off to try to make that experience better. The deer herds seem to be trending up. I think that is the thing that is going to make them get hooked is when they go out and they can have some success and see that. That will keep them hooked. Along with that I am a little concerned about the fact that we don’t let these 12 year old kids at least buy bonus points for limited entry species. You do that and they will stay in the game. That is my opinion. I would hope that they would at some point try to look at that and at least allow those 12 year olds to apply at least for bonus points for deer and elk and make them feel like they have a little skin in the game so if they stay with it they will eventually be able to draw that permit and they won’t just fade off because it’s like what is the point. I would like to consider that at some point. Thanks.

Kristofer Marble – I like what Richard had to say. Maybe not let them use the points until they go through hunter safety but I like the idea of buying the bonus points and having those as an additional hook. Maybe even write the rule to say after the three year period if you don’t take hunter safety and get into it then you lose those bonus points but I kind of like that idea.

John Fairchild – I think we need to clarify something. We have another group from 12 to 14 who can’t apply for limited entry who have hunter education. So I think if you are going to take this up it would be at the big game November meeting where we would change the rules for the whole group.

Kristofer Marble – We could make it 14 instead of 12 for the trial program.

John Fairchild – I guess you could.

George Holmes – What you just said is at 14 is when you can start accumulating points.

John Fairchild – Yes.

Gary Nielson – I don’t know about having trial hunters accumulating points. I think they ought to be legit and have gone through hunter safety and done the stuff that everybody else had to do to start to acquire points. I don’t think as a trial hunter you should have the opportunity to do that. That is just my opinion.

Richard Hansen – I was really focusing on that 12 to 14 year old age that has gone through hunter safety because right now they can’t. I think you just tie them into it more if they are at least able to buy a bonus point for a particular species.

Gary Nielson – So that would be the November meeting.

Timothy Fehr - I like the aspect of encouraging them to go on with hunt education and the formal licensing thing rather than trail hunt and say now if you want to get the points, this is where you have to go. I like that approach. I think you did a really good job of responding to the direction that you got from the legislature and coming back with a program we can live with.

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the rule with the amendment that any trial hunter over the age of 14 can purchase bonus points and if they complete hunter safety by the end of their trial period they can keep those bonus points

Seconded by Richard Hansen

Gary Nielson – The motion is that if somebody is a trail hunter and they actually formalize it with a hunter safety class within the three year period that they would be allowed to buy bonus points and they would be allowed to keep those bonus points they bought. Kris, restate your motion.

Kristofer Marble – The motion I would like to propose is that any trial hunter participant age 14 or older can purchase bonus points as long as they complete hunter safety before the end of their trial period they can keep those bonus points and if they don't they lose them

Jay Price – You are only talking about one point because you can only get one tag.

John Fairchild – They can get it each year for the three years.

In Favor: Jacob Steele, Richard Hansen, Kristofer Marble, Michael Gates,

Opposed: Sarah Flinders, Larry Fitzgerald, Timothy Fehr, George Holmes, Jay Price

Motion failed 4 to 5

Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept as the proposal as presented

Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

11) Least Chub Refuge Site – SL County Jail (Informational)

- Chris Crockett, Native Aquatics Project Leader

Questions from the RAC

Gary Nielson – Are they going to cover that pond so it's not just snack for migrating birds?

Chris Crockett – That will be part of the inmate's role in the process is helping with some of the scare tactics for preventing that. But we won't actually cover it.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

12) Strawberry Management Plan (Informational)

- Justin Robinson, Strawberry Project Biologist

Questions from the RAC

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Joseph Rohner – I am representing myself but I am a member of the Strawberry Anglers Association and I would like to go on record as supporting Justin and Alan in their plan for the Strawberry Valley and thank them for what they have done.

RAC Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

37 in attendance

Next board meeting June 5th at 9:00 a.m. at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting August 5th at 6:30 p.m. at Springville Public Library

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 15, 2014

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

Summary of Motions

Meeting Begins: 6:01 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: Approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Approval of the April 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Motion: Move to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Turkey Management Plan

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented.

Motion Passes: For: 10, Against: 2

Turkey Transplant Proposed List

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented excluding the units that are listed in the Central region but located in the Northern Region.

Motion Passes: For: 11, Against: 1

Upland Game and Turkey 3-yr Recommendations

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Upland Game recommendations excepting the turkey limited entry season and establishing the turkey general season throughout the overall recommended frame work.

Motion Passes: For 10, Against 2

Motion: Motion to amend the previous upland game and turkey recommendation motion to allow the youth hunt as DWR determines within the established frame work.

Motion Passes: For 10, Against 2

R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Waterfowl Recommendations

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented excluding those portions applicable to American crow.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-3 as presented

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board enact a falconry hunt for the American crow within the frame work recommended by the Division.

Motion Passes: For 10, Against 2

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the American crow hunt as proposed by the Division.

Motion Fails: For 3, Against 9

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board not enact any American crow hunt other than falconry.

Motion Passes: For 8, Against 4

Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Utah Trial Hunter Program R657-68 as presented.

Motion Passes: For 11, Against 1

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Move we adjourn.

Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair

Meeting Ends: 11:35 pm.

Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting

May 15, 2014

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:01 p.m.

RAC Present

Robert Byrnes- Chair, At Large
John Blazzard- Agriculture
John Cavitt- Nonconsumptive
Paul Cowley- Forest Service
James Gaskill- At Large
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large
Russ Lawrence- At Large
Jon Leonard- Sportsman
Kristin Purdy- Nonconsumptive
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
John Wall- At Large
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Justin Dolling
Jason Robinson
Blair Stringham
Randy Wood
Scott Walker
Avery Cook
Gary Cook
Mitch Lane
Devin Christensen
Corrie Wallace
Brandon Baron
Greg Sheehan

Wildlife Board

RAC Excused

Joel Ferry- Agriculture
Craig Van Tassell- Sportsman

Agenda:

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Approval of Agenda
Approval of April 16, 2014 Meeting Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Turkey Management Plan
Turkey Transplant Proposed List
Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations
R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment
Waterfowl Recommendations
Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68
Strawberry Management Plan

Item 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure

Welcome: Robert Byrnes, Chair

Introduction of RAC Members

RAC Procedure: Robert Byrnes, Chair

Item 2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: John Blazzard- Approve the agenda for tonight's meeting.

Second: Paul Cowley

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Approval of April 16, 2014 Minutes

Motion: James Gaskill- Move to approve the minutes as amended.

Second: John Wall

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Robert Byrnes, RAC Chair

Robert Byrnes- In general the Wildlife Board did agree with our recommendations. Their motion on allowing those permits to be purchased for multiple years included our motion. So, disabled veterans and seniors will be able to purchase multiple year licenses at their discounted rate but will not receive the additional dollar off per year. There were some changes to the permit numbers. The Wildlife Board voted to keep the trophy buck permits on the Paunsagaunt and the Henry Mountains at the 2013 levels. They also voted to keep the Manti unit bull elk permits at 453. The rest of the OIAL bucks and bulls permit numbers were accepted as presented. On the antlerless, the Wildlife Board voted to increase the antlerless elk permit numbers on the southwest desert unit from 365 to 425. That was in relation to some requests by ranchers in that area being affected by the drought and reduced grazing allotment usage. They felt that reducing the number of elk on that would help. The rest of the antlerless proposals and CWMU proposals were adopted as presented.

James Gaskill- I am pleased that they listened to one of our recommendations.

Robert Byrnes- They thought it was an excellent idea. The division incorporated that into their presentation. They had just not thought about it so it was a good thing for us to pick up on and it made sense.

Item 4. Regional Update

Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Justin Dolling- I am going to ask Scott Walker to come up and talk about habitat projects completed in the past and what we have planned for the future. Would like to remind everyone that this weekend, and actually started today, is the Great Salt Lake bird festival. It is being held at the Farmington Bay Fairgrounds and encourage everyone to go out and participate in that festival.

Scott Walker- Power point presentation on habitat projects that have been taking place in the Northern Region.

RAC Comment

James Gaskill- Appreciate Scott and the habitat council. Every time you buy a license, a certain portion of that license fee is dedicated to doing habitat work. I think Utah does the greatest habitat work of any other states.

Item 5. Turkey Management Plan

Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Comment

R. Jefre Hicks- What was your strategy for the nuisance complaints? Any ideas?

Jason Robinson- Education goes a long way. Some strategies are to eliminate the problem. Capture the birds and move to other areas where they are not a nuisance. There are a few options to use.

James Gaskill- Are you going to cover hunt strategies as part of this management plan or are you going to come back to that or are you done with the management plan?

Jason Robinson- In the upland game recommendations I will talk specifically on our recommendation for hunt strategies.

Paul Cowley- As we look at the management plan, the division has brought out that supplemental feeding is a non-desirable item to have happen. At the same time, in objective 1, we talk about developing a wild turkey feeding policy. Why would we put that as the number 1 objective when supplemental feeding is heavily frowned upon.

Jason Robinson- In a general sense, we do not recommend feeding wild turkeys. However, in certain circumstances, it is necessary. By creating a feeding policy, it will help us when it appropriate and when it is not appropriate to feed turkeys. In a general sense, we do not recommend feeding wild turkeys.

Paul Cowley- You talk about expanding turkey populations in the areas that you have the greatest population of people. That seems contradictory to the plan.

Jason Robinson- Our objective is to increase hunting ability. That might be access which is more of what we are leaning towards. You will see in the next presentation with the transplant list, where we move turkeys we want to be conscious of those turkeys becoming a conflict in the future. We are being sensitive to where we release birds in the future.

Paul Cowley- As you look at future sites, did you take any of that into consideration?

Jason Robinson- Yes.

Paul Cowley- As we talk about weather as a limiting factor and at the same time we talk about discouraging feeding because then that may expand capacity of the habitat beyond its capability to sustain those populations. Concerned with the feeding emphasis that the plan has in it.

Jason Robinson- We want wild turkeys that are able to make a living on their own. In rare cases, it might be appropriate to feed to maintain a population as the habitat recovers from some specific event. In weather conditions, that would not be an appropriate time to feed. Turkey population fluctuates up and down so we would not feed in cases where it was a drought for a couple of years.

Kristin Purdy- In trying to eliminate the conflicts between people and turkeys, you have to respond to complaints as required by law. What does the law require you to do?

Jason Robinson- If it is causing material damage, the law requires us to respond within 72 hours of that complaint. We work with the landowner to come up with a plan how to best deal with that situation. That plan can have a variety of different tools available to us including catching and moving the birds, hazing the birds, hunting options. We would come up with a plan and implement that plan to help them through the conflict.

R. Jefre Hicks- A medium priority is insufficient access to hunting and viewing opportunities. On strategies I see Improving habitat to remove them from conflict areas and increase walk in access in complaint areas. So if you are going to plant or try and draw them away, that is going to take money assuming you get funding. What do you put priority to? Pay to allow hunting or pay to plant habitat somewhere else?

Jason Robinson- It is going to be a case by case basis. Not all landowners are comfortable to people having access to their property. In some cases, the walk in access might not be an option. We would then prioritize the habitat. In some cases, habitat may not be an option and so we would encourage the walk in access. One of the best things we have is multiple options and tools we can use to come up with the best solution for the individual that has the problem.

R. Jefre Hicks- I see here that you are looking to secure funding. Any ideas how that is going to happen.

Jason Robinson- We have some options.

R. Jefre Hicks- Legislatively or privately?

Jason Robinson- Because it is a hunted species, that gives us a lot more funding options than some other species. Jim mentioned the habitat council which are funds directed specifically for habitat work for hunted species, turkey being one of those. There is even dollars for upland game species. There is a pool of money there. There is the watershed restoration initiative. In Utah, we have that option to create habitat and have funding in place. We have a great infrastructure. The numbers we have there for our objectives are based on looking at past effort we have done here in Utah specific for wild turkey efforts.

RAC Comment

R. Jefre Hicks- I have seen great strides in the turkey management of the state. You are doing a great job getting them out there. The only complaint I hear mostly is that access issues and no permission from landowners to hunt them. People are out there having a lot of fun.

Paul Cowley- Jason do you anticipate the supplemental feeding guide that is created for this to come in front of the council?

Jason Robinson- Generally we have those be internal policies. We will work with interested folks and our goal is to have that prepared. We currently do have an upland game feeding policy within the division. We have seen a need for a turkey specific feeding policy. We do currently have a policy in place. Most likely it would be an internal review with interested parties.

Motion

Motion: R. Jefre Hicks- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Turkey Management Plan as presented.

Second: John Cavitt

Motion Passes: For: 10, **Against:** 2, James Gaskill, Paul Cowley

James Gaskill- My opposition stems primarily from the hunt strategy which we will discuss in more detail. I don't like the idea of the limited entry early season hunt strategy.

Paul Cowley- Concerned over some of the discussion on access in view that many of the closures are to protect other species of wildlife. To highlight that and some of the concern areas appears to be way species specific instead of the broad overall benefit of wildlife.

Item 6. Turkey Transplant Proposed List

Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

See Handout

RAC Questions

Kristin Purdy- Is there such a thing as a trapping donation location list or is that all based on nuisance complaints?

Jason Robinson- I am not following you totally.

Kristin Purdy- Where do your donated birds come from that you are transplanting?

Jason Robinson- A good chunk do come from complaint areas. Usually that means we are at that social caring capacity. We do have opportunities within the region if they see an area where the populations are doing well, they can take a portion of that population and move them. It kind of depends but a lot do come from these areas where there is more than are wanted.

Bruce Sillitoe- In the last presentation, you discussed the interagency effort with other agencies. What was the process you went through to select the new sites?

Jason Robinson- It was done at a regional level by local biologists. The local biologists have some sites they feel are appropriate for wild turkeys to do well. They come up with a list and they can work with their local biologists and federal agency and that list comes to Salt Lake where it is compiled. The we send it out to counties and as many people as we can.

John Blazzard- There are four areas listed in the central region which should be in the northern region. In Summit county rather than Wasatch county. They were all new sites.

Jason Robinson- Ok. will you let me know which ones those are?

John Blazzard- East Canyon, Cedar Hollow, Beaver Creek Canyon, Shingle Creek and Riley's are all in Summit.

Paul Cowley- In the Northern Region.

John Blazzard- That would give you four more new sites in the northern region.

Justin Dolling- There is a portion of Summit county that is actually in the central region. Not all of Summit county is in the northern region. Randy could come up and clarify that. Do you put those on the list for the northern region?

Randy Wood- I don't see exactly where you are at. Those that are showing up in the Central region, we did not have on our list to transplant into that he showed us. Shingle Creek, Cedar Hollow and that, we have had them on the list before and how they would have gotten over to the central region I am not sure of that. We have Yellow Pine in the Shingle Creek area that we have on the list. We have turkeys there. It would be a supplemental type thing in that area. We did not put those others on the list from our region. I don't know how they would have migrated over.

Robert Byrnes- Are those physical locations in our region?

Randy Wood- Cedar Hollow is in on the border but is in our region but we did not put it on the list. Shingle Creek is in our region but we have Yellow Pine which is right in the same area as Shingle Creek. We did not put Shingle Creek on the list this time. Yellow Pine would cover that area if we move some into there. Those places are in the northern region but we did not have them on our transplant list.

John Blazzard- I just wanted to clarify.

Randy Wood- I apologize, I did not look at the central region just ours.

Robert Byrnes- When you get to the Wildlife Board, you might have some questions about clarification for those items.

Bruce Sillitoe- With the BLM land use plans, it is very clear that one of our directions is to work with DWR on upland game transplants and when I was asking the question earlier I was hoping you would tell me that given the broad direction, on specific sites, it would be important to ensure DWR worked with our biologist to avoid conflicts we might have with many other multiple uses in an area.

Jason Robinson- We provided the proposed list to the Salt Lake office and sent it out to the regions. It was after it was worked on at the local level and was sent from the top office down.

Paul Cowley- Can you go through that same discussion for the Forest Service? I have not seen the list until this RAC package.

Jason Robinson- We have a similar process but maybe it was not as thorough with the Forest Service. Again, we recommend our biologists work with Forest Service biologist to come up with these proposed sites.

Paul Cowley- Whether or not they view that as dealing with their own district or forest, it is unclear, but serving the position I have been in for the last five years, this is the first I have seen that. I was unaware that was occurring.

Jason Robinson- We were interpreting Kevin Albrecht as representing the state for the forest.

Paul Cowley- Okay.

RAC Comments

Paul Cowley- Concern in regards to the accuracy of the list. In view of the errors pointed out and also the coordination which is possibly an internal issue.

Motion

Motion: Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife approve the Turkey Transplant Proposed List as presented excluding the units that are listed in the Central region but located in the Northern Region.

Second: Bruce Sillitoe

Discussion on the motion

James Gaskill- Wondering how you are going to resolve the issue of the wrong region county. I have a big problem with that. I am just wondering what you are going to do about it?

Jason Robinson- One thing this RAC could do is either exclude those four sites or include them with the northern region. We heard from Randy that they are in the northern region. So, you guys could approve them. We would then make sure we get the counties right and make that recommendation to the board.

James Gaskill- I don't expect it would be a problem but if the central region puts turkeys in the northern region without consultation, then it could create a problem. Also, I would like to make it really clear that the list prioritizes according to public land or public accessible land first. And then second, private land that may also be accessible and hopefully way down the list the land that we do not have access to as general hunters.

Jason Robinson- In a general sense, yes.

James Gaskill- It is noted in the plan that is your priority. I just wanted to bring that out.

Paul Cowley- So, Randy, on that group of sites as far as Riley, Cedar Hollow, Shingle Creek and Beaver Creek Canyon, those are all identified as new introductions. What you are telling me is that the northern region did not propose those for this inclusion on the list at this time?

Randy Wood- That is correct.

John Blazzard- You have turkeys there.

Randy Wood- There are already turkeys there. They would not be a new introduction. They would be a supplement. They were on the old list and have been on the list in the past. We did not add them into this list.

Paul Cowley- On this list, they are identified as initial.

Randy Wood- Yes, they are not.

John Blazzard- If we could get the motion to say that these wrong county and wrong regions are straightened up then that would be ok.

Bryce Thurgood- Would they be a supplemental site and not a new transplant site?

Randy Wood- They would not be new, they would be supplemental.

Bryce Thurgood- Would it be an approved supplemental site?

Randy Wood- We did not include them in our list.

Bryce Thurgood- You don't need them on there?

Robert Byrnes- You don't need to supplement them, correct?

Randy Wood- Correct.

Robert Byrnes- We could modify the motion that they would be removed if there is no reason to supplement those sites within our region.

John Blazzard- The only question that there is only 4 or 5 out of a list of several hundred. Do they need to go back through the list and do an audit on it or see if there are other places in other parts of the state that are also miswritten?

Robert Byrnes- Since we have brought it up, Jason is going to check.

Jason Robinson- Yes, we will go through it very carefully.

Robert Byrnes- If the region is not supportive of supplementing those turkeys, they would be taken off or it just would not happen even if it were on the list, it would not be the priority of the region to put turkeys in there.

Paul Cowley- If the RAC were to delay the vote on this because of the inaccuracies, could it be brought to next month's RAC or is there a time need on this list at this time?

Jason Robinson- The other list does expire in June so it would be nice to have it in place. You could approve the sites in the northern region and exclude those ones that were misrepresented in the central region. Our preference would be to move forward and make a recommendation to this upcoming board meeting.

James Gaskill- We don't do much turkey transplanting in May, June and July is that correct?

Jason Robinson- That is correct.

James Gaskill- It would not be a disaster if we delayed it but would be an inconvenience?

Jason Robinson- Correct.

Robert Byrnes- We would not meet again until early August.

Bryce Thurgood- Can I amend my motion?

Bruce Sillitoe- I think I would like to hear what his amendment is.

Bryce Thurgood- Motion to approve as presented and take the four specific transplant sites off the northern region list but approve the rest as presented.

John Blazzard - We need to take them off the central region.

Robert Byrnes- So, the motion is to recommend the Wildlife Board approve the turkey transplant proposed list as presented excluding the units that appear to be listed in the central region as opposed to the northern region.

Motion Passes: For: 11, Against: 1, Paul Cowley

Paul Cowley- The accuracy of the list knowing very few can point out errors already and we are not sure how they got on the list, it seems to me the whole list comes in question at that point for accuracy.

Item 7. Upland Game, Turkey and Crane 3-yr Recommendations

Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

See Handout

Robert Byrnes- The part dealing with crows will only be included in that rule if the part in the following presentation is approved, is that correct?

Jason Robinson- Correct, we would add American Crow, if approved, to the list of other migratory upland game birds such as mourning dove, sandhill crane, bandtailed pigeons.

Public Questions

Margaret Pettis- Are you going to talk about Sandhill Crane during this section or did you just say you are going to be dealing with it somewhere else?

Jason Robinson- Cranes will be handled in the migratory game bird section.

Margaret Pettis- With the other 3 species you mentioned, you are not going to be dealing with those right now? Pigeons or doves?

Jason Robinson- They will be covered under the migratory portion.

Margaret Pettis- Thank You.

RAC Questions

Jon Leonard- Falconry for turkeys. Being on the committee we had significant debate. There is probably only an eagle type derivative that is capable of taking wild turkey. Is that my understanding?

Jason Robinson- There might be some other larger raptor species that could be capable of taking turkeys but the majority would probably be eagles.

Jon Leonard- Is there that many falconers that use eagles?

Jason Robinson- I don't know the exact number of falconers that have eagles in the state.

Jon Leonard- It is my understanding that they have to flush or drive the flocks in order to send the falcon out there. Don't you see a conflict between that and another turkey hunter that is trying to set up or possibly call?

Jason Robinson- There is always the chance that a hunter will disturb another hunter. We are hopeful that hunters will take care of that. There are many areas open to fall turkey hunting. Hopefully, they will kind of disperse themselves as appropriate.

Robert Byrnes- Originally, hunting turkeys with falcons became an action log item because of a falconer that came to our meeting and he asked why there was not an opportunity to hunt turkeys with falcons. Initially, I think it was a golden eagle but I think that is where that action log item actually started here with our council and a falconer asked that question.

Jon Leonard- Were the falconers actually requesting this change?

Jason Robinson- The division had it as a board action item. We looked at it pretty carefully. Our recommendation was not to allow it in the spring but to allow it in the fall. We thought it would give falconers the opportunity without a significant impact to the resource.

Jon Leonard- Who determines whether they are capable?

Jason Robinson- We had a lot of discussion and what we decided was to allow the falconer to make that call. In many cases, these are viewed as a pet so we assumed that the falconer would have the falcons best interest for safety trying to take down a bird of that size.

Jon Leonard- I can see the objection in the spring because you don't want to take hens. I am still uncomfortable in catering to a very small population and potential for conflict of hunting styles and hunter interference.

Jon Cavitt- Do we know of any complaints from previous years regarding that?

Jason Robinson- Releasing falcons onto turkeys has not been allowed.

Robert Byrnes- On the greater sage grouse, do you have an idea of what the percentage of falconer permits that were actually used in the past? Was it 10% that were reserved before?

Jason Robinson- Correct, we have roughly about 32 of those permits have been purchased each year. On average, about 900 total permits. You would have 90 available to falconers. They have utilized a very small portion of that allocation.

Robert Byrnes- Were those permits added back to the pool drawn from when they could not be utilized by the falconers or not utilized at all.

Jason Robinson- They were added back into the draw.

James Gaskill- Can you outline the reason why we have this limited entry statewide followed by less successful OTC hunt? Explain the reasons?

Jason Robinson- When we were first getting turkeys here in the state, there was a limited entry opportunity. We did not have a general OTC hunt. As population increased, we were increasing opportunity. We heard from a lot of sportsman that did like having a limited entry hunt where they may draw one in only 2 or 3 years but have higher success rates. As we saw an increase in turkey population, we felt like there was additional opportunity to add more hunters. We then went with the OTC hunting season that allows any person that wanted to hunt wild turkey, the opportunity to purchase a permit. Last couple of years there has been 21% success on those OTC hunts which is very similar to other states. It allows anyone who wants to hunt turkeys every year that opportunity.

James Gaskill- How did we decide that we would let the whole state be open which then puts the guy who is not lucky at a distinct disadvantage, rather than have it in certain areas like we do with big game species? Why disadvantage the majority?

Jason Robinson- I don't know if it is a disadvantage to the majority. We operated on those 5 regional boundaries. Hunters are familiar with that. At the time those recommendations were made to the RAC and the board, that made sense. We feel it still makes sense. From what we have heard so far, sportsman like the current structure so that is why we are recommending no changes.

James Gaskill- How do you say that it is not a disadvantage to the OTC hunter when the actual success ratio is 33% success for the early limited entry season as opposed to 18% in the general season. The turkeys have more area because they have moved up the mountain. The vegetation is less so it is easier to see them. The turkeys are not as weary early in the year and there are more of them because the low hanging fruits have already been killed. How is that not a disadvantage?

Jason Robinson- I think the advantage is being able to hunt the OTC season every year and learn turkey behavior and habitat.

James Gaskill- Why not just open it statewide and do away with limited entry?

Jason Robinson- That is a possibility. We have heard from our hunters and this is what they like so this is what we are recommending.

Robert Byrnes- Jon Leonard do you still want to ask a question?

Jon Leonard- In the discussions as per our committee, there were other reasons for the limited entry. We had a large population of turkey hunters that were carrying bonus points that were very upset at the fact that OTC would lose bonus points they had been saving. Another issue that came up in the spring about turkeys that are still somewhat gathered in their winter flocks and less dispersed. To turn a lot of hunters loose on them would probably be somewhat detrimental to the flocks. Also, a lot of the breed takes place in that early season. Maybe the pressure not being as great would facilitate the interference with the breeding. I prefer to hunt the later season and they are off nesting, toms are more receptive to calling, they are more dispersed and therefore hunters have to be more dispersed. It has a lot of advantage that you do not have in the spring.

James Gaskill- I don't think I can respond to that because I cannot ask a question but I certainly have some comments regarding that as we go along. Is there any financial benefit to the division to having the limited entry?

Jason Robinson- I did not run an analysis, we get a lot of applicants than we have permits for. We do generate revenue off of that. We have not don't a cost analysis to see what that might mean.

James Gaskill- That would be the only benefit? The prices for the tags are the same so the only benefit financially would be the application fee, part of which goes to Nevada but part stays with the division. Is that correct?

Jason Robinson- Yes.

James Gaskill- Have you taken into consideration the law enforcement issues where they have to monitor units to make sure hunters are in the proper areas?

Jason Robinson- Yes, we have. Our law enforcement guys are very good at that. They have been doing that for quite a while.

James Gaskill- I saw a quote from you in a couple of places and it certainly is third hand hearsay but you mentioned at one point that hunters are feeling less crowded during the general hunt than they are during the limited entry hunt. Is that a correct quote?

Jason Robinson- That is correct. We do a follow up survey of perceived crowding. It is how crowded hunters feel on a 1-5 scale. They are very close in the number of perceived crowding.

James Gaskill- In the presentation you had a couple of triggers. 20% or greater hunt success, hunter satisfaction greater than 2 out of 5 and perceived crowding at less than 4 out of 5. That is from your management plan.

Exactly how are you going to adjust permit numbers to satisfy those triggers? They seem to be in contradiction and it is an OTC hunt. How do we regulate permits when it is OTC?

Jason Robinson- We would regulate permits on the limited entry hunt. We met as biologists and came up with triggers. If the satisfaction was really low, we have a mechanism that would then reduce permit numbers for the limited entry season. If satisfaction was really high, we have thresholds established, then we would increase permits. Same is for crowding. If people felt very crowded, we would reduce permits by a percentage or if they felt very uncrowded on that scale, we could increase permits.

James Gaskill- Even though your original premise was that hunting has no impact on populations correct?

Jason Robinson- It has a small impact on the males but over time, because most hens are bred, then in a long term scenario, no.

James Gaskill- It seems to me that you are really pretty handicapped in your ability to affect hunter success correct?

Jason Robinson- Not as much on the limited entry but OTC, we offer unlimited permits.

Bruce Sillitoe- Greater sage grouse. The state of Utah and federal agencies are going through an extensive planning process. To benefit and ensure the survival and long term viability of the greater sage grouse. Can you explain DWR's plan helps or does not hinder these planting efforts?

Jason Robinson- Our plan for harvest strategy?

Bruce Sillitoe- Yes, specifically to your presentation.

Jason Robinson- DWR's first and primary concern for sage grouse is long term conservation. One of the things that is beneficial for that is research, habitat work and all the things that are important for sage grouse conservation. All of that costs money. By having a limited harvest in areas that can sustain a harvest, we have been able to show in these larger populations where the hunt currently occurs, a population is stable to increasing. Extensive research on Parker Mountain. We can still grow a population while harvesting very few. It provides a funding source for sage grouse conservation and efforts. It also provides data. We collect wings from these harvested birds that we can get data to help in management of this species. Hunters are conservationists. They have done a lot to conserve sage grouse. The division feels we can continue with a limited sage grouse hunt in certain areas and still meet objectives of the governors sage management program.

Bruce Sillitoe- In anticipation of the fish and wildlife making a determination in 2015, this hunting strategy actually could be viewed as a benefit and support of the conservation of sage grouse.

Jason Robinson- Yes.

R. Jefre Hicks- Lets say I drew for a fall limited entry permit and I did not get one. Can I hunt in the OTC hunt later?

Jason Robinson- No.

R. Jefre Hicks- You are done?

Jason Robinson- The spring hunt is kind of a self contained unit. Spring permits do not carry to fall and fall does not carry to spring.

R. Jefre Hicks- Even the OTC general season in the fall? Isn't there an OTC hunt in the fall?

Jason Robinson- No, there is not.

R. Jefre Hicks- It is all limited entry.

Bryce Thurgood- Regarding concerns about falconers and limited entry fall, would it be too much of a stretch to say that if falconers draw one of those permits, could have one of the first two weeks of January or the last two of December so there is not a competition problem?

Jason Robinson- I think you could recommend something like that.

Robert Byrnes- Like a separate season, would that be reasonable?

Jason Robinson- We currently do that for the other species so they have a longer falconry season as presented, Sept 1st to the end of February. That would be a possibility. Just a suggestion to maybe just keep it within those dates proposed.

Bryce Thurgood- During the 60 day season?

Jason Robinson- November 1st through February 28th.

Bryce Thurgood- Ok.

Jason Robinson- You are allowed to recommend other things.

Bryce Thurgood- Were you talking the Hungarian partridge and putting gray partridge. Is that too much to ask to put Hungarian partridge in parenthesis in the proclamation? You might confuse them a little.

Jason Robinson- We generally do that. When we made the change from blue grouse to dusky grouse, we did that very thing.

Bryce Thurgood- According to your presentation, you were going to do away with it altogether.

Jason Robinson- We would like to use the official common name. As we are training hunters, we can do that.

Jon Leonard-Do falconers currently have a desire to hunt Canadian geese, Sandhill crane and swans?

Jason Robinson- I am probably not the best to answer that. I do not deal with the migratory species. I have not heard anything personally.

Public Comment

Robert Byrnes- Will R657-46 be dependent on the outcome of the waterfowl recommendations?

Jason Robinson- That rule does reference the waterfowl rules so if there is some changes that are consistent with the upland and turkey rules. It does not relate to crow. In rule 657-46 it references the waterfowl rule. If that was approved as presented, then this rule would then reference that change.

John Cavitt- Which agenda item deals with the crows?

Jason Robinson- The waterfowl recommendations.

Robert Byrnes- I want to give you the opportunity to comment where you want to comment that will affect the changes to potential crow hunting. David Hess, you specifically wanted to comment on R657-6-1 that you opposed it. Do you want to speak during the crow? We will move that to item number 9 to be addressed there.

Caleb Stroh- Utah Falconers Association- The UFA is in favor of the recommended upland game regulations as presented by the DWR. The UFA would like to make points of clarification. We believe the extended and simplified falconry season dates proposed by the DWR are fair and give increased opportunity. Believe it is unfortunate that falconers will not be allowed a 10% allocation for sage grouse permits but understand this position by the DWR. As proposed currently, falconers are only allowed fall harvest for turkey. There are several species that can be used to hunt turkeys. They could also be used to hunt geese, crane and things like that.

Jon Leonard- Have you actually hunted wild turkey with the falcons?

Caleb Stroh- I have not. I have read about it and talked to people about it but have not hunted with a raptor.

Jon Leonard- I have a concern that they are big and powerful enough to actually take without injuring the turkey.

Caleb Stroh- I am not sure the best way to answer that. A lot of game falconers take with their birds is larger than what would be taken in the wild. You are able to time things and get to the bird. With respect to the turkeys, it is just up to the falconer to decide whether he wants to put his bird at hazard or not or even feels it is. That is something, I believe, should be left to the hunter or falconer to make that decision.

Jon Leonard- In the procedure, do you flush the birds then release the falcon?

Caleb Stroh- I am not exactly sure how they do that. It has been done so rarely. Most of it takes place back east in the fall generally. If a raptor was to capture a great big tom turkey in the spring anything smaller than a golden eagle would not be able to hold on and the turkey might get scuffed up a bit but would not be hurt. Having this take place in the fall is probably a good idea.

RAC Comment

James Gaskill- My concern with the turkey regulations is that I think it serves no biological purpose to have a limited entry. It does not make the turkey flock healthier or superior or bigger. It gives a distinct advantage to the few who draw out. When this proposal was made originally by the division, we were assured that there might be a little bit of difference in the success ratios. This is going back prior to Justin Dolling being upland coordinator. We were told then that it would not make much difference. There are not any or very few who still have bonus points from 2009 who would be affected by eliminating the limited entry. It is unlike any other hunt we have where we set aside the whole state for a small group and open the whole state to the big group. The average guy who does not draw out and does not have as good of an opportunity to hunt. There are no waiting periods so those that are lucky can draw out every year if they are lucky. It does not generate any significant additional revenue except application fees. It reduces the number of days for both limited entry and general season hunting. Almost all states around us have a general season that opens April 15th or thereabout and goes to May 31st. Now, we are saying if you are lucky, we will give you two weeks, if not we will give you a month. Why not all six weeks? Again, to me, it has been sold as a social issue. Some hunters want a quality hunt and not be disturbed. I say if you walk a little further and hunt after opening day, you are not likely to be bothered and particularly if you have a six week season. It would reduce hunting pressure because now we have two opening days and opening days are when the bulk of the hunting is done. I am very opposed to the idea.

R. Jefre Hicks- I am going to side with Jim on this. It seems to use a limited entry as an excuse to give some people a quality hunt seems to be a slippery slope we could apply to almost any hunt. I have never been a big fan of limited entry anyway, especially for upland birds. It seems to me it is reducing opportunity for the general public.

Jon Leonard- I never thought I would agree with Jim. Because of social pressures, we went with the limited entry as a compromise. The expectation of the previous committee that the limited entry combination OTC would be a good transition into OTC statewide. Unfortunately, there is still significant support and there was on that committee for maintaining limited entry. I would prefer that we eventually get OTC which would be in everyone's best interest but could not sell it.

James Gaskill- We don't have to vote with the committee's recommendations. You are right, even when Justin Dolling was the upland game coordinator, it appeared the division was moving in a direction of eliminating the limited entry and I think now is the time if we don't do it this time, I won't have a vote because I won't be on the RAC. Secondly, we are now looking at long range plans and if we don't get rid of it this time, it will get fixed in cement and we will never get rid of it.

Robert Byrnes- I have always enjoyed hunting the limited entry hunt more than the general season even though I have killed turkeys in both. I have never felt crowded in the limited entry season. I know people who will not hunt the general season. They will put in for a limited entry tag but not hunt the general season if they don't draw a limited entry tag. Our actual numbers of applicants are down since going to the combination season I believe by looking at the data. That probably reflects some of the peoples opinion of having the two seasons. Not as many people are interested in putting in for limited entry tags with the two season system. Hopefully, we will get back up to those numbers in the future. We did recommend the approval of a management plan that includes the two seasons. You are giving a little contradictory direction to the Wildlife Board if you make a motion now that eliminates the limited entry.

James Gaskill- If you recall, I voted against that.

Robert Byrnes- Yes, you did.

James Gaskill- I do not think I am being contradictory at all.

Robert Byrnes- But the council will give contradictory direction towards the Wildlife Board if you perceive with the motion to eliminate the limited entry season. I am just giving you my opinion. Obviously I will not get to vote unless there is a tie which has only happened once in my term.

R. Jefre Hicks- We are kind of in a conundrum. It seemed like a good management plan but this was further back in the hunt portion of it. If you agreed with the other portion, you had to wait to this time to disagree with the limited entry portion. it was a weird way to do it and puts us at odds which I don't like. I would still go along with making it an amendment.

James Gaskill- With regard to your comments, Mr. Chairman, I hunted the same canyon during a limited entry hunt and during and OTC hunt. In the OTC hunt there were no other hunters in that canyon, in the limited entry hunt there was like 10 four wheelers and 20 hunters in the same canyon. I think this whole idea of crowded or not crowded, it is not an excuse or a reason for a limited entry as far as I am concerned.

Jason Robinson- I think there is some confusion about the management plan. The portion that talks about the current hunt structure is background information so people understand. The actual strategy for hunting is strategy A, objective 2, goal C which provides optimized season timing and length which gives some flexibility on how that hunt could be structured.

Robert Byrnes- It does not specifically say how the hunts will be structured.

Jason Robinson- It just gives background information on how they are currently structured 2014.

Jon Leonard- Our compromises on the committee to move closer to the OTC transition was to start to significantly increase the number of permits during the limited entry season. In the original turkey committee there was a lot of resistance of southeast and northeast regions on even having OTC permits and they were extremely conservative in the amount of tags they would allow during limited entry season. Yet, there are some areas down there of extensive public land with good populations of turkeys dispersed through those. Contrasting that with the southern region where the representative there was an upland game biologist and very knowledgeable. You can see the difference in permit numbers in the southern region vs. northeast and southeast. We hope now that with the divisions willingness to move toward more opportunity, that we would see the numbers of permits available start to increase in those other regions and that would further this transition toward eventual OTC.

Robert Byrnes- Do you see that happening in the proposed framework for setting limited entry numbers.

Jon Leonard- I was disappointed in allowing regions a lot more control based on the formula they would use. Southern region made a pretty bold adjustment. They are already 1,500 permits. There is not a lot of difference between public lands and population between southeast and southern. Obviously the southern region has not had their population hurt by hunting. I would hope that southeast and northeast region starts to jump their permits and allow more opportunity because in northern region where you have so much private land it is kind of a penalty to put limited entry tags on those who have access to that private land but can't hunt because they did not draw.

Bryce Thurgood- My concern is that in the middle of April when you start these limited entry hunts and the birds are congregated. You are going to put so much more pressure on those areas where the birds are. I would like to see it all be OTC but you are going to have to transition. You are going to have so many more people in a denser area hunting them.

Jon Leonard- Biologically, it should not have any affect. The birds are small and elusive enough that they will get away. As hunters become more experienced, will learn to disperse themselves and you will not get that situation. You would not want to be out there thrashing around with that many hunters out there.

James Gaskill- I have hunted turkeys in Utah, Colorado, Idaho and Washington and all those places except Utah open on the 15th of April and I have never seen turkeys congregated on opening day in any of those states. They disperse quite a bit earlier than the 15th of April. I do not think that is an issue. I have never seen that. I don't think that a flock of turkeys April 15th is not going to be 400 like it might be in January.

Bryce Thurgood- Why did you say there was 20 four wheelers and 30 hunters on the limited entry in that one canyon and then later there was only 1? You are contradicting yourself.

James Gaskill- No, my point is that the whole idea of limited entry is so we won't have this congregation of hunters. It had nothing to do with turkeys, it had to do with hunters. Some guys said they want to be able and go out and sit down and have no one within a mile so the turkey calling will not be disturbed by another hunter. But, it has not accomplished that. I don't think this limited entry accomplishes anything except it is still the elitist idea to make it so some guys can have their quality hunt and some guys can shoot their 7-point bull. This is not doing it. Let us all go hunting on April 15th and if we don't want to go then, they can go on April 20th when the crowds have dissipated. I can't see there is an advantage where there are a lot of disadvantages.

R. Jefre Hicks- I didn't see anything in here that said that the main goal of limited entry is to phase them out. We would be taking it on faith that the idea would be to phase out limited entry eventually. I think now is the time to take a stand and say no to this limited entry. Otherwise, we are taking it on faith that our idea is to phase it out in the future.

Motion

Motion: James Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Upland Game recommendations excepting the turkey limited entry season and establishing the turkey general season throughout the overall recommended frame work.

Second: R. Jefre Hicks

Discussion on the Motion

John Leonard- I don't think that should be a calendar date. It is usually the second Saturday in April.

James Gaskill- I would be pleased to amend that.

Paul Cowley- As we look at the one item to add American Crow to the migratory upland game birds, are we going to hold off on that until the waterfowl recommendations?

Robert Byrnes- That will be included dependent on the waterfowl recommendations.

Motion Passes: For 10, Against 2, Bryce Thurgood, Bruce Sillitoe

Bryce Thurgood- I think the division made a recommendation based on what they think is best for the turkey population and I think it would be good to phase it out but to do it overnight, I don't like the idea of it.

Bruce Sillitoe- I concur, I have not heard anything that changes my mind on what I originally believed on limited entry.

Item 8. R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment

Jason Robinson, Upland Game Coordinator

See Handout

Motion

Motion: Paul Cowley- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-46 Use of Game Birds Rule Amendment as presented.

Second: James Gaskill

Motion Passes: Unanimous

James Gaskill- I would like to revisit my proposal on turkeys. I think that actually we need somebody who voted against it to allow me to do that. If I propose something, can you propose it if you like it?

Bryce Thurgood- Sure.

James Gaskill- What we didn't do was make a provision for what to do with the youth hunt if we eliminate limited entry. Because now there is a youth hunt that occurs between limited entry and OTC. I would think that we should ask the division to allow the youth hunt as they deem appropriate.

Bryce Thurgood- I totally agree with you for the first time tonight.

James Gaskill- You will make that motion?

Robert Byrnes- You probably should make the motion to amend your motion because you made the original motion.

Jim Gaskill- It is not an amendment to the motion. The motion has been passed. We have to revisit it and I can't because I voted for it but he can because he voted against it. Unless I don't understand Roberts rules. Is that correct?

Robert Byrnes- You better do it.

James Gaskill- I can't bring it back up.

Robert Byrnes- You have to.

Jim Gaskill- Alright, done. That is my motion.

Bryce Thurgood- Did you clarify the dates?

Jim Gaskill- No, my proposal is that we let the division make the dates.

Robert Byrnes- Jefre, are you agreeable?

R. Jefre Hicks- I second the first one and I will second this one too.

Amendment to the Upland Game and Turkey Recommendations

Motion to Amend

Motion: James Gaskill- Motion to amend the previous upland game and turkey recommendation motion to allow the youth hunt as DWR determines within the established frame work.

Second: R. Jefre Hicks

Discussion on the motion

Bryce Thurgood- It would have to be the first.

James Gaskill- Why?

Bryce Thurgood- The whole point of having a youth hunt is to give the youth the chance, just like waterfowl, before the masses get there. The youth would actually have the first crack at it.

Jim Gaskill- I don't oppose that but I think it is just as easy to let the division decide that and let them know we have some faith in them.

Paul Cowley- We are suggesting this would be one weekend at some time not just open?

Robert Byrnes- It would most likely be a similar length that happened in the past. It would at least include one weekend because I believe it is always included one or two weekends.

James Gaskill- In keeping with what was proposed, it would also include a Monday and that is fine.

Jon Leonard- I think the committee was kind of in agreement that we needed to probably have a little longer youth hunt maybe up to 5 days. A 3 day hunt can be impacted by a weather situation like it was this year. We have the handicap hunt for 3 days prior, then you start a youth hunt. Then the general hunt in this case would start the second Saturday in April. You could start earlier in April with youth hunts and handicap hunts.

Robert Byrnes- I think Jims motion is just to allow the division to set the dates if that is ok?

Motion Passes: For: 10, Against: 2, Bryce Thurgood, Bruce Sillitoe

Bryce Thurgood- Same reason. But I like the youth hunt.

Item 9. Waterfowl Recommendations

Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

See Handout

During the presentation the question was asked by audience member Margaret Pettis what the numbers were on the graph.

Public Questions

Margaret Pettis- Questions about cranes. I know you are dealing with a three year management plan right?

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Margaret Pettis- Is this the end of the three year management plan and you are starting a new three year management plan.

Blair Stringham- We are looking to begin it in 2015 and go through 2017.

Margaret Pettis- I did not see any data. Do you have any aerial bird counts? Do you know what your population is in any of the four areas that you are going to be hunting? Do you have population numbers for us?

Blair Stringham- I have the larger population because Utah is right on the edge of breeding and wintering range. For the most part, we have some cranes that breed in northern Utah through Montana.

Margaret Pettis- So, you are talking about flyaway right?

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Margaret Pettis- Do you have local population?

Blair Stringham- Yes, local populations on any given year we usually have between 3,000-5,000 cranes when we do our specific flight for cranes. Our population data comes from September when we do that flight. At that point, we have already started receiving cranes from other parts of the country north of us. For the most part, the flyaway has a population of 18,000-20,000 cranes depending on the year. We harvest a small percentage of those. Here in Utah we typically average between 80-250 cranes we have harvested. In the Cache Valley specifically, most of the time the counts are between 800-1,000 when we do the actual crane count.

Margaret Pettis- When is the last time you did a crane count in Cache Valley?

Blair Stringham- We do them every year. Every year they occur typically the first part of September.

Margaret Pettis- From the air?

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Margaret Pettis- Not just spotting from the fields?

Blair Stringham- No, we do it aurally because it is easier to find the cranes. If you do it from the ground, you tend to miss quite a few. That is a survey we have been doing since the 80's.

Margaret Pettis- For this year, you would say there are 800-1,000 cranes or there will be in September 2014?

Blair Stringham- Yes, and that will consist of both our resident crane population which breeds and go south into Mexico as well as some that have moved from the northern.

Margaret Pettis- What number of permits are you going to offer for cranes in Cache and Box Elder?

Blair Stringham- We have not calculated those yet this year. We will probably do that in the future.

Margaret Pettis- Is that part of this 3 year plan?

Blair Stringham- It is not because what happens is based on the 3 year average of the crane population, we get a harvest allocation which is the number of cranes we can harvest for our state. It has been less than 100 for the last couple of years and this year we have a total of 70 cranes we will be harvesting.

Margaret Pettis- A total of 70 cranes?

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Margaret Pettis- Divided among the 3?

Blair Stringham- There is 3 different hunting areas. Typically a quarter of those go to Cache and a quarter to Box Elder. The rest will go to hunts in the Uintah Basin.

Margaret Pettis- Do you have this information listed somewhere where I can look at your data or are you providing it to the RAC?

Blair Stringham- We have not provided it to the RAC but is data that is published in our upland game report.

Margaret Pettis- Tonight, if they vote on your 3 year crane recommendation, this is the information they will be voting on?

Blair Stringham- Yes, basically we do not give actual permit numbers each year for the RAC because they vary based on harvest allocation. Some years will be higher or lower. We are asking the RAC to recommend these four different hunting areas and then essentially the season dates and the hunters would only be allowed to have one permit and take one crane during hunting season.

Margaret Pettis- Do you know what the chick survival is in Cache Valley for example? What are you setting that as? You were talking about 3 years of chick data survival, that they die young and the success rate is pretty bad.

Blair Stringham- It is not actually based on the success rate of nesting or survival. It is based on just the overall population estimate. It is a count we do as we go through Cache Valley. For the most part, they stage in the same areas each year. There are only a couple of areas we count in September.

Margaret Pettis- Do you take into account residential development in a place could be cutting down on the habitat ability for birds to continue to have as great a viability as they did in the past. Certainly that is changing in Cache Valley.

Blair Stringham- It is definitely something we included in our management plan for Sandhill Cranes. Our intent is population wide survey is to find out exactly what the population is doing. WE can look on a local scale and see if that is decreasing or increasing. We also look at the population wide across the whole western part of their range. We feel like we have a pretty good handle on where crane populations are going. For the last 10 years, they have been relatively stable.

Margaret Pettis- Because of drought in California, that is not our flyaway. Our birds have more water and accessibility and better habitat than the pacific flyaway.

Blair Stringham- For cranes, California is place they don't go for the most part. They will breed in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado. They will go southeast down to New Mexico area.

Margaret Pettis- To find information more specifics about past hunts, I would look in your harvest guide.

Blair Stringham- We publish an upland game report and it is on our website and goes through and outlines our permit numbers and harvest and everything like that from previous years.

Marcy Taylor- You mentioned that there are more roosts or concerns with crows. Have you identified those in the areas they are and if there is an increase in numbers and what is that increase?

Blair Stringham- Yes, for the most part, those occur along the Wasatch front. We see the biggest crow populations in the Layton area. Some of those roosts in the winter are over 1,000 birds. Our main concern is that we are getting enough crows in that area that they are contributing to noise as well as droppings and tree damage. We don't have any actual on the ground population estimates for crows. They are migratory so they come and go.

Marcy Taylor- You seem to have good numbers on the cranes so I am just curious why you wouldn't have good numbers on the crows?

Blair Stringham- Part of that is due to the fact that they are not a hunted species. We don't have PR money available.

Marcy Taylor- But that would become available I suppose if you are going to open this up?

Blair Stringham- Our hunted species are available for PR funds. That would be a species we could start doing more management and try to deal with some of these issues. Allot of this damage will fall on the shoulders of USDA Wildlife Services. We are trying to work and navigate this depredation rule to try and accommodate some of the things they can do to reduce crow damage.

Marcy Taylor- You also mentioned the sickness from the roosts that are caused. Do you have statistics or how often people in Utah are going to hospitals or CDC information. It feels like a fear tactic. If you could put some numbers behind that, it would give more credence to that.

Blair Stringham- I don't have any specific numbers for Utah. I just looked at crow information, those were some of the ones that were documented.

Marcy Taylor- Specifically for Utah?

Blair Stringham- Those were just for crows. Part of the problem is you get a larger number of birds congregating, like any wildlife species they tend to lead to more and more disease issues. That is one concerns, those have been documented diseases in the past.

Marcy Taylor- Not in Utah right? Because I understand in the east coast and they have tried different management plans other than just open season. I was just curious if you can locally say that is an infiltrating problem or more of an irritant or an idea of what could happen in the future.

Blair Stringham- Definitely what could happen in the future. We lose thousands of birds each year along the Great Salt Lake. It is a concern that could happen in the future.

Erin Adams- From what I understand, the reason you are proposing a crow hunt is due to the damages and things like that but then you are also putting them on the depredation list so wouldn't the depredation alone take care of the problems you are seeing. Why have a crow hunt too?

Blair Stringham- Part of the reason we are recommending this is for additional hunting opportunity. We really would look for hunters to be a management tool of sorts. We have used hunters to reduce elk problems when they are eating alfalfa and things like that. It would be a tool for us to remove overall numbers of crows in Utah. A lot of them will come from the Layton area and go west during the day and feed along the Great Salt Lake in the winter. We would not be able to do that inside Layton city limits where it is illegal to discharge firearms. It will lower the population and provide hunting opportunity.

Erin Adams- Crows seem to congregate mostly in cities. Would that be an issue at all with the hunting season.

Blair Stringham- If we did have the hunting season, hunters would be required to obey all local ordinances.

They would not be able to discharge firearms in cities which they cannot currently do.

Margaret Pettis- Given the breakdown of justification of why you want a crow hunt, what percentage would you say is due to providing opportunity for hunters?

Blair Stringham- It is hard to say. We are a wildlife management agency so we do look to provide opportunity for hunters because they are a large group of ours. We also are trying to be sensitive to those who do not appreciate hunting. It is hard to say how much would be for hunting opportunity as well as for the damage. We want to mitigate problems that wildlife causes across the state regardless of what species it is. Those are our two main factors but I can't say percentage wise.

Margaret Pettis- I love crows but I do not see them as problems. What would you lose other than DWR funding as via a hunting license for crows if you just left the crows? Do you stand to make money by selling licenses?

Blair Stringham- No, it is definitely not something we are doing to try and make money. It is just a hunting opportunity when you look at the hunting aspect of it.

Dalyn Marthaler- At one time, it was my understanding that you had to get a depredation permit. When did that go away or was that not ever in place.

Blair Stringham- It did go away several years ago. I am not familiar with exactly what those concerns were. It was a lot of concern with USDA Wildlife Services because they deal a lot with this crow damage. When it did go away one of their many concerns is that they could not properly deal with the damage. We are one of the main reasons we are looking to do this again.

Dalyn Marthaler- On this, how would this law be enforced if there is no permit required, how do we know who has to report and how would you enforce that?

Blair Stringham- The crows would fall under the migratory bird treaty act which would put it on the Fish and Wildlife service. within our rule, we would require those participating with the depredation act for crows would have to allow law enforcement agents in there from the feds and the state to inspect any activities if they were taking crows. The only recording requirement by Fish and Wildlife is they tell them the number of crows taken each year.

Dalyn Marthaler- How many reports have you had to date for depredation?

Blair Stringham- We have not had any for crows because they have not been a legal species to take in Utah.

Dalyn Marthaler- Have you had reports on magpies?

Blair Stringham- They do not submit the report to me personally, they all go to Fish and Wildlife Service's so I do not have that data. We have a non-game section which would fall under. They may have that data but I do not have anything for magpies.

Erin Adams- A lot of people think that crows and ravens are the same animal. They are not, crows are obviously going to be put on depredation and hunting ravens, from what I understand, are not. Since many think they are the same animal, are they going to be required to take a course or anything like that to learn how to tell the difference between a crow and raven?

Blair Stringham- We have not discussed any specific courses that hunters would need to take. The way many other states have crow hunts is just by providing literature to hunters to look at different physiological traits and behavioral traits between crow and raven. For any hunt, hunters need to take the time to learn and identify the species of animal. If they were not willing to do that, they could be cited for taking species that they were illegally harvesting.

Erin Adams- How would that be enforced?

Blair Stringham- Through our law enforcement section. They are actively out in the field looking for wildlife violations and checking hunters licenses. It would all fall to our law enforcement section to enforce those rules just like with any other hunt.

Dustin Lacy- Crows have very strong family ties. Would like to know how it is humane to shoot one and take it away from its family. If you kill the parents, the babies are left to die in a very inhumane way. Do you have a solution for that?

Blair Stringham- One of the stipulations fish and Wildlife Service's gives us is that we cannot have a crow hunting during peak breeding season. In Utah, that is typically in the spring time. That is why the hunt is structured to be in the fall. It depends on where you are in the continent. If crows were to have babies hatch in September, the likelihood of them living is very low because they rely on food resources in spring and summer to feed them.

Dustin Lacy- You also mentioned the illness. How is that spread from bird to bird?

Blair Stringham- A lot of it is just when they are in close proximity to each other when they have any kind of contact. We see large outbreaks of avian cholera on the Great Salt Lake. It is something that is relatively common among wildlife populations.

Dustin Lacy- If it is relatively common, why is it such a concern?

Blair Stringham- Just because it can lead to large scale bird die offs. We try to mitigate for disease when we can but the Great Salt Lake is essentially a huge vector for avian cholera and avian botulism and a few other diseases. With crows being one of those that can carry avian cholera there is a potential of larger die offs in the bird community. Especially when you get large concentrations of them.

Caleb Stroh- It would seem like the reason that you don't have really relevant or good data on this crow situation is because they have increased in population so quickly and recently. Is that what you are basically telling us? Is this a new problem?

Blair Stringham- That is part of it. We have 400 plus bird species in Utah. One of the unfortunate things when you have a lot of species, you can only put resources toward so many of them. We try to monitor bird populations and that is why we have this breeding bird survey data to track trends.

Caleb Stroh- There is going to be a difference between the hunting and the depredation. I think that has been a confusion that the average hunter does not have to give this depredation information on the amounts harvested whereas the depredation stuff can happen during different time frames but that documentation is needed for those instances only. Would that be correct?

Blair Stringham- Yes, if you were outside of an area of where crows are actually causing damage you will not be able to legally take them.

Elisa Nelson- You said that crows can get infected by certain diseases. If we eat the crow then is that transmittable to humans?

Blair Stringham- It depends on the disease. Things like avian cholera are specific to birds. Other diseases are not so specific. It is something we are concerned about with all wildlife species.

RAC Question-

John Cavitt- Wondering how many hunters do you anticipate will participate in the crow hunt?

Blair Stringham- We plan to track that data with our upland game survey done each year. We will have a pretty firm estimate next year. If I was just to guess, I would assume it is going to be fairly low. The impact to the crow population will not be something that will be a problem.

John Cavitt- You don't have any guesses from other surrounding states or anything?

Blair Stringham- I don't.

R. Jefre Hicks- Moving the shooting time to 1/2 hour before official sunrise, you are changing that from other times which is changed over the last 2 decades. Has law enforcement given up trying to enforce it or is it like the speed limit?

Blair Stringham- Last year was a pretty good example of the chaos that occurs when we have different shooting time. Allot of hunters are not familiar with the different times. We had a change in our guidebook which was confusing for hunters. For the most part, the shooting time has just been a time when innocent people do stupid things and can be penalized for it. We don't necessarily want to set people up to get in trouble. We talked about it internally and some concerns were safety issues but we felt, for the most part, there were not a whole lot of concerns and it would be in hunters best interest to make it consistent so everyone would be aware of when the times were and it would not be changing.

R. Jefre Hicks- Is there a big crossbow contingent out there? Do the arrows travel farther or are they a danger to people in the marsh? Do they have to use special tips or feathers? I am concerned about being out there hunting and having someone with a crossbow 100 yards away.

Blair Stringham- Crossbows have become more popular in recent years. Internally, we felt like it would be a move to allow crossbows as we have with archery equipment. The same requirements with archery would be for crossbows as well. I would suspect that people out hunting waterfowl with crossbow will be relatively low.

Robert Byrnes- That was an action log item to enlarge the opportunity for crossbow hunting. We did participate in demonstration of shooting crossbows. It is nothing like what you see in the movies unless you had a crossbow you could not carry around. The lighter weight crossbows have a very visible drop when you shoot them. It is nothing like shooting the best bows you have. Other than it is locked. We are moving towards draw locks also. I would not be afraid of one shooting from 100 yards away from what I have experienced.

James Gaskill- Curious about clear lake and why only 15 days of dove hunting?

Blair Stringham- The manager was concerned that it would affect the youth waterfowl hunt which will be just a few days after the 15th. So we wanted to close it early enough for the ducks to settle down before the youth waterfowl hunt to allow a better hunting opportunity.

Robert Byrnes- Last year we did have an issue about the youth day. Is everyone behind the day you have established this year for that? Are all the partners happy with that date?

Blair Stringham- Yes, we are intending to make it two weeks before the opener. Last year the recommendation was to move it up one week which was largely unsupported here in the RAC meetings. That is why we have kept it.

Robert Byrnes- Everybody is in line with that then.

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Paul Cowley- I am wondering if you can give us the rationale on the crow hunt for two different periods during the year.

Blair Stringham- The earlier season will coincide with when the earlier fruit damages. The later hunt would coincide when we have more birds that have moved in from the north of us. That is when we get a lot of those large roosting colonies. It really coincides when we have the most problems with crows.

Kristin Purdy- On your crow background slide, all of the information that you listed there about justification for a crow hunt are all nuisance issues that perhaps the depredation permit is more appropriate. In your research to prepare this presentation, perhaps in talking with other states who have an established crow hunt, was there any information at all that indicated it was a good idea because the crow is such a fabulous sporting game bird?

Blair Stringham- Every other hunt that occurs is largely for hunter participation and hunter opportunity. That is probably the reason why most other states have a crow hunt. It is a tool for us to also address some of the depredation concerns. It is not the only reason we are recommending it. It will allow hunters to go out and pursue crows.

Kristin Purdy- I guess what I am seeking is if there is any positive feedback that says hunters love to hunt crows?

Blair Stringham- There are quite a few TV shows that will produce crow hunting segments. There was one on last week where hunters went out and harvested a bunch of crows and had a BBQ and ate them. It is something that has been a tradition in some eastern states. I do know there are a lot of people that look forward to participating each year like the dove or turkey hunt.

R. Jefre Hicks- Lets say someone does take advantage of this crow season and shoots a few crows. What if they don't eat them? Are they subject to the same federal penalties if you took a duck home and did not eat it?

Blair Stringham- Yes, we have some waterfowl species that are not as popular as others. Everyone that harvested a crow would be under that same requirement to do what they would with any other migratory bird species if they harvested it.

R. Jefre Hicks- I have been reading and listening to the sage grouse saga going on. Some of the things I hear coming up, mostly by landowners, is that it is not the oil wells and roads fragmenting the habitat it is crows eating all the sage grouse eggs. Is there any merit to this?

Blair Stringham- There is merit to it but they have identified the wrong species. It is typically ravens. Crows typically do not occur in areas where sage grouse are at.

R. Jefre Hicks- Do you anticipate an impact on crow populations after a season or two. Do you expect the population to go down given most of the populations are in city limits?

Blair Stringham- Some localized populations that occur on boundaries are going to areas where they can be harvested. There could be some impacts there. For the most part where they are in urban area, there will not be a significant impact to the crow populations. What is likely to happen is redistribution of crows. Our hope is that the birds would stop using areas they are damaging.

John Blazzard- What is the reasoning behind non-toxic shot or non-toxic bullets?

Blair Stringham- The non-toxic shot comes from the Fish and Wildlife service. It is a federal requirement.

John Blazzard- It seems like it is pretty cumbersome speaking from a farmers point of view to have to jump through all of these hoops when you have a crow out there pecking the eyes out of one of your baby calves to report the fish and wildlife service every time we shoot one of them.

Blair Stringham- We are required to follow all the stipulations given by the fish and wildlife service. Anything you see reflected in there is something they require of us.

James Gaskill- You have to use a non-toxic shot or non-toxic bullets unless you are using an air rifle, air pistol or 22 caliber rim fire. Since they don't make them in non-toxic, you can use lead right?

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Kristin Purdy- Depredation permit vs. hunting season. If a person does use non-lethal means to control their crow population and they apply for a depredation permit, the number of birds they might take from that might be extraordinary. Because a depredation permit requires them to dispose of the carcasses either in a landfill or by

burning of that nature, it is very obvious it could be an extraordinary number of birds. On the other hand, a hunter with a restricted season and ten bag limit, 30 possession limit, is going to have a very small opportunity to have an impact on the crow population and especially because they are not going to be hunting crows where the crows are. They are going to be hunting crows out in WMA's and remote areas where birds do not congregate. Isn't there a significant conflict and doesn't it mean that a crow hunting season be an ineffective wildlife management tool whereas a depredation permit opportunity would be much more effective?

Blair Stringham- There are some locations where hunters could be successful. There is some sport hunting opportunity that would not be had otherwise if we just had the depredation rule.

Kristin Purdy- I have to say in 5 years of doing monthly surveys for non-water birds on Bear River migratory bird refuge, one time in approximately 60 surveys have I recorded a crow out there and I recorded 2. Virtually every other survey, every month, I record ravens up to 167 ravens. I am concerned about hunting vs. depredation and where hunters can hunt the birds and how effective it will be.

Robert Byrnes- I know you appreciate Kristin's comments but we have other people in favor of crow hunting so let's appreciate everyone's opinion. We don't need to clap or boo for anyone.

Paul Cowley- Would it be possible to just have the depredation side not listed as a migratory bird and leave it at that?

Blair Stringham- These two proposals are independent of each other. You can pass one and not the other or both.

Robert Byrnes- But the depredation rule is still a migratory bird and falls under the Fish and Wildlife regulations.

Paul Cowley- That was my question.

Blair Stringham- These are also two options Fish and Wildlife gives us. They give us the hunting option with specific criteria and the depredation which also has specific criteria.

Bruce Sillitoe- I understand there are local laws that you cannot discharge firearms in city limits so therefore cannot hunt in city limits. Is there other opportunity at all to hunt in city limits with any kind of effective weapon?

Blair Stringham- It depends on each city. They have their own ordinances. I am not really familiar with many of those but places like Salt Lake do not allow you to discharge a firearm. Some are more relaxed on those rules so there probably are some areas you would be able to but I cannot tell you where.

Public Comment

Allen Christensen- There are three reasons why we are going to hunt crows. One would be for food, the other two are for sport and for management purposes. I have given up trying to explain hunting for sport to those who don't understand it. Management needs to be done. I noticed that all surrounding states have crow hunts except Utah and suddenly crows are showing up here, there could be a correlation here. I am behind getting a crow hunt. I have personally counted 150 crows at one time in my newly planted field. They need to be managed and I encourage you to get this management in place.

Buz Marthaler-Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah- We are against a crow hunt in Utah. Are there statistics or scientific studies indicating overpopulation and based on what I see today is hearsay and nothing substantial. Crows are not a food crop. We should not be teaching our children to kill just to kill and it is a sport to do such thing and a good pastime. It devalues life. I have heard rumor that the division of agriculture is involved to get heat off them. Birds belong to everyone in the state, not just hunters. There are dozens of birds so let's consider everyone and how we feel about this. If there is a crow population and it is more than the ecosystem can support, mother nature will take care of that. If there are diseases, they are there for a purpose and will bring down the population fast and build back up as appropriate. We can expect lower populations of crows to be followed by larger populations of various insects including crop killers like grasshoppers and locusts. Not understanding its place in the ecosystem threatens the entire balance. Crows are an indicator species of west Nile outbreaks and the severity. Confusion on identifying crows. Depredation is unenforceable.

David Hestand- Agree with Buz. No hunter who gets sees a big black bird is going to take the time to identify the bird. Will be hard to enforce. They are not going to take them home to eat. I don't think that is how we want to teach our children about hunting. There are no benefits to hunting crows in this state.

Marcy Taylor- I don't hunt but I understand each of us have compassion. Hunting does not make you a horrible human being. My biggest complaint is that this feels very rushed. Ask for us to have patience. There is no need for us to rush this. It is not clear to any of us and not enough information. Give it a year and let the debate continue to happen and have a voice on this matter.

Angela Mueller- Many ways to shoo crows away from crops. Enticing hunters to kill crows is not the answer to the problem. It is not safe for humans or other animals. Crows are hard to distinguish between ravens. Money could be spent educating the public to live with nature rather than destroy it.

Margaret Pettis- Urge non-consumptive member and elected members that are not representing hunters to represent us who come before you that is not a hunter. Tired of the words harvest, hunt, opportunity or tool. We are just adding another bird. Cranes should have never been added to the list. We don't have to be like other states. We don't have to protect cows from crows pecking their eyes out. This is a hunt for a species we have no justification for.

Matthew Wallace- Have lived here 52 years. There is a hunting tradition in my family. My objective is to express my opposition to the crow hunting season. Science needs to be in place regarding negative impacts on the environment. I am not opposed to hunting, I am opposed to hunting for the sake of killing or target practice. Wildlife management should be based on science. A crow hunting season is not warranted.

Dustin Lacy- Crows are intelligent. I feel a lot of information given is speculation with no hard facts. The crow hunt is not successful in reducing the population of crows. Depredation comes across to me as a way for people to seek out where the crows are roosting and hunting them there which is not sportsmanlike.

Susan Snyder- Copy of statement given to RAC members. I am an environmental educator. It is difficult to tell a crow from a raven. Tried to find research effect of crow hunt on nest depredation and found there is no effect. Where crows are a problem it is our fault. We don't have any studies on what kind of agricultural damage due to crows. I am not comfortable with 12 year old data. Oppose crow hunt. This is being rushed through. We have time to do better research on concerns we have.

Robert Schmidt- Wildlife biologist. Passed out information to RAC members. Christmas bird counts for the last 20 years. Numbers have been constant. List of killed animals by DWR which shows no crows killed. Difference between hunting proposal and the proposal for nuisance. Wildlife harvested for legitimate reasons. No necessity for reducing crow population. It seems very frivolous. Urge you to vote against the crow hunt.

Jen Dummer- Against the crow hunt. Research done that shows a decline in the crow population in Utah. Small decline which is considered insignificant. Crows do cause crop issues and livestock issues. Specific articles cannot be found. Financial damages caused to crops show crows not even listed. I do not like the idea but I think depredation is a good idea with some amendments.

Maria Martino- Against the divisions proposal. Scientific facts about crows benefiting farmers. Population fluctuates naturally. Do not approve of killing to kill. Only benefit is the money. Need more studies and more time.

Elisa Nelson- Signed petition. Opposed to the crow hunt. Many benefits of crows. Intelligent animals. Are not overpopulated. Hard to identify crow from a raven. Mother nature should take care of the problem if it ever becomes an issue. Should be brought to a public vote. 758 signatures from across the world.

David Jensen- Opposed to crow hunt.

Caleb Stroh- See things the public may not see. In favor of an American crow season as proposed by the division. Falconers will benefit from this proposal. Falconers are allowed to take crows in more urban areas. Falconers excited about this proposal. Crow numbers in Utah. Not a lot of data because the crow population has exploded. I have participated in the bird counts in December. Data showing numbers have increased.

RAC Comments

Bruce Sillitoe- Does anybody on DWR know if falcons are allowed to hunt within city limits?

Blair Stringham- As far as this is concerned it would be the same as all migratory bird species and would be allowed to participate within city limits. It would depend on each cities ordinances which I am not familiar with.

Bruce Sillitoe- It appears that some of these issues are a result of cities and perhaps the lack of ordinances. Has certain cities like Layton addressed crow issues by passing ordinances such as we have seen with many cities and pigeons?

Blair Stringham- I am not aware of any cities that have specifically for crows.

RAC Comments

Russ Lawrence- I don't think there are a lot of places to hunt crow. Identification is a concern to me. Work in west desert and I take a lot of non-biologist types to the desert to look at things and almost constantly they do not refer to those as ravens, they refer to them as crows. There were comments made about introducing kids to hunting. Crow hunting would not be something I would introduce my kids to. The depredation permits are probably a better answer to that. I was really intrigued by the falconer. It is a problem in urbanized area but it is an area we can't really hunt. In defense of the division, this is not even close to being a money maker for the division. Anyone who would be doing this would already have a license anyway. I am representing the public at large and that is how I will vote because that is who I have heard tonight.

R. Jefre Hicks- I am concerned about species identification on something like this but I think a responsible hunter, it is important for that person to know the difference. There are a lot of things people hunt for sport and don't eat any of them. Whether right or wrong, it is a fact of life. I also recognize that wildlife belongs to us all and everybody needs to be represented. It is a legal practice to hunt if they choose to make this legal, we have to go along with that. Just because the minority may not have a great opinion, we can't shut them down. I don't know why anyone would want to hunt a crow but I really also don't see a big impact on populations. Very few would participate knowing the consequences of making a mistake. I am torn but wanted to let you know I just don't see a lot of impact if this were to pass.

Kristin Purdy- Refer to the map that Blair showed about the states that have hunting seasons on crows and those that don't. Generally, the crow is not a southwest United States bird. The east has had a huge problem with nuisance populations. Issue of depredation hunt. Difference between sport and when your livelihood is being affected. In favor of a flexible depredation tool that does allow us to control populations because of disease or impact on livelihood or nuisances. I don't believe this is an appropriate species for a sport hunt. As long as tonight is the night to make changes to species names, I would like to recommend you change the name common snipe to Wilson snipe because that birds name changed quite a few years ago. Along with the other name changes, that would be a good one to make as well.

James Gaskill- I don't like to contradict Kristin because I almost always agree with Kristin. Crows have been in Utah a long time but there was a hiatus. When I was a boy, there were so many crows in Salt Lake County fish and game association went out and tagged a number of crows. We had a crow hunt and I rode on my father's shoulders for much of the time. People got interested in hunting crows. For reasons unknown, the crow population declined significantly in Utah. They started coming back again and now they are very common and the population is significantly higher than the 60's when there were almost none. If I thought this proposal was going to affect the population of crows significantly, I would vote against it. I am convinced it will not. I intend to vote in favor.

Paul Cowley- Would like to tell the public how much we appreciate you coming out and becoming involved and helping educate us on the issue.

Bruce Sillitoe- Is a hunting permit required for a falconer to hunt crow?

Blair Stringham- Yes, it is for hunting purposes.

Bruce Sillitoe- We often times hear about falconers being a solution for problems. Are falconers that help in certain situations like on golf courses and airports required to have a permit?

Blair Stringham- Yes, if they are doing it anywhere outside where depredation was taking place. It would have to be during approved hunting seasons. I do not believe it would be an approved form of take for depredation. I would have to check on that.

Robert Byrnes- Is that by Fish and Wildlife?

Blair Stringham- Yes.

Russ Lawrence- If it is used for depredation, if they were hired by those entities, they would fall under their permit.

Bruce Sillitoe- If not, it would be a hunting license that would be required.

Robert Byrnes- I think the depredation rule is probably needed to address problems we are having now, especially here in northern Utah. One way or the other, there will be a depredation rule, I think, if we don't act then it will come around another way. I am not saying we are forced to but there has to be a solution to some problems. I probably could not tell a difference between a crow and raven. There are lots of flocks of most likely crows I see in October in Southeastern Utah. I think the depredation part will be important to address problems.

John Wall- I don't think we need a hunt but definitely depredation. I know how smart crows are. They will get the birds I take care of, I feed quail and pheasants. I know that hazing, and they are smart, for a few times they don't come around for a long time. It does not take a lot of hazing to rid crows. I know they go somewhere else but it disperses them and hazing will work.

Robert Byrnes- In the animals taken by wildlife service's report that you received, if you look under the method DRC 1339 eggs, which are poisoned eggs. The raven take was 2,006. The firearm take was 5 which kind of makes sense.

Bruce Sillitoe- It is good for us to understand, is it reasonable to recommend a hunt for only falconers? Or, if it is a hunt, it is a hunt period.

Blair Stringham- I believe the RAC has any recommendation they would like to make. As long as it falls in the federal framework because that is what constricts us.

Bruce Sillitoe- So DWR could do that and make a hunt just for falconers?

Blair Stringham- Sure.

Motion

Motion: Paul Cowley- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented excluding those portions applicable to American crow.

Second: James Gaskill

Motion Passes: Unanimous

John Blazzard- I think every species needs to be managed in some way. Sometimes nature manages themselves and sometimes they need help from us. Issues farmers and ranchers deal with all the time. We need to be able to protect our crops and livestock and a method or process by which we can do that. If we are not going to be able to hunt crow and shoot it, we need a depredation process to be able to do that. I support some form of being able to control and manage the crow population in Utah. Need tools to manage and take care of livelihood.

Jon Leonard- I use to hunt crows as a child. The caveat that you have to eat them now would discourage me as well as others. I do think we need some controls in management and depredation and the opportunity seem to specifically target offending critters and might be the most effective. I see a lot of damage to nesting populations of turkeys, sage grouse, sharptails. I have seen a tremendous increase of those over the last 10 years. Those are not going to be able to be controlled just by hunting. I would probably be opposed to the hunting avenue and rather see us work on the depredation side of it.

James Gaskill- One aspect that has not been explored much tonight is if the crow becomes a protected species in the eyes of the division and they have a hunt, there would be much more resource devoted to the study of crows. If they don't consider them as a huntable population then we will never know the answers to the questions of how many crows there are. They are not going to waste resources on things that are not within their purview. There may be some upsides as far as knowledge is concerned from having a hunt which would not be there without the hunt.

R. Jefre Hicks- If we were to, as a council, pass on the hunting aspect of crows but want to still have predation abilities, would you still be able to list them as a migratory game bird?

Blair Stringham- We wouldn't put them as a migratory game bird. We would just put them on the depredation rule.

R. Jefre Hicks- Would studies and bird count then be out the window?

Blair Stringham- We would have a lot less resources to devote to them because we would not be able to get money from the sale of sporting equipment and license sales. It would probably stay the way it is.

John Cavitt- I think we would have a lot more non-game species that would out rank crows in terms of status for non-game funds for study.

Motion

Motion: John Cavitt- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-3 as presented.

Second: Bryce Thurgood

Discussion on the motion

John Blazzard- Would like them to figure out a way to make it a little simpler.

Robert Byrnes- I think you have to follow the Fish and Wildlife policy as outlined.

Bruce Sillitoe- I know the motion is specific for depredation but we spend a lot of time trying to address legitimate hunters. If we were to amend that motion to also allow specific hunting for falconers, that may actually address the entire hunting issue.

Robert Byrnes- If you tackled it one separate motion, I think we would be finished with this agenda item after we pass this one. This is very distinct and covers the depredation rule.

Jon Leonard- Would they be required to eat the crow?

Robert Byrnes- In depredation they collect and dispose of it properly.

James Gaskill- I think they would be precluded from eating them or feeding them to their falcons. The only provision for disposal is take them to a landfill or burn them. Under the depredation.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

Motion: Bruce Sillitoe- Recommend the Wildlife Board enact a falconry hunt for American crow within the framework recommended by the Division.

Second: John Blazzard

Discussion on the Motion

James Gaskill- Is that intended to preclude all other hunts? Is that the intent of your motion?

Bruce Sillitoe- I actually am kind of with you in that I do not believe there is going to be anyone who is going to go hunt this thing with a rifle. Even if you pass it as a normal hunt, no one is going to hunt it. I am not adverse to that, I just want to make sure we address the real need and that is hunting with falcons.

James Gaskill- Previously, the chair indicated that if this motion passed, there would be no more motions.

Robert Byrnes- No, I just indicated that I would like him to make it in a separate motion than the depredation rule.

Bruce Sillitoe- The way you read it is my motion.

Bryce Thurgood- So falconry only?

Robert Byrnes- Correct.

R. Jefre Hicks- If we were to approve this motion, then we would allow hunting within the framework for falconry only, no general hunting with firearms.

James Gaskill- I disagree with that. He said he did not preclude another motion to allow for the hunting of crows as proposed by the division. Another motion could say in addition to the falconry, which we have accepted or not accepted. We recommend approval of the crow hunt as proposed by the division.

Bruce Sillitoe- I was indicating that I am not adverse to that but I would like my motion to stand as it was read.

James Gaskill- That is my understanding.

R. Jefre Hicks- If we want to exclude general hunting with firearms, we have to make an amendment to the motion?

Robert Byrnes- No, this motion would only enact a falconry hunt.

Motion Passes: For 10, Against 2, Paul Cowley, Jon Leonard

Paul Cowley- Given what we have heard tonight, I would recommend against a hunt.

Jon Leonard- Similar to Paul's, I don't think it solves anything.

Motion

Motion: James Gaskill- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept American crow hunt as proposed by the Division.

Second: John Blazzard

Motion Fails: For 3, Against 9

Robert Byrnes- I think the record stands for itself as to why everyone is opposed.

Motion

Motion: Paul Cowley- Recommend the Wildlife Board not enact any American crow hunt other than falconry.

Second: R. Jefre Hicks

Motion Passes: For 8, Against 4

Item 10. Utah Trial Hunter Program – New Rule R657-68

Kirk Smith, Hunter Education Coordinator

See Handout

Public Questions

Lisa Nelson- You will have 1 adult that will supervise 2 children?

Kirk Smith- This program is not necessarily directed towards children. Any adult could participate in this. The ratio is 1 supervising hunter to 2 trial hunters.

Robert Byrnes- There is a specific section of rule that describes what supervision means. You have to have verbal communication distance. You cannot use radios and things like that.

Lisa Nelson- I think it is a great idea.

RAC Questions

John Blazzard- Would this take effect in 2014 or 2015?

Kirk Smith- 2014. We hope to have this in place in time for the dove hunt this year.

John Blazzard- I assume you don't have to have 2 before you can go, one would be enough.

Kirk Smith- One would be fine.

Motion

Motion: Lynn Nelson- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Utah Trial Hunter Program R657-68 as presented.

Second: James Gaskill

Motion Passes: For: 11, Against :1 R. Jefre Hicks

R. Jefre Hicks- The people I have spoken to cant seem to get a handle on why we would let someone hunt without basic hunter training.

Item 11. Strawberry Management Plan

Alan Ward, Strawberry Project Leader

Alan Ward- Plan was developed in 1987. Time to update. List of partners involved. Process started in 2011. Gathered a lot of data and online public surveys. Prevent chubs for negatively impacting sport fishing. Want to ensure a high quality, diverse fishery and maintain a high quality for anglers. Want to improve natural reproduction. Maintain a growth rate on cutthroat. Identify what an acceptable amount of chubs in Strawberry was. Very heavily researched and managed. 2 full time biologists who look at Strawberry specifically. We want lots of good data which we have. Maintain a good number of large cutthroat trout in the reservoir. Set objective of 18 inches or larger which is where we have identified they can become effective predators. This way we can control chub populations. Ensure a high quality fishery with diverse fishing habitats. Stream restoration efforts. Maintain catch rate of .5 fish per hour. Rainbow important the reservoir. Maintain fishing pressure of 1.2 million

hours. Maintain or improve upon ice fishing opportunities. Want more ice fishing pressure with more parking areas. Money and resources to be put towards this effort. Explore potential for opening tributaries. Enhance non-angling opportunities. Improve natural reproduction of cutthroat and kokanee. 32% of cutthroat comes from natural reproduction.

James Gaskill- Clarification on cutthroat populations and creel surveys?

Alan Ward- Cutthroat populations and monitoring size was focused on gill net surveys. From the rainbow populations we based that on the creel surveys so there was a difference between the two.

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Move we adjourn.

Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair

Meeting Ends: 11:35 p.m.



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY SHEEHAN
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 21, 2014

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Staci Coons, Chair
Certification Review Committee

RE: Variance Request from Mr. John Potash for the possession and commercial use of rattlesnakes.

The Certification Review Committee met May 21, 2013, to discuss the above-mentioned variance request to Rule R657-53, for the possession and commercial use of rattlesnakes.

In attendance were: Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief; Roger Wilson, Aquatic Section Chief; Krissy Wilson, Sensitive Species; Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief; Tony Wood, Law Enforcement Chief; Jodee Baker for Robert Rolfs, Department of Health; Suzanne McMullin, COR Licensing Specialist; and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

ANALYSIS

The committee evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-53-11. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The committee expressed no concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public.
2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts on wildlife or domestic animals.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts** - The committee had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.
4. **The suitability of the facilities** - The committee had no significant concerns with the suitability of the facilities. The committee only discussed the equipment that Mr. Potash uses for transporting the reptiles as they will be permanently housed in Nevada.



5. **Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The committee had no concerns regarding the experience of the applicant for the proposed activity.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, after careful evaluation, recommends that the request be approved and that the following stipulations be made part of the Certificate of Registration:

1. The committee recommends approval for Mr. John Potash to bring his rattlesnakes into the State of Utah for commercial and educational use.
2. The committee recommends that Mr. John Potash contact the Division prior to entering the state by providing an itinerary to Suzanne McMullin indicating dates, times and locations of each training.
3. The committee recommends that Mr. John Potash add a section to his training about Utah Rules and Regulations concerning the handling of snakes.
4. The committee recommends that the Certificate of Registration issued to Mr. Potash is not transferable and cannot be sold with his business.
5. The committee requires that Mr. Potash obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection from the Department of Agriculture for the importation of the rattlesnakes and that all city, county and insurance needs continue to be current.

cc: Certification Review Committee Members
John Potash, Get Rattled



04/16/2014

Dear Wildlife Commissioners,

My name is John Potash and I am the co- owner and wildlife handler for Get Rattled, a company based in Reno Nevada that provides rattlesnake avoidance training for dogs.

I am writing you today to request a variance allowing us to bring our snakes into Utah for dog training clinics. Over the past few years, we have received interest from many Utah residents for our training clinics. Training clinics are typically scheduled on one or two weekend days, dependant on the amount of registrations, so the animals would only be in the state for 2-3 days at a time.

I currently hold a commercial possession permit issued by the Nevada Department of Wildlife to possess native venomous snakes for commercial purposes. I have held this and a similar commercial collection permit (for wildlife rescue activities) for over 15 years. I have over 20 years of venomous snake handling experience, having learned directly from Herpetologist Ken Foose who currently resides in Las Vegas.

The other co-owner of Get Rattled is Willie J. Stevens Jr. who is a dog trainer with over 20 years of dog training experience and is also and AKC judge for hunt tests and field trials.

This is our second year in business as Get Rattled, however Willie Stevens and I have been doing these trainings for 14 years in Reno as non-profit fundraisers for groups here in Nevada. Whenever possible, we also seek local groups to host our trainings for which we give back a portion of the proceeds.

At our training clinics, we set up a course with two specific stations. The first station is where the dog will encounter a live rattlesnake out on the ground to make the encounter as natural as possible. This snake is venomoid (venom glands surgically removed) for safety purposes. I am always within 10 feet of this snake to maintain control. Our other station is a rattlesnake in a double wire cage, along with some shed skins to allow for maximum scent recognition. We do bring several different snakes to allow for switching out and giving the snakes a rest. We also like to bring a variety of snakes that would be found native to the area to allow for the opportunity to educate people as well. Snakes are transported in specially designed 5 gallon buckets with a screw on top, a small window on top for viewing, and marked with a large Venomous Reptile warning sticker along with my own stickers identifying which species of snake is inside.

Here is our information for the purposes of R657-3-36:

(2)(a)(i)

John Potash

Mailing address: P. O. Box 60066, Reno, NV 89506

Physical address: 1265 Tyler Way, Sparks, NV 89431

Business Phone: 775-234-8844

Personal Cell Phone: 775-250-7625

E-mail: GetRattledNV@gmail.com

(2)(a)(ii)

Western Diamondback Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*)

Mojave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*)

Panamint Rattlesnake (*Crotalus stephensi*)

Southwestern Speckled Rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchellii* Pyrrhus)

Mohave Desert Sidewinder (*Crotalus c. cerastes*)

Great Basin Rattlesnake (*Crotalus o. lutosus*)

Great Basin Gopher Snake (*Pituophis c. deserticola*)

For the purposes of Rattlesnake Avoidance Training for dogs and public education.

(2)(a)(iii)

See explanation on Page 1.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Potash', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John Potash

7/10/13

Commercial Possession of Live Wildlife

Potash, John David

1265 Tyler Way

Sparks

NV

89431

Same

530-82-7012

3/24/73

22.76

1950

LCF

500.00

Valid July 1, 2013 thru June 30, 2014

AMENDED 7/10/13

S 36343

Purpose: Public Display/Exhibition
Avoidance Training for Dogs

1. Species/Number/ I.D.:

Mexican Beaded Lizard (Heloderma Horridum Exasperatum) 1
Great Basin Rattlesnake (Crotalus Oulutosus Lutosus) 4
Western Diamondback Rattlesnakes (Crotalus Atrox) 2
Majave Rattlesnake (Crotalus Scutulotus) 2
Speckled Rattlesnake (Crotalus Mitchelli Pyrrhus) 2
Mojave Desert Sidewinders (Crotalus Cerastes Cerastes) 5

2. Business name: Get Rattled, PO Box 60066, Reno, NV 89506

3. Phone: Home : (775) 250-7625 Work: (775) 234-8844

CONDITIONS FOR COMMERCIAL POSSESSION LICENSE NO. S# 36343
(ATTACH TO LICENSEE'S SLAP LICENSE)

PERMITTEE John D Potash, Get Rattled

1. **Purpose for which the wildlife is to be held (Check all that apply):**
Wholesale/Retail Sale; _____ **Breeding & Sale;** X **Public Display/Exhibition;**
 _____ **Aquaculture;** _____ **Rental;** X **Other**
2. Live wildlife shall only be transferred* pursuant to the conditions set forth in this license and to a person who possesses a license or permit issued by the Department which authorizes that person to possess the species being transferred or to a person who resides outside of Nevada.
3. **RECORDS:** the licensee must provide a receipt to every person to whom wildlife is transferred. The receipt must include the following information: 1. Name of the licensee; 2. License number of the licensee; 3. Date of transfer; 4. The number of wildlife, by species, being transferred; and, 5. The name of the transferee. The transfer must also be immediately recorded on a form provided by the Department. The form must be retained for two years after the transfer.
4. **ACQUIRING WILDLIFE:** Wildlife authorized to be possessed by this license may only be obtained from 1. A licensed breeder or dealer in that wildlife; 2. Collections lawfully made in another state or country that allows the commercialization of that wildlife; or 3. From the Department. Wildlife received from the Department must not be sold, bartered or traded.
5. **RELEASES:** Wildlife held under the authority of this license shall not be released from captivity without the prior written authorization of the Department.
6. **ADDING NEW SPECIES:** The licensee must receive written approval from the Department prior to possessing any species of wildlife not specifically authorized on this license.
7. **IMPORT PERMITS:** An importation permit is required to bring any wildlife (except exempt species) into the state. All shipments of mammals, birds, and fish must be accompanied by a valid health certificate issued by an accredited, licensed veterinarian.
8. **MARKING:** All ungulates, bobcats, mountain lions & black bears must be permanently marked in a manner required by regulation.
9. **FACILITIES:** All ungulates, bobcats, mountain lions & black bears must be maintained in facilities meeting minimum standards required by regulation.
10. **ESCAPES:** The licensee must report escapes to the Department, immediately.
11. This license does not authorize the taking, possession, transportation, importation, exportation or disposal of any wildlife in violation of any applicable federal or state law, any county or city ordinance, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.
12. An application for renewal must be submitted to the Department on or before **June 30, 2014**
13. This license may be revoked or suspended by the Department and is not transferable.
14. _____

* Transferred means given away as a gift or loaned

Utah Wild Turkey Management Plan 2014



Strategic Management Plan for Wild Turkeys 2000

- 4 goals
- Much of the information was outdated or objectives have been met
- We know more about Utah wild turkeys now than in 2000

NEEDED TO BE UPDATED



Advisory Committee

- Diverse Group Including:
 - UT Division of Wildlife Resources
 - SLO, all 5 Regions, Outreach, Habitat
- National Wild Turkey Federation
 - State, Regional, National
- Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife
- Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation
- Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- Wildlife Board & RAC
- Private Landowners
- Interested Sportsmen
- Farm Bureau
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (invited- Declined)
- United Wildlife Cooperative (invited- Declined)



Meeting Schedule

- Began Meeting in December 2013
- Had 5 Meetings total
- Last Meeting in mid-March
- 20 total meeting hours, plus "homework"

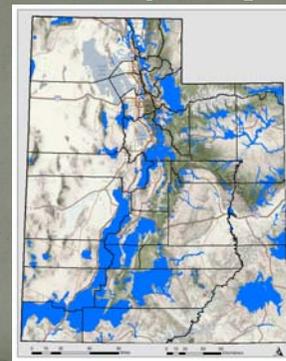


Statewide Plan

- 6 year plan, with 3 year renewal option
 - Syncs with the 3-year guidebook schedule
- Background
- Basic Biology
- Habitat needs
- Harvest background
- Links to data



2014 Wild Turkey Occupied Habitat



Blue = occupied habitat

Goals:

- A. Maintain and improve wild turkey populations to habitat or social carrying capacity
- B. Minimize human-wild turkey conflicts
- C. Improve wild turkey hunting opportunities
- D. Enhance the appreciation of wild turkeys in Utah
- E. Enhance interagency cooperation

Goal A. Maintain and improve wild turkey populations to habitat or social carrying capacity

- Objectives
 1. Stabilize populations that are declining, outside of natural population fluctuations; especially through catastrophic events
 2. Increase wild turkey habitat, quality and quantity, by 40,000 acres by 2020
 3. Establish wild turkey populations at 80 new sites by 2020

Goal B. Minimize Human-wild turkey conflicts

- Objectives
 1. Decrease the number of chronic "material damage" complaints per 100 turkeys by 25% by 2020
 2. Decrease the number of chronic nuisance complaints per 100 turkeys by 25% by 2020

Goal C. Improve wild turkey hunting opportunities

- Objectives
 1. Increase accessible hunting areas within 1 hour drive of the Wasatch Front (Nephi to Brigham City) by 10,000 acres by 2020
 2. Increase the number of permits sold to > 11,680 (20% increase from 2013) by 2020



Goal D. Enhance the appreciation of wild turkeys in Utah

- Objectives
 1. Increase targeted distribution of educational materials & presentations on the benefits of wild turkeys
 2. Increase the number of participants at wild turkey events by 10% by 2020

Goal E. Enhance interagency cooperation

- Objective
 1. Increase the number of interagency meetings to 5 per year (1 per region per year)



Thank You



Wild Turkey Transplant Recommendation June 2014 - June 2019



Transplant List

- Required by Wildlife Code 23-14-21
- Sent through the RDCC and local government
- Still trying to grow the Utah wild turkey population (Management Plan Goal A)
- The current approved transplant list expires June 2014
- Recommend a 5-year transplant list
 - (expires June 2019)
- Developed at a regional level by local biologists
- Move to areas with a low likelihood of conflicts
- Tool for reducing human-turkey conflicts (Management Plan Goal B)

Wild Turkey Statewide Transplant Summary

- 235 total sites
- 106 (46%) are new sites
- 129 (54%) are existing sites that will be supplemented
- 176 (75%) are for Rio Grande subspecies
- 59 (25%) are for Merriam's subspecies



Regional Recommendation

Region	# of sites	new sites (%)
CR	80	40 (50%)
NER	69	32 (46%)
NR	9	2 (22%)
SER	20	5 (25%)
SR	57	27 (47%)



Thank You



Upland Game and Turkey Guidebook & Rules 2014-2016 Recommendations



Common Research Supported Beliefs Associated with Upland Game Species

- Upland game experience boom & bust cycles and are generally short lived (<2 yrs)
- Populations are largely dependent upon annual production and survival
- Natural annual survival rates are low and can range between 10 - 40%
- Hunter harvest generally accounts for 10% or less of an annual population

Common Research Supported Beliefs – cont'd

- Populations cycle largely independent of hunter harvest
- Law of “Diminishing Returns” influences hunter interest and persistence throughout the season. (Inherent protection)
- Season length and bag limits spread harvest and opportunity among the hunting public
- 3-year guidebook makes sense biologically

Definition of Youth

- Youth: 17 years old or younger on July 31, each year



California & Gambel's Quail



California & Gambel's Quail Recommendation

- Area: Statewide
- Season dates: First Sat. in Nov. to Dec. 31 (fixed closure)
- Youth hunt date: Saturday closest to 13 Oct. - **Monday**
- Bag limit: 5 daily (singly or in combination)
- Possession limit: 3 X daily bag
- * Scaled quail: Closed season statewide

Chukar and Gray (Hungarian) Partridge Recommendation



Chukar and Gray Partridge Recommendation

Area: Statewide

Season dates: Last Saturday in September to February 15 (fixed closure)

Youth hunt date: Saturday - **Monday** prior to the general season in September

Bag limit: 5 birds of each species per day

Possession limit: 3 X daily bag

Cottontail Rabbits (Mountain and Desert)



Cottontail Recommendation

Area: Statewide

Season dates: Sept. 1 (fixed opener) to Feb. 28 (fixed closure)

Bag limit: 10 daily

Possession limit: 3 X daily bag

Dusky and Ruffed Grouse



Dusky and Ruffed Grouse Recommendation

Area: Statewide

Season dates: Sept. 1 (fixed opener) to Dec. 31 (fixed closure)

Bag limit: 4 daily (singly or in combination)

Possession limit: 3 X daily bag

Greater Sage-grouse



Greater Sage-grouse Recommendation

- Continue permit allocation based on population estimates from lek counts (offer a 2-bird permit with total harvest not to exceed more than 10% of fall population).
- Most of the state is closed, with 4 open areas
 - Harvest <3% of the statewide population
- Allocate 15% of the permits to youth hunters, with remaining permits returning to the general draw.
- **Discontinue 10% allocation to falconers**

Greater Sage-grouse Recommendation

Area: 4 Areas (W. Box Elder, Rich county, Blue/Diamond Mtn, Parker Mtn)

Season dates: Last Saturday in Sept. to Sunday 3 weeks later
Example: Sept 27 – Oct 19, 2014

Bag limit: 2 per season (special permit)

Possession limit: 2 per season (special permit)



Ring-necked Pheasant

Pheasant Recommendation

Area: Statewide on all lands

Extended Season Area: **Statewide** on State and Federal Lands ONLY (including lands leased/managed by UDWR [Walk in Access])
All other private lands closed

Season dates: All Lands: First Saturday in Nov. to 3rd Sunday in Nov.
State/Fed Land: First Saturday in Nov to First Sunday in Dec.

Youth hunt date: Saturday closest to 13 Oct - **Monday**

Bag limit: 2 males daily

Possession limit: 3 X daily bag

Sharp-tailed Grouse



Sharp-tailed Grouse Recommendation

- Continue permit allocation based on population estimates from lek counts (offer a 2-bird permit with total harvest not to exceed more than 10% of fall population).
- Allocate 15% of the permits to youth hunters, with remaining permits returning to the general draw.

Sharp-tailed Grouse Recommendation

Area: 2 Areas (NE Box Elder and Rich counties)

Season dates: Last Saturday in Sept. to Sunday 3 weeks later
Example: Sept 27 – Oct 19, 2014

Bag limit: 2 per season (special permit)

Possession limit: 2 per season (special permit)



Snowshoe Hare

Snowshoe Hare Recommendation

Area: Statewide

Season dates: Sept. 1 (fixed opener) to March 15 (fixed closure)

Bag limit: 5 daily

Possession limit: 3 X daily bag



White-tailed Ptarmigan

White-tailed Ptarmigan Recommendation

Area: Statewide

Season dates: 4th Saturday in August to Oct. 31 (fixed closure)

Bag limit: 4 daily (Must obtain a free White-tailed Ptarmigan permit)

Possession limit: 3 X Daily Bag



Wild Turkey Recommendation

- Continue regional LE followed by statewide OTC.
- Evaluate harvest/hunter data in relation to performance targets found in the turkey management system.
 - 3-year ave. hunter success > 20%
 - 3-year ave. hunter crowding ≤ 4 (1 to 5 scale) 5 = very crowded
 - 3-year ave. hunter satisfaction > 2 (1 to 5 scale) 5 = very satisfied
- Continue youth hunt for LE (15%) and OTC (3 days prior to general OTC season).
- Offer conservation, depredation, and CWMU permits.
- **Discontinue LE landowner permits**
- **Offer a fall hunting season in limited areas**

Spring Wild Turkey Recommendation

- Hunters with Disabilities 3-day season extension, Saturday – Monday prior to the LE season
- LE region hunt (2nd Sat. to last Thur. in April)
- **Implement an annual LE permit allocation system (similar to GRSG & STGR). Board approved process**

2014 Example Permits	
NR	459 vs. 400
CR	522 vs. 500
NER	254 vs. 250
SER	328 vs. 250
SR	1533 vs. 1100

- OTC statewide hunt
 - Youth (last Friday in April through Sunday – 3 days)
 - All (Monday following youth hunt to May 31 (fixed))

Fall Wild Turkey Hunt Recommendation

- Main objective is reducing human/turkey conflicts
 - fall hunts can reduce populations
- Regional Application; areas within the region
 - Regions determine areas, permit #s, and season dates within November 1 – Feb 28; determined annually. Board approved process.
- Permit allocation system; no point system
- ANY wild turkey
- 15% go to youth
- Can have a permit for both spring and fall

Region	2014 Permits
NR	73
CR	0
NER	0
SER	0
SR	220

NR 2014 Fall Turkey Hunt Example

- 4 counties within the NR
 - Weber, E. Box Elder, Morgan and Cache Counties
- Hunt Dates: November 1 – December 31
- Permit Numbers
 - NR = 73

Falconry Recommendation

- September 1 (fixed day) – February 28 (fixed day)
- **Statewide**
- **Allow falconry on fall wild turkey hunt, must draw a permit**

Board Action Items

- Do Not recommend allowing falconry on wild turkey spring season, but allow for fall turkey season
- Recommend 10 to 28 gauge be used to hunt turkeys
- Recommend allowing group applications (up to 4) for wild turkey (GRSG, STGR, Crane already in place)
- Recommend allowing youth hunters that are unsuccessful in harvesting a turkey during the spring LE hunt to hunt the OTC spring seasons.
 - Do Not recommend allowing adult hunters that are unsuccessful in harvesting a turkey during the spring LE hunt to hunt the OTC spring season.
- Allow crossbows to hunt wild turkey and upland game

Rule 657-6: Taking Upland Game

- Made minor adjustments in wording and corrections
- Corrected species names
- Adjustments to legal weapon
- Clarification/consistency on the use of dogs on WMAs
- Added American Crow in list of migratory upland game birds

Rule 657-54: Taking Wild Turkeys

- Made adjustments in wording
- Removed landowner permit section
- Adjustments to falconry
- Adjustments to legal weapon
- Clarification/consistency on the use of dogs on WMAs

Thank You



Rule 654-46 The Use of Game Birds in Dog Field Trials and Training

- 5-year extension
- Corrected language for species
- Clarification/consistency on the use of dogs on WMAs



Thank You



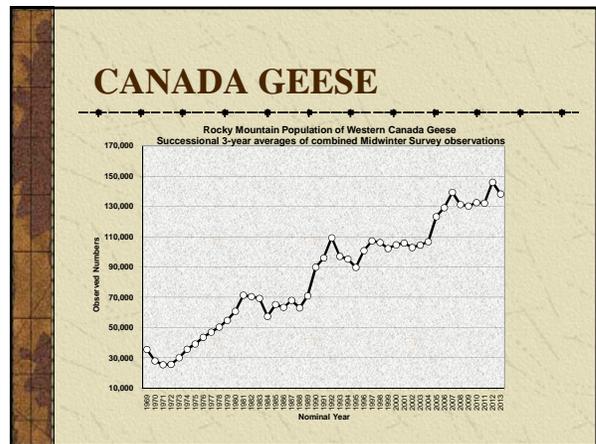
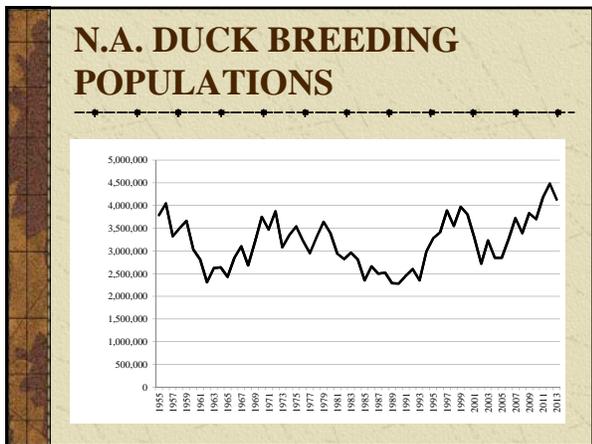
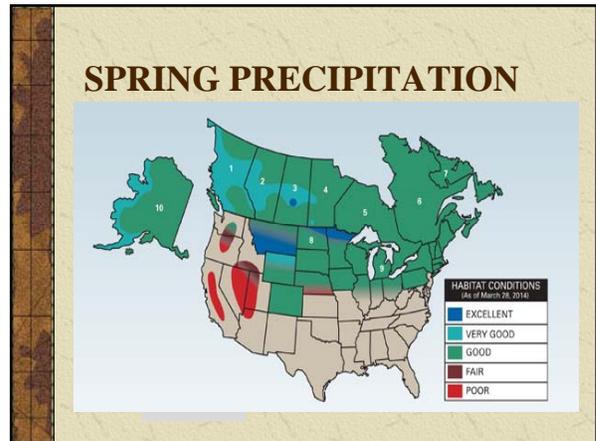


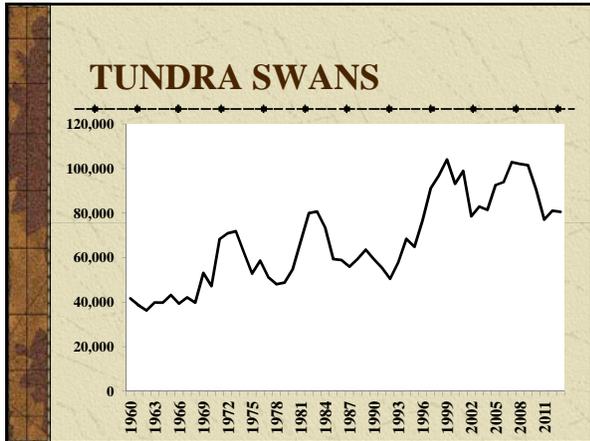
MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

- ✦ **USFWS Regulation Changes**
 - ✦ **Time Constraints**
 - ✦ Summer Data → Flyway → SRC → Fed Register
 - ✦ Not 100% official until in Federal Register
 - ✦ Some years nearly didn't have seasons
 - ✦ New process will begin in spring 2016?

MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

- ✦ **DWR Recommendations**
 - **Moving to May**
 - Additional time for guidebook
 - Upland Game regulations (Migratory Species)
 - **Most liberal options provided by USFWS**





REGULATION PACKAGES PACIFIC FLYWAY

WESTERN MALLARD MODEL

PACKAGE	SEASON LENGTH	BASIC BAG
LIBERAL	107	7
MODERATE	86	7
RESTRICTIVE	60	4
Pintail	107	2
Canvasback	107	2/1
Scaup	86	3

2014-15 WATERFOWL SEASON

Duck/Merg/Coot Snipe/Falconry	Oct 4 - Jan 17, 2015; Statewide
Scaup	Oct 4 - Dec 27
Duck/Merg Bag	7 Daily/31 Possession; 2 H Mall, 2 Wood Duck, 2 Reds Max Pin, Max Can, Max Scaup
Coot Bag	25 Daily/75 Possession
Snipe Bag	8 Daily/24 Possession
Falconry Bag	3 Daily/9 Possession

2014-15 WATERFOWL SEASON

Dark Goose Seasons

Northern Zone (East of the Coast)	Oct 4 - Jan 17
Urban Zone (Davis, Salt Lake, Utah, Western)	Oct 4 - Oct 16 Nov 1 - Feb 1
Rest of the State	Oct 4 - Oct 16 Oct 25 - Jan 25

Dark Goose Bag 4 Daily/12 Possession

2014-15 WATERFOWL SEASON

Light Goose Season

Northern Zone and Urban Zone	Oct 24 - Jan 17 Feb 18 - Mar 10
Rest of the State	Oct 22 - Jan 25 Feb 28 - Mar 10
Light Goose Bag	20 Daily/ 60 Possession

2014-15 WATERFOWL SEASON

- Swan Season: Oct 4 - Dec 14
GSL Area
2000 Permits
- Youth Day (15 or younger): Sept 20
- All shooting times ½ hour before sunrise to official sunset
- No ½ delay on opening day of waterfowl season

2014 DOVE SEASON

Species	Season	Area	Bag/Pos.
Mourning Doves	Sep 1 – Oct 30	Statewide	2 / 20 (singly or in combination)
White-winged Doves	Sep 1 – Oct 30	Statewide	
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Year-round	Statewide	No limit (plucked go toward dove limit)
Inca Dove		CLOSED	
Ground Dove		CLOSED	

WMAs: Bicknell Bottoms, Brown's Park, Clear Lake*, Desert Lake, Redmond and Topaz (steel shot required)
*Sept 1-15 Only

2014 BAND-TAILED PIGEON SEASON

Season	Area	Bag/Possession
Sep 1 - 30	Statewide	2 / 6

- Must obtain a free band-tailed pigeon permit

2014 SANDHILL CRANE SEASON

Area	Permits	Season	Bag/Possession
Rich County	Through Flyway	1 st Sat in Sept – 2 nd Sun in Sept	1/1
E Box Elder Co	Through Flyway	1 st Sat in Sept – 2 nd Sun in Sept	1/1
Cache Co (Part)	Through Flyway	1 st Sat in Sept – 2 nd Sun in Sept	1/1
Uintah County	Through Flyway	Sept - Oct (varied dates)	1/1

- Permits set annually based on Pacific Flyway

Crow Background

Additional Information:

- Crow Populations in Utah

Crow Background

Additional Information:

- Crow Populations in Utah

Crow Background

Additional Information:

- Hunted in 45 States

Crow Background

✳️ **Additional Information:**

- Crow Populations in Utah
- Hunted in 45 States
- **Damage/Nuisance:**
 - corn, grain, and nut/fruit crops
 - young livestock
 - upland and waterfowl nests
 - roosts (noise, droppings, tree damage)
 - TGE, avian cholera, histoplasmosis



Crow Background

✳️ **Additional Information:**

- Crow Populations in Utah
- Hunted in 45 States
- **Damage/Nuisance:**
 - 400+ Native/Common Species
 - Only hunt 32 species (less than 8%)



2014 CROW SEASON

Season	Area	Bag/Possession
Sept 1 – 30	Statewide	10 / 30
Dec 1 – Feb 28		

- All migratory upland game rules apply
 - Shotguns w/plugs, shooting hours, etc.
- A valid hunting license is required
- Must be retrieved and removed from the field



2014 DEPREDATION RULE

Dates	Area	Reasons
Any Time	Statewide	Depredation, Nuisance

- No permit required
- Requires participants to report to USFWS



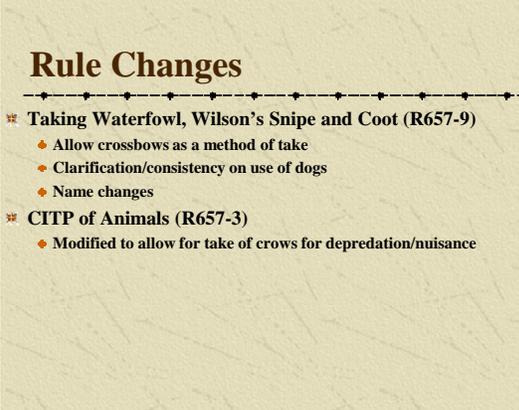
Rule Changes

✳️ **Taking Waterfowl, Wilson's Snipe and Coot (R657-9)**

- Allow crossbows as a method of take
- Clarification/consistency on use of dogs
- Name changes

✳️ **CITP of Animals (R657-3)**

- Modified to allow for take of crows for depredation/nuisance




THANK YOU