

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

January 6, 2015, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

## AGENDA

**Tuesday, January 6, 2015**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments<br>– Drew Cushing, Warmwater Sport Fisheries Program Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 6. 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments<br>– Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator             | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Wolf Management Plan Extension<br>– Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator                                  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments<br>– Kenny Johnson, Administrative Section Chief                 | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. Other Business<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman  | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

Details of the specific recommendations can be found at [www.wildlife.utah.gov](http://www.wildlife.utah.gov)

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act - Persons needing special accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for this meeting, should contact Staci Coons at 801-538-4718, giving her at least five working days notice.*

**Wildlife Board Motions**

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

**No Items currently on the Action Log**

# Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

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

Thursday, December 1, 2014, Board Meeting 9:00 am

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Approval of Agenda<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 2. Approval of Minutes<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman   | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log<br>– Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |
| 4. DWR Update<br>– Greg Sheehan, DWR Director   | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 5. Deer Survey<br>– Kent Hersey, Big Game Project Leader  | <b>INFORMATION</b> |
| 6. Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions<br>– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 7. Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2015 Season Dates and Application Timeline,<br>Amendments to Rule R657-5<br>– Justin Shannon, Big Game Coordinator | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 8. Big Game Preference Point Recommendations<br>– Lindy Varney, License Specialist  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 9. CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2015<br>– Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator                      | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 10. Landowner Permit Numbers for 2015<br>– Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator                                     | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 11. Landowner Permit Rule Amendments R657-43 (New permit type)<br>– Scott McFarlane, Public Wildlife/Private Lands Coordinator            | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 12. Certification Review Committee Recommendation – iGroEco LLC<br>– Staci Coons, CRC Chairman  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 13. Stipulation and Order<br>– Greg Hansen, Attorney  | <b>ACTION</b>      |
| 14. Other Business<br>– Jake Albrecht, Chairman   | <b>CONTINGENT</b>  |

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
December 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 Mike King, 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 Mike King, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.**

3) Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed 5-1 with Steve Dalton opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions as presented by the Division.**

4) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2015 Season Dates and Application Timeline, amendments to Rule R657-5 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed 5-1 with Calvin Crandall opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline, and Amendments to Rule R657-5 as presented by the division with the inclusion of the Wasatch Unit moose hunt boundary change and the change in season dates for the Nine-Mile Range Creek bighorn sheep unit to early (Oct 31-Nov 22) and late (Nov 7 – Nov 30).**

5) Big Game Preference Point Recommendations (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we not approve the Big Game Preference Point**

**Recommendations as presented and instead leave the current preference point system as is.**

- 6) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2015 (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2015 as presented by the Division.**

- 7) Landowner Permit Numbers for 2015 (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2015 as presented by the Division.**

- 8) Landowner Permit Rule Amendments R657-43 (New permit type) (**Action**)

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

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

- 9) Certification Review Committee Recommendation – iGroEco LLC (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the CRC recommendation for iGroEco LLC as presented by the Division.**

- 10) Stipulation and Order (**Action**)

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Stipulation and Order for Chauncey Filler as presented.**

**Utah Wildlife Board Meeting**  
December 1, 2014, DNR Auditorium  
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah  
[http://wildlife.utah.gov/public\\_meetings/board\\_minutes/audio/14-12-01.mp3](http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/14-12-01.mp3)

**Wildlife Board Members Present**

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

**RAC Chairs Present**

Southern – Dave Black  
Southeastern – Kevin Albrecht  
Central – Gary Nielsen  
Northern – Robert Byrnes  
Northeastern - Wayne McAllister

**Public Present**

Garrick Hall – Farm Bureau  
Tom Mower – Bear Mt CWMU  
Bill Christensen – RMEF  
Ben Lowder – UT Bowmen’s Association  
Dale Christiansen – Pilot Mt. Landowner Association  
Lee Sorenson – Anderson Land Livestock Association  
Paul Cowley – United Wasatch Cache & Ashley National Forest

**Division Personnel Present**

Mike Fowlks  
Mike Canning  
Rory Reynolds  
Staci Coons  
Mark Hadley  
Kenny Johnson  
Paul Gedge  
Brad Crompton  
Troy Davis  
Dax Mangus  
Eric Edgley  
Covy Jones  
Anita Candelaria  
Martin Bushman  
Gary Ogborn  
Justin Dolling  
Karen Caldwell  
Greg Hansen  
Scott McFarlane  
Dustin Schaible  
Justin Shannon  
Bryan Christensen  
Phil Gray  
Teresa Griffin  
Kent Hersey  
Riley Peck  
Judi Tutorow  
Randy Wood  
Lindy Varney  
Dean Mitchell  
Bill Bates  
Leslie McFarlane  
Rick Olson  
Avery Cook

Troy Justensen - SFW  
Lee Tracy - UWC  
Becky Wood  
David Black

Chairman Albrecht welcomed the audience and introduced the Wildlife board and RAC Chairs. Gary Nielsen was not present. He was running late.

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:00 – 00:02:17 of 05:52:22**

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

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

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:02:19 – 00:02:40 of 05:52:22**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the October 2, 2014 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.**

- 3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) **00:02:42 – 00:03:10 of 05:52:22**

Action log items will be addressed during the meeting.

- 4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:03:17 – 00:27:17 of 05:52:22**

Greg Sheehan reported on aquatics projects around the state; a watershed symposium DWR hosted in Ogden; the Colorado River Recovery Program; an upcoming aquatics informational meeting for RAC and board members (March); deer survey committee; the status of Utah prairie dog and development of management plan; bighorn sheep transplants; upcoming pronghorn transplant; wolf sightings around southern Utah area; pheasant release hunts; waterfowl hunting; the Forest Service conducting viability analysis on bighorn sheep; and sage-grouse forum.

- 5) Deer Survey (**Informational**) **00:28:32 – 01:01:04 of 05:52:22**

Kent Hersey presented the Deer Survey, which sought the hunting public's input on their preferences and options for deer management in Utah. The results would be used to help develop the 2014 statewide mule deer management plan.

**Board/RAC Questions 00:42:00 – 00:57:22**

The board delved into specifics of the survey questions and results.

Central Region RAC chair, Gary Nielsen, showed up to the meeting.

**Public Questions 00:57:24 – 01:01:04**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

- 6) Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions (**Action**) **01:01:08 – 02:24:25 of 05:52:22**

Justin Shannon presented the Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions.

**Board Questions 01:14:28 – 01:22:04**

Steve Dalton focused on the southern region meeting timeline and the specifics of the southern region's unit plans.

Jake Albrecht asked about predator management, hunter education graduates, and late muzzleloader hunts.

**RAC Recommendations 01:22:23 – 01:33: 24**

Northern RAC unanimously passed the management plan revisions, adding an amendment to study antler shed hunting closures, which passed unanimously.

Northeast and Central RACs passed the Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions as presented.

Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote. The Board expressed their disappointment with the southeast RAC members.

Southern RAC accepted the plan for only one year. They requested the committee revise the plan to address camping on water-holes, overcrowding, and strict limitations on the number of late season tags. This all passed 6 to 4.

**Public Comments 01:33:28 – 01:42:51**

Public comments were taken at this time.

**Board Discussion 01:42:54 – 02:24:25**

Chairman Albrecht summarized the RAC votes.

The board revisited Northern RAC's amended motion on shed antler gathering and Southern RAC's motions on predator bounty program, camping on water-holes, and buck to doe ratio changes to its units.

The following motion was made by Calvin Crandall, seconded by Mike King and passed 5-1 with Steve Dalton opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we accept the Statewide Mule Deer Management Plan Revisions as presented by the Division.**

- 7) Bucks, Bulls & OIAL 2015 Season Dates and Application Timeline, amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sties (**Action**) **02:28:08 – 03:06:10 of 05:52:22**

Justin Shannon presented the recommendations for the 2015 Bucks, Bulls & OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline, amendments to Rule R657-5 and deer transplant sites.

**Board Questions 02:37:30 – 02:39:12**

The board asked about the muzzleloader hunts.

**Public Questions 02:39:20 – 02:53:37**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**RAC Recommendations 02:53:40 – 02:58: 52**

All the RACs voted to accept the 2015 recommendations with varying amendments, exceptions, and stipulations. Southeast RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

**Public Comments 02:58:53 – 03:28:08**

Public comments were taken at this time.

**Board Discussion 03:28:12 – 03:48:10**

Jake Albrecht summarized the RAC motions.

Board discussion included the definition of mature goats and how to determine their age; the rationale of limiting landowners to one season hunt dates; collared sheep; extended archery; and baiting.

The following motion was made by John Bair, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed 5-1 with Calvin Crandall opposed.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Bucks, Bulls and OIAL Season Dates and Application Timeline, and Amendments to Rule R657-5 as presented by the division with the inclusion of the Wasatch Unit moose hunt boundary change and the change in season dates for the Nine-Mile Range Creek bighorn sheep unit to early (Oct 31-Nov 22) and late (Nov 7 – Nov 30).**

- 8) Big Game Preference Point Recommendations (**Action**) **03:49:29 – 04:20:52 of 05:52:22**

Lindy Varney presented the Big Game Preference Point Recommendations.

**Public Questions 03:56:15 – 03:59:12**

Public questions were accepted at this time.

**RAC Recommendations 03:59:13 – 04:04:30**

Northern and Northeastern RAC unanimously passed the preference point recommendations.

Southern RAC passed the recommendations with opposition. Central RAC voted to keep the status quo and have the Division explore other options for next year. Both RACs proposed similar preference point system alternatives.

Southeastern RAC did not have a quorum to vote.

**Public Comments 04:04:31 – 04:06:59**

Public comments were taken at this time.

**Board Discussion 04:07:03 – 04:20:52**

Chairman Albrecht summarized the RACs' reports.

Topic of discussion revolved around how and why the preference point system got to this stage and if making changes now would address any of the issues in the long term.

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

**MOTION: I move that we not approve the Big Game Preference Point Recommendations as presented and instead leave the current preference point system as is.**

- 9) CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2015 (Action) 04:21:03 – 03:33:36 of 05:52:22

Scott McFarlane presented the CWMU Management Plans and Landowner Association Permit Numbers for 2015.

**Board Questions 04:43:03 – 04:46:42**

The board asked how permits are determined and justification for increases.

**RAC Recommendations 04:46:52 – 04:48:48**

All RACs passed the 2015 CWMU Management Plans, except for Southeastern RAC, who did not have a quorum to vote; however, Kevin Albrecht felt confident they would have passed the plans and permit numbers.

**Board Discussion 04:48:58 – 04:49:30**

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed unanimously.

**MOTION: I move that we approve the CWMU Management Plans and Permit Numbers for 2015 as presented by the Division.**

- 10) Landowner Permit Numbers for 2015 (Action) 04:49:37 – 05:56:11 of 05:52:22

Scott McFarlane presented the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2015.

**RAC Recommendations 04:53:51 – 04:57:11**

Southern, Northeast, and Central RACs unanimously passed the 2015 Landowner Permit Numbers. Northern RAC also passed it, but requested a variance procedure for landowner association permits and one bull elk tag per three years for the Pilot Mountain Landowner Association.

**Public Comments 04:57:16 – 05:00:59**

Public comments were taken at this time.

**Board Discussion 05:01:03 – 05:04:30**

The board clarified that the permits are on a three year management plan. Landowners will get only one permit during the three year term. There was also a discussion about the difference between vouchers and permits.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Landowner Permit Numbers for 2015 as presented by the Division.**

- 11) Landowner Permit Rule Amendments R657-43 (New permit type) (Action) **05:05:00 – 05:11:11 of 05:52:22**

Scott McFarlane presented the Landowner Permit Rule Amendments R657-43.

**Board/RAC Questions 05:12:49 – 05:34:30**

The Board asked for more details on the landowner appreciation permit. They wondered if the clarifications to the rule would remove Diamond Mountain's need to request a variance.

The board and RAC also focused on access issues by the public onto private lands and landowner associations.

**Public Questions 05:34:34 – 05:35:42**

Public questions were taken at this time.

**RAC Recommendations 05:35:44 – 05:37:01**

Northern, Northeast, Central, and Southern RACs passed the rule amendment with varying dissent.

**Public Comments 05:37:04 – 05:37:51**

Public comments were taken at this time.

**Board Discussion 05:38:01 – 05:38:28**

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

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

- 12) Certification Review Committee Recommendation – iGroEco LLC (**Action**)  
**05:38:29 – 05:56:11 of 05:52:22**

Staci Coons presented the CRC recommendation for iGroEco LLC.

**Board Questions/Discussion 05:43:43 – 05:46:17**

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the CRC recommendation for iGroEco LLC as presented by the Division.**

- 13) Stipulation and Order (**Action**) **05:46:25 – 05:49:50 of 05:52:22**

Greg Hansen presented the stipulation and order for Chauncey Filler.

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

**MOTION: I move that we approve the Stipulation and Order for Chauncey Filler as presented.**

- 14) Other Business (**Contingent**) **05:49:51 – 05:52:22 of 05:52:22**

Greg Sheehan gave the Board details on the Parker Mountain pronghorn transplant for December 16.

Jake Albrecht asked if DWR could give the Board more notice when transplants or other activities take place so that they have time to plan and attend.

Meeting adjourned.

Summary of Motions  
December 2014  
Regional Advisory Council Meetings

**PRIVATE FISH POND RULE AMENDMENTS R657-59**

All RACs:

**MOTION:** To accept the Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments R657-59 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**2015 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

**NRO:** **Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the inclusion of the first two items in the UBA presentation.

1. Set summer season dates to May 23- July 2

2. Set San Juan and La Sal Fall dates to mirror the rest of the state Aug 22 Sept 27 and Oct 31- Nov 19.

**VOTE:** Carried 10:2

**CRO:** **MOTION:** To accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the four exceptions recommended by Utah Bowman's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsmen Association, and Utah Wildlife Cooperative

**VOTE:** Passed unanimously

**SERO:** **MOTION:** to accept the plan. They've looked at what they want to accomplish and worked hard to please the public

**VOTE:** Passed 6 - 2

**Reasons: I agree with the plan but I'm concerned about this nonresident fluctuation in the Book Cliffs. I think we need to put something in the proclamation about that.**

**DWR:** We're willing to change our recommendation on the Book Cliffs to eliminate harvest objective on that unit for the spring season and turn into limited entry 35 tags so it would be a 90/10 split.

**NERO:** **MOTION:** To keep the hunting season strategy status quo and let the division set permit numbers for the existing seasons as set prior to this year with up to a 50% increase.

**VOTE:** Passed with a 6 to 4 vote

**MOTION:** To accept the crop damage and bear orientation proposals in the new bear management plan as presented.

**VOTE:** Passed unanimously

**SRO:** **MOTION:** To accept the 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the exceptions that the Utah Bowmen's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsmen Association and the United Wildlife Cooperative proposed (see attachment 2) and that the required orientation course include information about collared bears.

**VOTE:** Carried 8:1 (Dale Bagley opposed)

## **WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION**

NRO, CRO, NERO, SRO:

**MOTION:** To accept the Wolf Management Plan as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

SERO:

**MOTION:** To accept the Wolf Management Plan as presented.

**VOTE:** passed 9:1

## **CONVENTION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS R657-55**

NRO:

**MOTION:** To accept the Convention Permit Rule Amendments R657-55 as presented.

**VOTE:** Carried 9:3

CRO:

**MOTION:** To accept the Convention Permit Rule Amendments R657-55 as presented.

**VOTE:** Carried 5:3

NERO, SRO:

**MOTION:** To accept the Convention Permit Rule Amendments R657-55 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

SERO:

**MOTION:** To adopt R 657 – 55 with the addition that there be a public audit that will be available and transparent to all who request it.

**VOTE:** Passed with a 7 to 3 vote

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

December 03, 2014

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

**Summary of Motions**

**Meeting Begins: 6:02 p.m.**

**Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion: Move to approve the agenda.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**Approval of the Nov 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Motion: Approve the Nov 5, 2014 minutes as amended.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments as presented.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the inclusion of the first two items in the UBA presentation.**

**1. Set summer season dates to May 23 - July 2.**

**2. Set San Juan and La Sal Fall dates to mirror the rest of the state Aug 22 - Sept 27 and Oct 31 - Nov 19.**

**Motion Passes: For: 10, Against: 2**

**Wolf Management Plan Extension**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Wolf Management Plan Extension as presented.**

**Motion Passes: Unanimous**

**R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments**

**Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board accept R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments as presented.**

**Motion Passes: For: 9, Against: 3**

**Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion: Move we adjourn.**

**Motion Passes: Acclamation by RAC Chair**

**Meeting Ends: 9:13 pm.**

**Northern Regional Advisory Council Meeting**

December 03, 2014

Brigham City Community Center

Brigham City, Utah

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Begins: 6:02 p.m.**

**RAC Present**

Robert Byrnes- Chair, At Large  
John Cavitt- Nonconsumptive  
Paul Cowley- Forest Service  
Joel Ferry- Agriculture  
James Gaskill- At Large  
R. Jefre Hicks- At Large  
Jon Leonard- Sportsman  
G. Lynn Nelson- Elected  
Kristin Purdy- Nonconsumptive  
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM  
Bryce Thurgood- At Large  
Craig VanTassell- Sportsman  
John Wall- At Large

**DWR Present**

Jodie Anderson  
Justin Dolling  
Randy Wood  
Brandon Baron  
David Beveridge  
Leslie McFarlane  
Bill Bates  
Paul Thompson  
Kenny Johnson

**Wildlife Board**

Bill Fenimore

**RAC Excused**

John Blazzard- Agriculture

**RAC Unexcused**

Russ Lawrence- At Large

**Agenda:**

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure  
Approval of Agenda  
Approval of Nov 5, 2014 Meeting Minutes  
Wildlife Board Meeting Update  
Regional Update  
R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments  
2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments  
Wolf Management Plan Extension  
R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments

### **Item 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure**

Welcome: Robert Byrnes, Chair

Introduction of RAC Members

RAC Procedure: Robert Byrnes, Chair

### **Item 2 a. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** James Gaskill- Move to approve the agenda.

Second: Paul Cowley

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 2 b. Approval of Nov 5, 2014 Minutes**

RAC Comment

Robert Byrnes- One small amendment from John Blazzard.

James Gaskill- When talking about Phragmites, mentioned they might bale (not bail) it.

**Motion:** James Gaskill- Approve the Nov 5, 2014 minutes as amended.

Second: Jon Leonard

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

### **Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

Robert Byrnes- RAC Chair.

Wildlife Board Meeting- approved statewide mule deer management plan as presented. They did not add a strategy that they would study antler shed hunting closures. They just did a study a couple of years ago. Did not change wording on "mature goat" for bucks, bulls and OIAL. Approved bucks, bulls and OIAL season dates and application timeline as presented. They did include a moose boundary change that was recommended to the other RAC's and extended the bighorn sheep season on the Range Creek and Nine Mile units. Included wording to make sure the extended late muzzleloader tags were excluded from landowner associations. Approved big game preference point recommendations as presented as well as CWMU management plans and permit numbers. On landowner permit numbers, the division and the Pilot Landowner Association were in agreement that one tag in three years was acceptable and that was included in the divisions presentation and passed as presented.

### **Item 4. Regional Update**

Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

#### **Law Enforcement**

Administrative checkpoint for waterfowl hunters coming out of Bear River migratory bird refuge. Made about 49 contacts and discovered one untagged swan.

New Officer- Dominic Barrett.

This winter and spring, officers will be doing saturation patrols on deer winter range to look for possible poaching events.

#### **Outreach**

New wildlife recreation technician-James Abbott.

Hardware Ranch Elk festival opening is December 3rd. Ice fishing clinics throughout December, January and February.

#### **Habitat**

Completed the Tunnel Hollow fire reseeding and Coldwater Wildlife Management Area reseeding project.

#### **Wildlife Section**

Biologists busy with deer classifications looking and bucks, doe and fawn numbers.

Focusing on trapping and moving deer out of Bountiful this winter. They will be going out to the Raft River Mountains and Northeastern Region.

#### **Aquatics**

Very successful Weber River symposium in November. Effort to bring different water users together and talk about developing a collaborative effort to move forward.

Building small deployable habitat structures in community fisheries.

Aquatic informational meeting for RAC members on March 19th in Springville.

Division launched a new mobile application to get information about upcoming events. Illustrations for upland game and fish. Download fishing licenses to iPhone. Go to iTunes or Google play to download. You still need duck stamp if you are hunting waterfowl.

### **RAC Comment**

James Gaskill- Date for opening of Hardware Ranch? You said December 3rd and that is today.

Justin Dolling- It is December 13th.

Jefre Hicks- These email updates we get from Mark Hadley is the best thing. I have never been more informed.

Justin Dolling- Thank you, I will pass that along to Mark.

Robert Byrnes- On license downloading, if you have to detach your permit, you are still going to have to have your paper license with you?

Justin Dolling- You can download big game permits but you still need to have that paper permit with you. The only thing that is valid is a fishing combination license or small game hunting license.

James Gaskill- I think you also can put your HIP number and walk-in access authorization. It is a really good app.

### **Item 5. R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments**

Paul Thompson, Regional Aquatics Manager

See Handout

### **RAC Questions**

Paul Cowley- Wondering if the division is concerned with the number of additional vehicles and the capacity of transporting live fish being in the state?

Paul Thompson- Are you talking about division hatchery trucks?

Paul Cowley- No, for private individuals to set up. Vehicles and transport capabilities within the state.

Paul Thompson- For the numbers of fish that are being proposed, less than 50 pounds, a lot of landowners have a small pond and will want to purchase 10 trout. You can put those in a cooler and probably drive them 15 minutes depending on the time of year, and not have any issues. They will have to work with the private growers. About 5 years ago, the division went through and looked where we had native species concerns. A good part of the state has no concerns, and sterile Rainbow can be stocked. If they are going to purchase the fish and try to transport them themselves, they will need a COR to do that. So, growers will transport the fish and they pay that fee as well.

John Wall- How old are fish and how are they sterilized?

Paul Thompson- They are sterilized at the egg stage and the private growers do it by pressure shocking the eggs which makes them to where they cannot be reproducibly viable. There is also heat shock at the egg stage. The private growers are doing the pressure shock.

John Wall- Can private pond owners have ones that have not been sterilized, delivered from the hatcheries?

Paul Thompson- Yes, the growers have a whole host of species that can be purchased and they will have to obtain a certificate of registration. We then look at their ponds, we make sure those fish can escape and they are not being stocked where we are having concerns with other species. We do certificates of registration, 100-200 per year.

Joel Ferry- Why does this only apply to rainbow trout and not other species?

Paul Thompson- If you are not going to be stocking a sterile fish, you need to have a certificate of registration anyway.

Joel Ferry- They can sterilize other fish as well?

Paul Thompson- They can.

Joel Ferry- I am thinking like down here in the valley, we have warmer waters and more dirty waters. Rainbow trout are not going to survive. I am thinking bass or catfish.

Paul Thompson- I do a lot of certificates of registration for bass and catfish down here in the valley. Since they are fertile, we have that much more concern that they could go and put them into a water.

Joel Ferry- Can you not buy sterilized bass?

Paul Thompson- I don't know that they are available. The last 5 years, we have had a lot of trout available. Some states do sterilize warm water fish but I don't think our growers are quite there yet.

James Gaskill- Are there enough provisions in this that we could trace, if we get an outbreak of some new and unknown disease, back origins without having paperwork that we now have?

Paul Thompson- The private growers have to have the paperwork on where they sell fish to and where they take fish and stock them.

James Gaskill- You would track them from the seller rather than the buyer but you are still comfortable with that?

Paul Thompson- If they have fertile fish, we have the certificate of registration process. Where we do not have much concern with sterile rainbow trout, we just wanted to make it easier on those who are trying to get those fish. The private growers have to do like the division hatcheries. Several times a year, they have to have their fish tested that they are pathogen free and free of disease. I think there is enough things in place that it will be caught as they are doing their certifications.

James Gaskill- If a disease shows up in a pond, can we track that back to where they came from knowing where they are now? Are you going to look at all the sellers?

Paul Thompson- I think if that circumstance arose, we could find out eventually where those fish came from. The private growers have to be disease certified. They cannot sell fish with diseases. That is why they are tested throughout the year to make sure they are giving clean fish to the public just like we do without hatcheries and stocking public waters.

James Gaskill- Assuming that they are buying from a reputable source. That is my concern.

Paul Thompson- There is only certified growers that you can purchase from.

James Gaskill- Will this have any interstate ramifications? Can they go to Colorado?

Paul Thompson- We do have private growers that provide fish within the state. I am not sure about transport across state borders with those fish.

## **Public Comment**

Neal Barker- Cold springs Trout Farm- Thank the division for listening to our concerns. If we make it easier, then people will purchase from a reputable source. If not, they will go find fish somewhere else that is not reputable. I would like to see this open up to more than just rainbow trout.

Robert Byrnes- Paul will forward your additional comments to Drew.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** John Wall- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments as presented.

**Second:** Joel Ferry

**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

Robert Byrnes- On the preference point rule, the Wildlife Board tabled that because, as part of the mule deer management plan, there is a recommendation to study possible unifying the drawings. Preference point for mule deer will stay the same for next year and then we will be seeing some recommendations come through the division to possibly change how we do the drawings.

## **Item 6. 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator & Randy Wood, Regional Wildlife Manager

See Handout

### **Public Questions**

Buz Marthaler- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah- I like the mandatory education and applaud that. Is it true that it is illegal to shoot a sow with cubs?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Buz Marthaler- A bait station set up to attract bears, sows will often put their cubs down and come in by themselves. How do we educate and tell that she is a sow with cubs?

Leslie McFarlane- There are ways you can tell. It does require sitting and watching the bear to see if she is lactating and those types of things. If you spend the time watching, you can tell if a female is lactating. That would be part of our orientation course.

Buz Marthaler- I would be concerned about those cubs becoming depredation.

Leslie McFarlane- Absolutely.

Buz Marthaler- Do you have data on livestock losses or issues?

Leslie McFarlane- There were 44 bears taken this year by wildlife services. There were 33 taken by our agency and then another 5 or 6 taken because humans felt threatened.

Buz Marthaler- We have actually lost livestock?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, there were 44 bears taken for livestock loss. We average about 50 bears per year that are taken for livestock loss.

Buz Marthaler- One of the harvest seasons ended June 5th?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Buz Marthaler- Bait season started on June 6th?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Buz Marthaler- You could bait one week prior to that June 6th?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Buz Marthaler- Which would mean we would possibly be drawing bears to the bait station for hunters that are not baiting? Is there an issue or problem?

Leslie McFarlane- It is in our law that you cannot run dogs off of baits. That is already prohibited.

Buz Marthaler- That was a pursuit and harvest?

Leslie McFarlane- Pursuit and spot and stock season is the spring season.

Buz Marthaler- Got it, thank you.

Kirk Robinson- Western Wildlife Conservancy- What science and studies have been done with respect to how baiting affects population trends? How baiting affects behavior of bears with respect to habituation to people and/or human foods at campgrounds? I have not come up with studies that address either of those questions.

Leslie McFarlane- The last one was in the 10th annual bear proceedings. There was a paper that was put out and I have it here. It looked at baiting, they used baiting as an alternate method to pull bears away in a park with nuisance problems. They used baiting to draw bears away from the park. The conclusion was that they did not see issues. The bear that they ended up having to euthanize was one that never found the baiting stations and went directly into the park. They found that they did not become habituated to people but to locations for the baiting stations.

Kirk Robinson- Maybe you can give me a reference later.

Leslie McFarlane- I will get you that paper. I will email it to you.

Kirk Robinson- Probability of orphaning cubs. I understand what you do to minimize that, do you have any way of trying to assess how often lactating females are killed? How often baby bears are orphaned?

Leslie McFarlane- We do require that all bears have to be checked in by us. We do evaluate those bears when they come in. Most of the bear take that we see are males. We do require our people to check and see if the female is lactating at the time she is checked in. To my knowledge, it does not occur very often because it is illegal to do. I can't go back and say but they are required to check for that when they check those bears in. Every bear has to be checked in.

Kirk Robinson- If a person kills a lactating female, they are not automatically penalized in any way are they? My original question was just that. Do you have some way of trying to get data on how frequently that happens?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, we try and evaluate that.

## **RAC Questions**

John Wall- Out of the bears taken by the service, what percent were males compared to females. Especially on that livestock?

Leslie McFarlane- It is not broken down by which agency did it but we took 42 males and 24 females. Two of them were unknown.

Robert Byrnes- In the past, if you had a baiting station, you had to register it with the land management agency. Is that still in effect?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- So, that will apply to all new hunts where baiting could be possible?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes. On those bait stations, when we assessed the permits that we would put out for that spring bait, we went back and looked at historical COR's for each area and tried to set it within that frame so we would not be impacting those land management agencies further than what they had been in the past.

Robert Byrnes- Slide regarding permits and number of bears taken. The highest 3 are the years in our current management plan.

Leslie McFarlane- The jump in permits were 95 spot and stock permits. Even though we increased permits quite dramatically, they were very low success. That is why you don't see the huge jump in harvest.

James Gaskill- Why do you think that our bear population is increasing? What factors are involved? Or do you know?

Leslie McFarlane- We are seeing through bear den data, recruitment into the population. We are seeing females that are successful raising cubs.

James Gaskill- Why?

Leslie McFarlane- Conditions are right. They do well in the types of conditions we have been having.

James Gaskill- Is it a general statewide increase or is it in certain areas?

Leslie McFarlane- We are trying to be responsive to areas we are having problems. We are seeing an increase overall but we are trying to target areas where we are having problems with bears.

John Cavitt- How many collared females are you monitoring for the productivity information?

Leslie McFarlane- Each region was asked to do a minimum of 5 and some have much more than that.

John Cavitt- Why is the bear orientation course annual? What is changing?

Leslie McFarlane- As hunters, we forget things and I think it is a really important way to get out the message to be careful about sows with cubs. It is a good way to reinforce that with our hunters.

John Cavitt- Do you think that increasing the sportsman permits are going to get at the problem bear issues? It seems like it would be more effective to target those with depredation permits.

Leslie McFarlane- That is what we are trying to do is increase in the areas where we are having problems. We are trying to target seasons where we are having the problems. We are hoping to reverse that trend so that we are not having to be the ones that are always doing that. We are hoping that by targeting those areas, and that is why it is not an across the board thing, it is in those target areas.

Kristin Purdy- Could you describe the type of conflicts that have occurred between hound and bait hunters that have driven the changes you are recommending.

Leslie McFarlane- It takes bait hunters time to get bears to find your bait station. A bait hunter will take a couple of weeks trying to get a bear to find it. When they do get a bear to find it, here comes a houndsman running through. There have been reports that houndsman purposefully set off baits. We are trying to eliminate the conflict and separate that.

Kristin Purdy- We are trying to realign the waiting period on harvest objective permits from 7 to 3 days to be consistent. Why is the waiting period necessary to be 3 days if it is a problem?

Leslie McFarlane- It was set at 3 days so that somebody could not go kill an animal first and then purchase a permit and put it on the animal.

Kristin Purdy- What is Green Belt status and what qualifies as a history of chronic depredation.

Leslie McFarlane- This implementation we are writing as a statewide rule but we are putting it in place to help address specific problems in Green River, Utah. They grow a lot of watermelons and are on the south end of the Book cliffs where there are a lot of bears. It is your agricultural tax status which means it has to be a minimum of 5 acres and are doing it for agricultural tax deduction. I can't remember the Green Belt laws, do you Randy?

Randy Wood- I don't know.

Leslie McFarlane- I don't have it off the top of my head but that is the reason why we want to make sure they are participating in the agriculture and it is not a hobby type farm.

Kristin Purdy- History of chronic depredation, what qualifies?

Leslie McFarlane- It will probably be those same melon farmers that we know have a history of doing that. One person in one year would not be a history. We know these same people, every year, have the same problem in the same area.

Kristin Purdy- Any particular number or level of data that must be sustained before we say that it qualifies?

Leslie McFarlane- There is nothing in the state besides the area in Green River that has a history of chronic depredation.

Kristin Purdy- If the division determines that a hunter has taken a lactating female, is there any follow up that occurs to the site of the kill to look for cubs that may not be mature enough to be out on their own?

Leslie McFarlane- It would depend on each region and law enforcement personnel as well as the biologist. They would make an effort to follow that.

Kristin Purdy- There is no particular policy but is just the right thing to do?

Leslie McFarlane- Right, it is against the law to take a lactating female. If we could prove that, then it would be followed through correct?

Brandon Baron- Correct.

Robert Byrnes- Do you have a value for how much depredation payments we make in the Green River area?

Leslie McFarlane- We do not pay crop depredation on bears.

Robert Byrnes- Okay.

Leslie McFarlane- It is not approved through the legislature. That is part of this to prevent having to go there.

Bruce Sillitoe- Is there a correlation between habitat quality and the bears going into the agriculture? has agriculture used hazing?

Leslie McFarlane- We have used hazing there quite frequently. This past summer, our employees were there constantly.

Bruce Sillitoe- Are the bears moving out of their habitat because of quality?

Leslie McFarlane- They like melons. It really has nothing to do with the habitat, they are just attracted to the melons.

Paul Cowley- Based on your presentation, we are actually increasing the length of the hunt during June and into July that was not there before correct?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Paul Cowley- Is there any concern over our recreating public who is out there and the chance of coming upon a bait station. Because we are switching from an archery hunt system to an any legal weapon system right?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, as far as going from archery to any weapon, it would not be different than going rifle deer hunting. It is the same concept. We end baiting season July 2nd so we end it before the 4th of July weekend which is a big camping holiday weekend.

Paul Cowley- I am concerned because people are used to seeing hunters with a rifle in fall and not in June.

Leslie McFarlane- With the bait station, you are fairly close to your bait station. It is not like deer hunting where you are shooting across canyons and rather long distance shots.

Paul Cowley- I understand that.

Leslie McFarlane- It is closer.

Paul Cowley- My other concern is that we are putting those bait stations out there and hunters out there when we also have livestock going out that previously were not there.

Leslie McFarlane- We have worked with Wildlife Services and have discussed this quite a bit. They feel that it will help in areas where there is livestock problems because it will take bears away from the livestock.

Paul Cowley- The thought process was really more a hunter mistaking a cow for a bear.

Leslie McFarlane- Hopefully, with the bait station, you are much closer to it. You are not shooting across a canyon.

Paul Cowley- But it is any weapon so you have a longer distance.

Leslie McFarlane- You are not shooting across the canyon at your bait station. You are going to be close to your bait station.

Paul Cowley- This proposal adds fall bait stations is that correct?

Leslie McFarlane- No, fall bait stations are already allowed.

Craig VanTassell- What kind of conflicts do you see between big game limited entry and OIAL hunts happening when there are bear hound hunts?

Leslie McFarlane- We see a lot of conflict.

James Gaskill- That is not anything new. We have had that for a long time right?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, the shortened season you see on the La Sal and San Juan is going to try and address that very issue. We had incidents over the past couple of years where people threatened to shoot each other because a houndsman ran in through a guy that it took 20 years for him to draw his limited entry elk permit. The shortened season were put there for that reason.

Bryce Thurgood- You have that problem on every unit. Why just limit it on those two?

Leslie McFarlane- Because then we would end up with no bear hunting in the fall anywhere.

Bryce Thurgood- So why limit it on those two. Why not just leave it the way it is now.

Leslie McFarlane- San Juan and La Sals are treated the same as far as harvest but the San Juan is one of the premier elk units in the state.

Bryce Thurgood- They have two months to chase with hounds and then one month to hunt with bait. That month is typically when the bears have rubbed and are not as trophy quality for most people. Why not make it a little more fair for those guys? More so in May?

Leslie McFarlane- What do you mean, put bait back in May? We can go back to what we had before which was April to the end of May.

Bryce Thurgood- It seems like it favors the houndsman more so than the bait guys.

Leslie McFarlane- Not necessarily. We can go back to what we had before which was a spring limited entry and it goes April to May and ends there. The whole reason that we did that was to try and prevent the conflicts that we get complaints on between bait and houndsmen. Spring season is a very desired season. We tried to give them both the end of May and gave the other one the first part of June.

Bryce Thurgood- It seems like the houndsmen have the better time.

Leslie McFarlane- We can't put hounds out in June because they are running through fawning and calving areas. We are just trying to mitigate where we can. We were trying to use that June season as a way to help eliminate conflicts and use bait hunters to do that. If it is not going to work, we can go back.

Bryce Thurgood- I am not a bear hunter but a lot of guys I know go out of state in the month of May and hunt over baits. It seems like if you push it to June, there are a lot of people who do not have dogs and it costs money to hire someone with dogs. They are not going to have a good season to do it.

Leslie McFarlane- We can move them back together and go back and end it the first part of June and not have any June hunts. That would be the way to make it fair and equal for both.

Robert Byrnes- Historically we had a lot of conflict on the La Sals and San Juan. That is your experience correct?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- That was our earliest conflict area or one that became a problem initially?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

## **Public Comment**

Ben Lowder- Utah Bowman's Association- Handed out a copy of proposal. Thank Leslie for effort and work put into this plan. Understand there are a lot of changes and a lot of work that goes into that. Met with leaders of several groups and discussed changes. Support the Divisions proposals with the exception of four things. Concerns with summer season and rubbing of the bears. Asking for an additional two weeks of season on the front end of that summer season to overlap spring season. San Juan and La Sal fall bear hunting dates. We would like to see those dates mirror the rest of the fall bear seasons throughout the state. Would like to see spring and summer tags drawn from the same pool to address future demand issues. With spring harvest

objective seasons, we would like to see those remain harvest objective for residents but go to limited entry for non-residents.

Bruce Sillitoe- I don't understand what you mean by future demand of bear hunters?

Ben Lowder- With the recommendations that are on the table, the changes in the season dates are huge changes. That summer season is a new season. The division has recommended to allow any weapon hunting on bait. In the past, it has only been archery. Those two changes could change the demands on the ways that people want to hunt.

Bruce Sillitoe- So future demand based on the proposal.

Ben Lowder- Exactly.

Leslie McFarlane- As far as the summer season hunt dates to allow two weeks earlier, we would be opposed to that because our primary reason for splitting those was to try and prevent conflict. Earlier, we did agree to allow them to pre-bait one week prior but did not want them to begin hunting until June 4th. As far as the San Juan and La Sal fall dates, we do have concerns over conflicts that have gotten ugly through the region down there in the past with guns and threats to kill each other. We do have concerns over the impact that it has on that limited entry elk period. As far as drawing spring and summer season tags from the same tag pool, we do have concerns because when we went through and established this spring bait permit numbers, we tried to look at previous COR's that we applied for bait stations in the spring and keep it even with that. If we put them all on the same tag pool and there are 35 permits offered in the spring and all 35 people chose to go that summer bait season instead of the splitting somehow between both seasons, you could potentially end up with 75 people baiting in June. It could impact land managing agencies. As far as the spring harvest objective seasons and limited entry opportunity for residents, after I received this at last night's RAC, I did meet with our attorney general this morning and there is the possibility that we are creating an unequal opportunity there by discriminating against non-residents. If it were to go that way, we would prefer to drop the harvest objective recommendation, double the permits for that area and then split it out 90/10 like we do for all the other hunts.

Ben Lowder- Concerning the overlap of spring and summer hunt, we feel that is the best compromise to maximize days for all types of hunters. We believe conflicts will be minimal. The spring and summer tag drawing out of the same pool, the concern is possible but unlikely that all permits would go to the summer season. If that did happen, we have never had a summer season before. The spring season we have had, has extremely limited access into the upper wilderness countries. By moving that season into the month of June and getting it into the summer, it opens up access to a lot more ground. On harvest objective, splitting that up between residents and non-residents, we feel the presence has already been set in Idaho and is doable and could mirror or look at Idaho and how they run it. If it comes down to keeping the limited entry and doubling the tags or keeping harvest objective, we would prefer keeping it harvest objective for the time being so we can address that Idaho type system in the future.

Aaron Johnson- Utah Houndsmen Association- The division did good on this proposal. Proud that these organizations came together. Support what Ben said. Minor changes that can be made to make it a better opportunity and will help with the plan. Concerned about the four limited entry areas last year that are proposed to go to harvest objective this year. Consider keeping those areas limited entry.

Cherie Gilmore- Tourism related revenue totaled \$970 million in 2013, with that expected to rise. Need to have bears in a healthy ecosystem. Question sportsmanship of luring a bear to meat. People travel to Utah for open spaces and the wildlife. Having a viable bear population is something Utah should promote. Perhaps we could use some of that \$970 million to educate rather than going to the kill option. Could we not fine people for reckless behavior in bear country? We can live here and allow bears to live here too.

Kirk Robinson- Western Wildlife Conservancy- Appreciate the questions of the RAC members. The Utah bear population has been growing which is a good thing. Now, we have conflicts. I don't care much if there is a squabble between two hunting factions about who is getting the most time. I am concerned about bears coming out of hibernation that are vulnerable to being killed. We don't know how many cubs are orphaned. What extent are bears habituated to people and food sources. We are feeding those bears. Are we going to be causing more problems than we are solving? Education for public to not create conflicts. Figure out more ways to prevent problems in the first place. Reduce number of permits if there is going to be extended seasons.

Buz Marthaler- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah- Endorse Cherie's approach, education is important. Would rather not see permits go up and target animals that are depredation animals. Use of hounds in

pursuit in heavy depredation areas. They get more bears in these areas to go after and maybe over years, these bears might learn and see fewer of them in these areas.

Lee Tracy- United Wildlife Cooperative- Support proposal. We have both kinds of hunters in our group as do other groups. We plan on orienting our hunters to this particular issue and conflict. Suggested in Central RAC meeting last night that the DWR include that in their orientation so those conflicts will be part of the ethics program.

Robert Byrnes- You support the UBA proposal correct?

Lee Tracy- Correct.

Bret Selman-Farm Bureau- Sheep ranchers with bear issues. Wyoming areas have had years with many bears and many problems. Need to try and address issues to keep population in check. Applaud the division for what they are doing. Wildlife services are understaffed and cannot come as often as we need them. Important to get these bears in control which is what the division is trying to do. Support this proposal.

Robert Byrnes- You support the divisions presentation?

Bret Selman- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- Thank you.

Troy Justensen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Agree with Cherie. Need to be more involved in education. Opportunity to view wildlife is because of sportsman and sportsman dollars. Support recommendation by UBA. Misconception when it comes to bait. It is not as easy as it sounds. Baiting provides better opportunity to identify a lactating sow. Bait station is accompanied by a trail camera. She will be caught on a camera and you can identify if she has cubs.

Robert Byrnes- Comment card from John Young does not want to speak but supports recommendation.

Clarification that you support the division's recommendation.

John Young- Utah Wool Growers- Yes.

## **RAC Questions**

Robert Byrnes- Recent court decisions have found that the state is not exempt from certain legal obligations as far as bears in the state right?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Robert Byrnes- So we have become responsible, or the state has become responsible for damages for things that have happened.

Leslie McFarlane- When we respond to an incident, we assume liability.

Robert Byrnes- Previously, our legal staff did advise us that we could not treat non-residents differently than residents in certain ways, is that correct?

Leslie McFarlane- Correct. We have been sued in the past for not allowing non-residents to pursue in Utah with hounds. I met with Marty on this issue specifically and asked if we would be violating that same thing again and he indicated that we would be if we treated them differently.

Robert Byrnes- Are there bear units that are changing from limited entry to harvest objective and is that because of predator management plans?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, but it is not because of predator management. It is because the level of livestock in nuisance.

Robert Byrnes- They are changing based upon the levels we set in our management plan?

Leslie McFarlane- Correct.

## **RAC Comment**

James Gaskill- The division has done a great deal in educating campers. You can't go very far into the outdoors without running across that this is bear country signs. I think they have made a great effort to educate the public on the bear situation. They can't make anybody put their food in a protected area but they have done a good job of educating. We have had a great increase in the number of permits and we had a relatively significant increase in the number of bears taken and yet the number of bears statewide continues to increase. It just reinforces to me what I have always thought and that is we don't do a real good job of managing animals. We do a pretty good job of managing people and that is what we are here for.

Jefre Hicks- Mirroring the La Sal and San Juan with the rest of the season seems to me like this is a public resource. Just because someone paid a lot of money or waited a long time, it does not seem fair to give special treatment.

Bryce Thurgood- I agree with him on that and on the recommendations on the overlap. It is great that we have four groups that have come together to make a recommendation. I hope we take that into consideration because they are all great ideas.

Robert Byrnes- You would favor the seasons being extended or not favor the season extension on the La Sals and San Juan?

Jefre Hicks- I was talking about making special regulations to avoid conflicts between limited entry elk hunters vs. some bear hunters out there. To make special regulations and special dates seems silly and not fair to the other person who should have just as much opportunity to hunt a public owned resource like a bear just because they paid a lot of money or waited a long time.

James Gaskill- We give special treatment to everybody. We have good times for bow hunters and muzzleloader hunters. I do think, if there is a situation that we can reasonably avoid a conflict, we should.

Craig VanTassell- Thank division for making the recommendation that any legal weapon can be used harvesting a bear over bait.

Paul Cowley- Let's say we go ahead and implement the division's proposal with the great number of changes. If we end up dropping the number of bears down significantly, how are we going to identify which of the many tools that were put in place this round, really was the effective tool?

Leslie McFarlane- We do check in every bear that is harvested. We can track it back to how it was harvested and when it was harvested. That will be our evaluation. That is why we ask, that at the end of this, we will evaluate this at the end of the year to make sure we were not too drastic in any way.

Paul Cowley- From my view, if you are trying to test a hypothesis to test it with 4 different methods at one time, really is not a very sharp way to go. However, it may accomplish the objective of dropping the bear numbers.

Leslie McFarlane- We do have long term history over the limited entry fall season. We have the first three years of the spring season so we can go back and compare how we have altered things and where that change occurred.

Paul Cowley- We have a new season in the summer now if that proposal were to be recommended and passed by the board. We do have a variety of weapons over bait now which is a change.

Leslie McFarlane- We will be looking closely at the success rate of the different methods and evaluating which one worked and if we see a decrease in the nuisance. We will be looking at it closely.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** Jon Leonard- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the inclusion of the first two items in the UBA presentation.

1. Set summer season dates to May 23 - July 2.

2. Set San Juan and La Sal Fall dates to mirror the rest of the state Aug 22 - Sept 27 and Oct 31 - Nov 19.

Second: John Wall

## **Discussion on the Motion**

Jefre Hicks- It is a good compromise. You pick the two best and I like them both.

Bryce Thurgood- Especially if we think that there might be an issue with the attorney general on the one. It would be nice to avoid that one.

**Motion Passes:** For: 10, Against: 2

James Gaskill- I like the division's proposal, particularly with the San Juan and La Sal dates. I think that would result in fewer conflicts and not hurt either side very much. I am neutral on the summer season but the San Juan La Sal fall dates, I like the division's proposal. That is why I voted against it.

John Cavitt- If we know we have a conflict, we are obligated to try and remedy the situation.

## **Item 7. Wolf Management Plan Extension**

Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

See Handout

### **Public Questions**

Buz Marthaler- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah- Are you saying if they become federally delisted that we would then write a new plan at that time?

Leslie McFarlane- No, this plan would go into effect. Right now, we cannot use this plan until they are delisted. Since they are listed right now, they fall under the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We have no management authority over them. If they become delisted, we would have management authority and the plan would become active.

Buz Marthaler- Is this strictly based on ranchers having issues with wolves being in Utah?

Leslie McFarlane- What do you mean, the plan?

Buz Marthaler- Basically, it is a no wolves are welcome in Utah plan.

Leslie McFarlane- No it isn't. It calls for recovery of establishment of two breeding pairs of wolves. That is a minimum of two, not only two. At that time, it does allow establishment of wolves.

Buz Marthaler- Two wolf packs?

Leslie McFarlane- Two breeding pairs, a minimum and that is considered recovery. You can have more than that but when you hit two, it is considered recovery.

Buz Marthaler- When would the next management plan be looked at?

Leslie McFarlane- When this one expires 5 years from now. We are trying to keep it in place without having to reform a whole board and rework it. It took 2 years to get this one in place.

### **Public Comment**

Robert Byrnes- Kirk, you said that you possibly wanted to comment. Would you like to comment?

Kirk Robinson- No.

Buz Marthaler- Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Northern Utah- I believe that Utah is a predator unfriendly state. I would like to see a little more welcoming signs to allow these predators including bears and wolves to do what they do. Utah is the premium corridor state for all surrounding states when it comes to wolves. In the future, would like to see that implemented in the plan.

Leslie McFarlane- That is a minimum and we were a corridor recently for Arizona.

### **RAC Comment**

Paul Cowley- With this plan, I understand we are trying to roll it over to the next five years. Why would we not attach an amendment to that to show what has happened over the last 5 years for wolves in the state of Utah to provide that history.

Leslie McFarlane- We have the history. It is not attached to the plan. If we start messing with any wording in the plan, we are opening the plan up through the public process which we do not want to do at this time. We have the history, it does not need to be part of the plan itself. We can attach it as an amendment any other time. If we start changing the wording and verbiage in the plan, then we are opening it up and we don't want to open it up without reforming a group. It took two years to get where we are at so we don't want to mess with it. We would rather extend the plan and keep it in place because we have good concepts on where we want to go with it.

Paul Cowley- How does the public get access to the history?

Leslie McFarlane- We have it printed up. It is on our website. It is available.

### **Motion**

**Motion:** Joel Ferry- Recommend the Wildlife Board approve the Wolf Management Plan Extension as presented.

Second: Bryce Thurgood  
**Motion Passes:** Unanimous

**Item 8. R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments**

Kenny Johnson, Administrative Section Chief

See Handout

**Public Questions**

Troy Justensen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Can you give me the total dollar number to have them manage your draw process?

Kenny Johnson That contract is about \$1.5 million.

Troy Justensen- Do you guys perform an audit to see where they spend that \$1.5 million that you pay them to do that.

Kenny Johnson- We make sure, on an annual basis, renegotiate that contract based on what we think applications are going to do. I make sure that the services they provide are covered by that \$1.5 million dollars. We don't know specifically who exactly they are employing and what they are paying but we know and negotiate the \$1.5 for the applications they handle for us and all the extra stuff that goes with it.

Troy Justensen- Does any of that money come back to Utah to benefit wildlife and conservation?

Kenny Johnson- It depends. It starts to get to some gray areas. It is a service contract and the service provided is valuable to keeping things straight.

Troy Justensen- I am talking about specific dollars sent to the division to pay for a specific project or anything like that.

Kenny Johnson- No, not those funds. The additional part of the application revenue generates quite a bit.

Troy Justensen- Which is held by the division.

Kenny Johnson- Correct.

Troy Justensen- Does Nevada provide any economical advantages or income to the state through the service they provide? Do they employ people here within the state or attract tourism through the function they provide?

Kenny Johnson-That is a good question. There is no direct correlation but we have contract monitors hired in SLC to make sure they are doing what they need to do to meet the requirements and obligations of the contract. They don't have an office here.

**RAC Questions**

Robert Byrnes- The current contract will expire in 2016 correct?

Kenny Johnson- After the 2016 expo.

Robert Byrnes- Have you thought about awarding the contract in advance so that it allows the organization to have some time to do their planning?

Kenny Johnson- The timing is outlined in the rule. It would give them half a year. There will be a new RFP for 2017 and that timeline is about May.

Robert Byrnes- That is a very short time period for someone to do planning if there was going to be a change or to be able to tell somebody that they are going to have the contract and to something in advance. Has there been any discussion about trying to enlarge that window to allow for more planning?

Kenny Johnson- I don't know if we have discussed that specifically. it is 8-9 months.

Robert Byrnes- Which is pretty short when you are reserving space. Basically, the people who have the contract now are probably on the hook for the space in advance.

Kenny Johnson- It is a fair question.

Paul Cowley- As far as the \$3.50 for each draw voucher, what benefit the public is seeing from that given there are no preference points to track. It seems pretty straightforward and should be cheaper than the normal tracking that is done for the rest of the system.

Kenny Johnson- It is really not just for administering the draw. It is expenses for the whole expo. We believe in it enough to agree to that amount. We look at cost benefits and benefits to the division.

Bryce Thurgood- Did people think they were getting it for 10 years and not 5?

Kenny Johnson- As I understood it, it was a thought that the current contractor, could apply for that and re-up. That was not our intent. Any contract after 2016 could apply for an extension.

Bryce Thurgood- I think we had a few emails. That was part of the confusion.

Kenny Johnson- We wanted to clarify and modify the rule to put the date of 2016.

Kristin Purdy- You gave a pretty strong endorsement of possible benefits of the \$3.50 per application for Utah. have you specifically tried to quantify what the benefits are so you can say this is what we think the benefits are to our state?

Kenny Johnson- I have heard different numbers but to the state, the number we hear is \$10 million plus boon to the local economy. It is a big deal and a lot of money. For us, it is more the focusing event, it puts a spotlight on wildlife issues in Utah. We think there is a good symbiotic relationship with that draw and our draw happening in those down winter months. It generates excitement for wildlife in an off time of year.

Robert Byrnes- There was legislative action to allow this to happen and their intent was for economic development and what you are talking about focusing on wildlife. Is that correct?

Kenny Johnson- Yes.

Jon Leonard- Received emails concerning accountability and whether or not it was being tracked correctly and used for the identified purpose. Do you feel comfortable that you have adequate safeguards in place to account for that money? I understand it cannot be co-mingled with other expo dollars?

Kenny Johnson- Correct. Our office does an audit from looking at the data base to programming with the draw itself. We do a review of their bank records to make sure funds are not co-mingled. They have been very clean and in sync to this point.

James Gaskill- In 2016, there will be another bid process and that will be for contract for how long?

Kenny Johnson- five year contract. Whoever wins that has the option with the Board, Division and group to possibly extend that?

James Gaskill- So that would be a 10 year?

Kenny Johnson- 5 year.

James Gaskill- Awarded for 5 but burden of proof shifts here at the end of five years. Someone else who wants to bid may not have the advantage of the group that already has the bid. That would be the purpose of this thing right? They would apply for a five year extension and, in essence, eliminates the competition. If there is any.

Kenny Johnson- You can look at it that way or look at it if it is a good thing, it will continue.

James Gaskill- But it would continue if it was a good thing anyway right?

Kenny Johnson- Sure.

James Gaskill- They would win the next five years correct?

Kenny Johnson- Yes.

James Gaskill- How many bidders do we usually have?

Kenny Johnson- I do not remember.

James Gaskill- Seems like we had one. It is not like there is a big, long line of people submitting bids is that correct?

Kenny Johnson- Yes.

### **Public Comment**

Lee Tracy- United Wildlife Cooperative- Sent email to RAC members regarding current proposal to change the convention expo permit program. We cannot support this proposal as written. The only issues we have with this project are regarding the use and auditing of funds derived from the \$5 dollar application fees charged for the convention permit draw. And the trilateral extension of the DWR, MDF and SFW contracts. Because those permits are taken out of the public quota, we consider those fees as public funds that require, or should require, mandates as to their use and an independent audit rather than just a financial report. We believe the portion returned is not sufficient and needs to be closer, if not equal, to the portion returned in the convention permit program. Our goal is to convert this convention permit program to a similar program as the conservation or auction program. Our recommended changes would be more compatible for the mission of the expo and acceptable to the public.

Robert Byrnes- Your recommendation is that it would be inverted, 70% would come to the Division and 30% would be retained, based on your email.

Lee Tracy- Yes, just flip those percentages.

John Larsen-Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- We accept the recommendations based on what Kenny has presented tonight. Economic impact in 2009 would roughly 8.5 million dollars to the state. Now, it is more around 10-11 million dollars coming into the state. Economic value is a big deal and a big win for the state. Money is used to enhance Utah's wildlife. Explanation of where funds go. It brings economic value and enhances our wildlife.

Brandan Plant- Worked application booth at expo. Have heard feedback from public and are grateful for opportunity. Support the expo, provides opportunity and brings people from out of state. Important to continue the rich heritage we have already started.

Ben Lowder- Utah Bowman's Association- Expo is a great event and we support division's recommendations as presented. Conservation tags sold at expo which is proof as to how much more money is brought into the state and wildlife conservation programs that goes into Utah.

Troy Justensen- Need the opportunity to extend for five years. Takes planning and time. Make the opportunity worthwhile to make it successful. 100 % of money we make stays in Utah. Support the division's recommendations.

### **RAC Comment**

Jon Leonard- Involved in the initial planning for 3 years prior to the first expo event. I represented National Turkey Federation. There were going to be 5 conservation organizations that were going to partner to run the expo which was a huge undertaking. Convention tags helped alleviate the risk and the burden of coming together and putting on an event that large. Unfortunately, when we got together with the CEO's of 5 organizations, there was too much ego in the room to make everyone happy. Organizations away from Utah do not understand the west. They take for granted what goes on back there in these huge conventions and a lot of the money raised goes into private company pockets. I like the youth involvement. The small amount of money that comes in through that application fee, I think it is going for a worthy cause. Seeing and participating in it for the last 8 or 9 years, I would recommend we continue forward. I do think they need that extension to give them time to reserve space and work around dates of other competing conventions and meetings.

James Gaskill- I have not heard anyone say anything bad about the expo. I do not see this as an attack on the expo or how it is run. Everyone is satisfied and think it is a good thing. The question is about the \$3.50 and what that amounts to and what exactly that goes to? Everybody knows that non-profits are a convenient title but do not describe the way the organization works. I am not here to criticize any organization but I would like to know how many applications they get?

Kenny Johnson- The average for the last few years have been just under 1 million dollars total.

James Gaskill- So they get 70% of that?

Kenny Johnson- Correct.

James Gaskill- Roughly. If that were reversed, they would get \$300,000 dollars?

Kenny Johnson- Yes.

James Gaskill- If it goes to conservation work and improving habitat and wildlife, then if it comes to the division directly or to their projects, the division still benefits the same? Am I right?

Kenny Johnson- I would think so.

James Gaskill- Depending on who is more efficient on using the money.

Kenny Johnson- Correct. We don't run the convention.

James Gaskill- I understand that but if we were to accept the recommendation of the Wildlife Cooperative, we would cut their funding by \$400,000 dollars. But that would go to projects because you would get it directly right?

Kenny Johnson- Yes.

Jefre Hicks- It does not seem fair to not put something out to bid if somebody thinks they can do a better job and give them a shot at it. If they have 5 years, they better start 3 years earlier to be better prepared for it. I hate to see us not give that opportunity to some organization that thinks they can do better. They are doing a great job now and will probably continue. I hate to see someone not have the opportunity to do better.

Bryce Thurgood- I think they do in 2 years, in 2016 anyone can bid on it right?

Kenny Johnson- Correct.

Bryce Thurgood- The other organization can try and bid on it. Everyone has a chance in 2 years. Want to second how cool it is that it is right here in our backyard. I support it and second everything John said.

James Gaskill- At what point would the decision be made to extend? In the 4th year, 5th year?

Kenny Johnson- The timeline I read was in May of the year it expires.

Paul Cowley- Having been involved in setting up a large convention, it does take a lot of preparation time and scheduling. It seems a little tight if rebid comes up in May and you are supposed to put it on in February. It is questionable if it gives you enough time to put it on. I see the value of allowing that extension if they have done a good job for the five years. If we see a flip in the percentages, does that convention or expo go to another state? I understand it stays in a conservation pool but at what point do you hit the percentage to where it goes to another state?

Kenny Johnson- It was not May. The application between August 1st and September 1st of the year preceding the expiration of each one of those.

James Gaskill- I am a little more comfortable with that.

Kristin Purdy- Stuck on the \$3.50. We have talked about that being public funds. The audit process that ensures that the conservation organization is expending those public funds in appropriate matter and the division is aware of those manners and has levied the control. In the rule we are in the process of updating, it talks about the expo audit which is an annual review of multiple things. New language in this item says the revenue generated from expo permit application fees and the expenditures of designated expo permit application fee revenue on division approved projects. Based on this information, that is new language in the rule. Have we not audited that portion of the conservation organizations fees in the past? Are we just starting this or a history of audit sheets showing we have done this in the past.

Kenny Johnson- We began auditing in 2013 but the way it is written, the \$3.50 is available for the contractor to use for their overhead expenses. We do not look at that. The \$1.50 left over, that is what we make sure that is used for division approved projects. They are separate but do not itemize the \$3.50. We do itemize the \$1.50 with preapproved projects by the division.

Kristin Purdy- The convention is 9 years old and we are 7 years into it. We started auditing this year and are writing the language into the rule to formalize that the audit must be done on the funds?

Kenny Johnson- Correct, it is part of the amendment from 2012.

Robert Byrnes- That was amended in the contract between you and the contractor?

Kenny Johnson- Right.

Robert Byrnes- But it was not part of the rule at the time. As far as the funds being public funds, that is just an opinion of one of the presenters is that correct? The \$3.50 is actually public funds is subject to interpretation by your legal staff would it not?

Kenny Johnson- I think that is fair to say.

James Gaskill- In actuality, the \$700,000, they could spend any way they want. They don't have to spend any on wildlife projects correct?

Kenny Johnson- It is for overhead, yes.

Jefre Hicks- If the contractor gets another 5 year extension, can it go on indefinitely? If not, are they done?

Kenny Johnson- That is entirely possible. It is performance based and if they don't meet any of those stipulations, they could be out. It is a one time, 5 year extension. It will not exceed 10.

Robert Byrnes- They could extend another 5 year contract if this language is adopted?

Jefre Hicks- I realize that, my mistake. Without giving someone else a couple years notice and an opportunity to bid, you will never beat the incumbent.

Kenny Johnson- If they are in that arena, they are probably already preparing.

## **Motion**

**Motion:** Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments as presented.

Second: Jon Leonard

**Motion Passes:** For: 9, Against: 3

James Gaskill- My opposition is simply that I think the amount that goes to the organizer ought to be 30% and the amount that goes to DWR ought to be 70%. Not opposed but not real pleased with the 5 year extension.  
Jefre Hicks- Don't want to deny anyone a chance to make some money. Not ok with not going up for bid.  
Jon Leonard- The original contractor was the wild sheep organization and they decided to leave and it was picked up by someone else. It has happened.

Robert Byrnes- the Wildlife Board did not approve the no harvesting of collared big horn sheep in unit 8. SFW did commit to provide money to collar additional animals. The division is already planning on collaring 20 additional sheep outside the wilderness area this year. Is that correct Paul?

Paul Cowley- Basically, what we can get our hands on.

Robert Byrnes- Hopefully sheep will get collared that will be traveling back and forth and will be good for that study.

### **Meeting Adjournment**

**Motion:** Gaskill- Motion to adjourn.

**Motion Passes:** Acclamation by RAC Chair

**Meeting Ends: 9:13 p.m.**

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Civic Center  
110 S Main Street, Springville  
December 2, 2014 6:30 p.m.

## **Motion Summary**

### **Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

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

### **R657-Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments**

MOTION: To accept the private fish pond rule amendment as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments**

MOTION: To accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the four exceptions recommended by Utah Bowman's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsmen Association, and Utah Wildlife Cooperative  
Passed unanimously

### **Wolf Management Plan Extension**

MOTION: To accept the plan extension as presented  
Passed unanimously

### **R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments**

MOTION: To approve the convention permit rule amendments as presented with exception of the five year extension  
Failed 2 to 6

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented  
Passed 5 to 3

Central Region Advisory Council  
Springville Civic Center  
110 S Main Street, Springville  
December 2, 2014 @ 6:30 p.m.

**Members Present**

Timothy Fehr, At large  
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service  
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen  
Richard Hansen, At large, Vice Chair  
George Holmes, Agriculture  
Kristofer Marble, At large  
Gary Nielson, Sportsmen, Chair  
Jay Price, Elected  
Jacob Steele, Native American

**Members Absent**

Matt Clark, Sportsmen  
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture  
Michael Gates, BLM  
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive  
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive

**Others Present**

Mike Canning, Assistant Director  
John Bair, Wildlife Board Member  
Calvin Crandall, Wildlife Board Member

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1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Timothy Fehr to accept the agenda and minutes as written**

**Seconded by George Holmes**

**Motion passed unanimously**

2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**

- Gary Nielson, RAC Chair

3) **Regional Update (Information)**

- John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor

**Aquatics**

- June Sucker Biologist - interviews scheduled for tomorrow
- Submitting proposals for future work
  - Yuba Creel
  - Sanpitch River Restoration
- 10-year Aquatic Strategic Plan - in the works
- Rapid Response Plans for AIS (interagency coordination)
- Silver Lake Flat Reservoir - to be drained Summer 2015
- Utah Lake Access Survey - <http://utahlake.gov/let-your-voice-be-heard-by-taking-the-utah-lake-access-point-surveys/>

**Wildlife**

- Pheasant Releases – received positive feedback from hunters
- Deer Classification - underway, contact biologists if you're interested
- Urban Deer Control - beginning the process of revising the administrative rule
- Trapping Turkeys – Woodland Hills first on the list
- Pronghorn Transplant Dec. 16 – 75 from Parker Mountain to West Desert

- Wasatch West Elk Monitoring Project – 250 to be collared this winter

Habitat

- Anaconda Fire (Tooele) - sprayed, seeded and harrowed
- Levan Fire - seeded and chained
- Bald Mt WMA - lop and scatter done on 400 acres

Conservation Outreach

- Ice fishing events planned at several reservoirs
- CHA Voucher Program - mentored hunting opportunity for Hunter Ed graduates

Law Enforcement

- Lucas McTaggart, Heber/Wasatch Co. Officer completed field training
- Casey Mickelsen recently completed an investigation on an individual who took a 6 point trophy elk in the wrong hunt unit, resulting in a conviction, suspension action pending.
- Tait Larson’s case involving two men who killed a 7 point bull elk in the Timpanogos area without a valid permit for the hunt unit resulted in a conviction. Suspension hearing resulted in one loss of hunting privileges for 13 and 4 years for the two men.
- High number of illegal moose kills this fall during the elk hunts.
- Gee Wizz Info : From 11/01/14 – 12/31/14 Central Region officers entered 450 reports in the Division’s law enforcement database (FATPOT). These reports included citations, warnings, calls for response and investigations, averaging 30 reports per officer.

- 4) **R657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments (Action)**  
 - **Mike Slater, Regional Wildlife Program Manager**

**Questions from the RAC**

Richard Hansen – Where do you get the affidavit?

Mike Slater – The private grower will have a form for the private pond owner to sign.

**Questions from the Public**

**Comments from the Public**

Ken Strong – Thanks for the opportunity to be here. I have looked over this program quite a bit and had the opportunity to work with the Division in the fishing departments and I can see a need for what they are doing especially with the sterile fish. We get these backyard biologists who think they can dump fish anywhere they want. It would be like an individual taking bighorn sheep and putting them wherever they think they ought to be so the sterile part of it I like. I am in favor of the program the way it is written. Thank you.

**RAC Discussion**

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the private fish pond rule amendment as presented**

**Seconded by Timothy Fehr**

**In Favor: All (7)**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

- 5) **2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (Action)**  
 - **Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

### Questions from the RAC

Richard Hansen – Sarah, how does the forest feel about no increase in bear permits for Nebo? I was told at one time that the Forest Service really wanted more of them taken because they were creating problems.

Sarah Flinders – I can't say that we've talked about that issue because there are so many other issues spinning around with the changes. Was it three or four years ago we had a lot of interaction with bears but over the last two seasons we have seen less and I think we have been able to take care of that. On this area and on Nebo we haven't seen the interaction like we did.

Covy Jones – I can provide a little bit of light on that too. We have seen that average age go down every year. With the previous recommendation we saw it go five, four, three for the average age of the bears harvested so we know we are dipping into that population which we intended to do.

Karl Hirst – Some of the harvest objective units have conservation tags. Will they be able to just keep hunting until the end of the season or hunt all three seasons?

Leslie McFarlane – On those units that have conservation permits it would be different than the premium. On units that have quota tags we would allow them to hunt during the harvest objective season but when that season closed they would have to quit. Then they could go back during one of the other seasons.

Karl Hirst – And if they harvest does that count toward the harvest?

Leslie McFarlane – It counts toward the quota if they harvest during that season.

Sarah Flinders – Mostly so I can understand a little bit. This seems like a lot of increased hunting pressure on the animals. Is it six to seven months out of the year that they are going to be pursued? Is that going to affect reproductive rates of those animals at all?

Leslie McFarlane – We don't allow any pursuit or harvest during the month of July to protect breeding season. I take that back they can be pursued from July to August on the summer pursuit season.

Sarah Flinders – That seems like a lot.

Leslie McFarlane – Bears are doing really well and we are not seeing a decrease in population. We are seeing an actual increase and that increase is about five to six percent every year. The pursuit season is not changing so I don't believe that is having an effect on the population but I don't have anything to back that other than opinion.

Sarah Flinders – So we will have the opportunity possibly next year to revisit if we see conflicts? We are concerned a little bit about user conflicts out there. June and July is really busy.

Leslie McFarlane – The July period has always been there. If those conflicts existed they should already be apparent. The June period is new but we tried to end it before the fourth of July before you got really active with your holiday seasons and campers. We were trying to be really cognizant of that and end it before the big holiday weekends.

Sarah Flinders – We start memorial weekend and we just go all the way through. A concern of ours would be maybe needing to adjust because of the baiting.

Leslie McFarlane – We would be baiting and one of the concerns was if you are putting bait out there you are attracting bears. One of the things I tried to go back through all of the research and look at was to see if alternate baiting or if baiting increased nuisance and conflict. There was a paper in 2009 that looked at baiting specifically. They were actually trying to bait bears away from campgrounds and they actually saw that they reduced the nuisance problem around the campground. That is kind of what we are trying to do with that June season. Maybe bait them away from the problem areas and take some of those bears that would have gotten into trouble. That is what we are trying to see if we can manipulate and maybe reverse the trend.

Sarah Flinders – Knowing that each forest is different based on habitat and urban conflict. This region in particular is a little tricky with the number of campgrounds we have and the number of

homes we have and the urban interface. Based on the weapon maybe on our end would need to be instead of a half a mile away increased to a mile away.

Leslie McFarlane – We can do that through the COR process.

John Fairchild – We really need to do questions first.

Sarah Flinders – So are we going to be able to work with you on limits as far as distance goes for bait stations?

Leslie McFarlane – Absolutely and one of the things I want to point out is when we figured out the permits for summer limited entry we went back and looked over the past several years what is the historical number of bait permits that we have been issuing during the spring season in these areas. We tried to keep the permits that we recommended for that around the same so we aren't impacting forests with an inordinate number of people trying now to come and bait. That is what we tried to do until we can see what the strategy does.

Richard Hansen – On the spring limited entry season that opens on April fourth on some of these units my concern is that the Forest Service locks the gates and won't open them for anybody. Is there any way you can work with them to get those gates open so people that need to access that can do that without having to walk up the road five miles?

Leslie McFarlane – We could certainly talk about it. Historically this is when that spring season has occurred so I left the dates the same. Because of the access issues that people have during those early dates we did add the week on past Memorial Day to compensate for the inaccessibility early on. We could talk to the Forest Service about those types of things.

### **Questions from the Public**

Chet Young – The bear population was 3,500 in 2009 and 4,100 now. What number are you going for, 3,500? Where are we going to maintain our bear population is my question?

Leslie McFarlane – Bear populations are hard to estimate. It's not like deer or moose or elk where you can't fly for them every year. So what we are using as our triggers are our nuisance human conflict, our nuisance problems, our livestock depredation so when we reach a level there then we know we need to back off or that we need to increase pressure in those areas and decrease bear in those areas. If we are not having problems there is no reason to work on them. There is not any specific number in the plan it just says that we will maintain a healthy population and we will take into consideration livestock depredation, human safety and nuisance issues and impacts to other species.

Chet Young – Thank you.

Jason Binder – What units are going to be the quota units?

Leslie McFarlane – There are none in northern. In northeastern there is Book Cliffs/Bitter Creek, South with a total of 20 in the spring. North Slope, West Daggett, Three Corners with a total of four in the spring. South Slope, Yellowstone is a total of six in the spring. Wasatch, Avintaquin, Current Creek a total of 10 in the spring. Wasatch Mountains, West a total of 30 in the spring. Nine Mile a total of 15 in the spring and 10 in the fall but those are spot and stalk only. Those are all the quota units.

Jason Binder – With those quota units what does that take the total number of tags up to?

Leslie McFarlane – There are 574 limited entry permits and an additional 95 quota for a total of 669 permits. Some of those are spot and stalk.

Jason Binder – Another question I have about the quota, has anybody looked into the fact that if we bring the Book Cliffs and these hot areas, Wasatch, what kind of influx we are going to have from nonresidents once they realize they can just come here and buy a tag? We already have summer pursuit taken away from us on La Sals and San Juan because of pressure from nonresidents and conflicts from campers and all the stuff that Sarah has been talking about. Has anyone addressed the fact that when nonresidents find out they can come here and just buy a tag and compete with the residents?

Leslie McFarlane – On harvest object we are not looking at it from a nonresident versus resident issue. The first year usually on harvest objective we meet the quota and that is what we want to do and then usually subsequently after that it decreases. We don't want to keep these on harvest objective quota forever. We only want to do it for a short period of time to get bear populations back down and decrease our nuisance problems and hopefully go back to limited entry.

Jason binder – Another question would be there are a lot of people in the state that have put in for the Book Cliffs for a spring tag for ten years and haven't drawn one and now we are just going to sell them over the counter. That seems like a pretty big issue to me.

Leslie McFarlane – That is the regional recommendation.

Jason binder – Is there a way we could make the quota units a draw for nonresidents at ten percent like we do on other species? So if there were 20 tags on the Book Cliffs then nonresidents could draw for two tags and we let the residents of the state, because they are our bears, harvest the 20 bears.

Leslie McFarlane – I would have to look into that because I know that there are some fairness issues. I would have to get back to you on that because I don't have enough information to say whether or not it would raise a fairness issue or not.

### **Comments from the Public**

Ben Lowder – Utah Bowman's Association – First I would like to thank you for the opportunity to speak here and give public input and for all the RACs attendance and participation and the work that you do. We appreciate that. I met yesterday with leaders from Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsmen Association and Untied Wildlife Cooperative. We sat down and discussed the changes that have been presented here tonight. We discussed our concerns and what we liked and didn't like and what we would like to see changed. We came to an agreement and are putting forth a joint recommendation tonight. That recommendation is in support of the Division's recommendations with four exceptions. I have handed a sheet of my proposal out to you so each of you have it if you would like to reference it. Those four exceptions to the Division's recommendations are listed there and I will go through and outline them here. The first one addresses the summer baiting season. We are asking for an additional two weeks on the front end of that which would make that season date May 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We understand it would overlap the spring season for two weeks. We are willing to do that. We believe that it would be the best compromise to maximize days in the field for all hunters and we believe that we can do that with minimal conflict. The second exception is concerning the fall season dates on La Sal and San Juan bear units. Those units are both very large units. There are only five fall permits on each of those units. Currently we are hunting those units limited entry elk basically the exact same season as the limited entry bear hunt and we are seeing minimal conflict down there. In fact I can speak personally to that. I was very fortunate to have a San Juan archery elk tag last year and I hunted for 20 of the 28 days of the archery elk season. I hunted clear through the last week of the season to the end and in my 20 days I spent the majority of it on North Elk Ridge which is very popular for bear hunting as well and saw a number of bears myself. I only ever heard or saw hounds once and had no conflicts. In addition a friend of mine drew that same tag this year and I spent some time down there helping him on his elk hunt and experienced the exact same thing. No issues with hounds and so we believe that we could extend those seasons to match the fall seasons on the rest of the units. We actually believe that it would in addition further reduce conflict by spreading those minimal five bear hunters out through a greater span of time as well. Our third exception addresses the tag distribution and allocation on the spring and summer seasons. One of our concerns is that the historical numbers of bear hunters hunting over bait and bear hunters hunting with hounds is not going to be accurately reflected in the future due to the change in the season structures as well as the addition of being able to hunt over bait with any weapon. We believe that could change the demand of bear hunting as it currently exists today and therefore we are recommending rather than a tag pool for each of those seasons, to combine those tag pools into one tag pool and draw both of those seasons out of one tag pool.

Our last exception to the Division's recommendations is concerning the spring harvest objective units. As was just mentioned here in the question period there is a concern about some of these spring harvest objective units being overwhelmed by guides, outfitters and hunters coming from out of state and overwhelming those units and we are sensitive to the concerns of the Forest Service as well and the influx of pressure we could potentially see on those units. What we are recommending there is that those units be harvest objective for residents and limited entry for nonresidents. How that would look basically on the Book Cliffs the Division is recommending a spring harvest objective hunt with an objective of 20 bears. What we would recommend specific to that unit is to lower the objective to 18 for residents and make it a limited entry for nonresidents and reflect the number of tags to account for that two bear harvest which would likely be in the neighborhood of four to six. In summary I would like to again mention that this is a joint proposal from the Utah Bowman's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Utah Houndsmen Association and United Wildlife Cooperative. Thank you for your time.

Lee Tracy – United Wildlife Cooperative – We would like to support the proposal that was just made by Ben and as an explanation for Leslie, I did get a chance to talk to Chad about this and he thought that this would be an acceptable plan and an acceptable proposal for United Wildlife Cooperative and we feel that it is a sound proposal that allows the best possible opportunity for all styles of bear hunting. Thank you.

Bob Brewster – I live in Salt Lake City and am representing Wild Earth Guardians, a western conservation organization. We'd like you to consider some problems with the proposed expansion of the bear hunt which we oppose. We think we should see more educational outreach to people on how to avoid bear human conflicts instead of expanding the hunt. We are concerned that baiting may increase problems with orphaned bears such as bears dying or getting into trouble. We are also concerned that baiting violates the fair chase principle of ethical hunting and that this violating of ethical hunting principles is not something we should pursue. Thank you very much.

Garrick Hall – Utah Farm Bureau – Bears have been a problem for agriculture for a while and an increasing problem. We see problems in sheep. I don't think there is any secret about that and hopefully some of these changes will work to mitigate some of those conflicts. I know that has been the intention and hopefully we are successful there. The area in particular that we have been concerned with bears is on the irrigated crop ground and particularly with the watermelons. I know Green River is not in this region but I have been down there to look at those farms a number of times and one bear can come into those watermelon fields and devastate two acres of watermelons a night and then they come back the next night. Traditionally we have had no way to really deal with that. We get on the phone and call the Division and hope that they get there before the bears but bears move a little faster than the Division we find. This year they have worked really hard. We had a powwow this spring with them and we got a lot of help. It's my understanding we shot 13 bears in Green River this summer and I was told there were at least two more that we weren't able to get but 13 was certainly an improvement from the past. I guess my main comment is to speak in favor of the proposal to allow those landowners to shoot those bears that come onto their property. They aren't looking to go bear hunting that's not what they want to do. They really don't have time to do that. They just want to be able to defend their crop. They are experiencing 20,000 dollars plus in damages every year and we hope this will be a way to remedy that. The Division officials down there like I said worked hard this summer but they are telling me they don't have time to do that every summer. It's just a lot easier for them if the landowners that are there take care of it and then call the Division to come get the bear. We are in favor of that and the plan as a whole and hope that it will be able to mitigate some of the challenges that we have been experiencing over the past several years. Thank you.

Mike Linnell – Representing the Wildlife Services program. It is a combine program for the USDA and the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. I just wanted to express my support for this plan and appreciation to the Division for addressing the growing problem that we are having with depredation on livestock. There were several different proposals to get to that and Leslie talked about that earlier but we would really like to see sportsmen and houndsmen and other folks try to reduce those bears so that we don't have to. It has kind of a threefold impact. One it gives more hunting opportunity for some of these groups. It alleviates the burden on livestock producers which is very expensive because only a fraction of the livestock that are killed are even found and so the compensation program that is currently paid out by the state is expensive but it really doesn't reduce the losses or reimburse the expenses to the landowner to the complete amount. There are actually a lot more livestock that they never find and so by getting these numbers down in targeted areas where we are having the most problems is critical for us. We are not focusing on areas where we don't have problems. I think the strategic effort to try to target those areas where we have the greatest depredation level is important. I really appreciate the effort by the Division to try to address this growing problem for us.

Brett Selman – I am representing the wool growers. I am a sheep rancher from Tremonton. First I appreciate you and your time spent here. I spent eight years on the northern RAC so I appreciate your time in those chairs. I want to speak in support of this. We run in Logan Canyon in northern Utah and on the Graze River in Wyoming. When we first started to go to Wyoming in the mid 80's when you bought an elk tag they gave you a bear tag up there. We would go all summer and see minimal bear sign and moose in every canyon. Now you go up there and we have more bear trouble all the time and there is bear sign in every canyon and we will go all summer and see two moose. I think these bears are affecting some of our other wildlife that we all love. In 2012 in Wyoming it was a poor feed year. It was a drought. We had a lot of bear trouble and we had a lot of bears. This year in comparison there are still as many bears but there are less problems amongst us and our neighbors there because it is a good feed year. Here in Utah as it's been spoken we had a good feed year for bears comparable to there but we still had more problems here than normal. To me you are addressing the problem of having too many bears on a good feed year. What is it going to be if we have a bad feed year? I think the Division is on the right track to reduce these bear numbers before we have even more problems on a tougher year. Mr. Linnell talked about state compensating for what losses we find. In Wyoming there is a multiplier in place where we get compensated three times. If we confirm one loss we get paid for three. A program like that is superior to the program we have in this state. I know that needs to go to the legislature and all that but they pay for their problem and that is where we need to go in this state. First we need to keep the problem at a minimum like we are working on and then we need to compensate livestock owners for their losses. Thank you.

Chet Young – I have been involved with the bears for quite a while with the Division. I was part of the management plan, my name is one it. I agreed with a lot of things on there, harvest objective wasn't one of them. I am just here to say if this harvest objective becomes out of control I hope you keep an open mind to let Leslie deal with it a year at a time instead of making her wait three years. A lot of the problem bears that are coming into campgrounds are yearlings and young bears. If we make this a race, let's run up these canyons and kill 30 bears as fast as we can because we might not be able to hunt tomorrow, they might shut it down on us it opens the opportunity of leaving a lot of yearlings having to fend for themselves right out of the den so I ask that we do our best to give Leslie a year at a time to change this for the first three years and after three years see where we are at. I support the UBA proposal. I see no reason for them to lose time on the mountain because we have hounds. I think it is a share opportunity. I think that it's good that they are going to be able to hunt a little longer so they don't have to deal with us. Thank you for your time.

Gary Nielson – I was glad when in Leslie’s proposal there was that one year thing where they would look at it and see what numbers were doing and if adjustments needed to be made then they could be made. With regards to the proposal by the organizations, Leslie would you like to speak to that?

Leslie McFarlane – I did have one question of clarification. Right now the Division’s proposal is to allow you to pre-bait but you couldn’t actually start hunting until later. Is your proposal to allow two weeks of pre-baiting and then hunting after the houndsmen’s season ends?

Ben Lowder – No the proposal is to extend the hunt dates forward two weeks so there would be a two week overlap of the hunting seasons. So we would have two weeks of the spring season with the hound pursuit still going at the beginning of the baiting season for two weeks.

Leslie McFarlane – The only real concern I have with the proposal as presented is on the spring and summer season tags coming from the same pool. There is a little bit of concern because we don’t know how popular that summer season will become. When we set those permits and we worked with the regions to set those we tried to look at traditional COR baiting applications that were applied for and not exceed those so we would not impact the Forest Service all at once. My concern with putting them all into the same tag pool is you wouldn’t know how many bait applications there would be if you put them all together and let them pick. It may not be a big deal except for on some of these units in the spring where there are 30 or 35 during that time period. It could end up being 60 bait stations in certain areas because you are allowed to do two bait stations if that many people chose to go during that season. That is the only concern I would have with that. As far as the spring harvest objective for residents and limited entry for nonresidents I need to check because I know that in the past there have been issues with shutting nonresidents out and a fairness thing so I’m not sure if there would be a fairness issue.

Sarah Flinders – I don’t think we are super concerned about the work load. We are more concerned about the availability for bait stations. Other forests like Fish Lake have tons of opportunity for extra bait stations. We are really limited. We are not worried about the work load. We are more worried about 60 bait stations without space for them.

Richard Hansen – Maybe I need a clarification but if you overlap the spring and summer season one is bait and one is not. How are you going to manage that?

Leslie McFarlane – The way the season currently is as it has been those two overlap already and in the fall baiting and hounds overlap already. Our agency was receiving an inordinate amount of complaints regarding hounds coming in off baits. That was the reason we chose to split the two and try and make it separate. That is why we have that recommendation to try and prevent that conflict. We left the fall alone though.

Richard Hansen – So if we overlapped them you would have that problem again?

Leslie McFarlane – Possibly.

Gary Nielson – Are you talking about guys with bait stations with friends that have dogs and working together acting like I’m just baiting but someone coming through and picking up a scent?

Leslie McFarlane – That is a different problem. The biggest complaints we would get is because it takes some time to get a bear used to where your bait station is. It’s not as easy as people think. You have to know what you are doing. You have to know bear habits. You put your bait station out for two weeks trying to get them to come in and then the first morning you are sitting there waiting and a bunch of hounds run through it and then you are upset so you call and yell at the Division because hounds ruined your hunt. We are trying to be creative and prevent some of these conflicts so that we don’t have to deal with so much of that. We left the fall alone. There will still be those two things occurring at the same time but the biggest conflict we were receiving was during the spring season.

Jason Binder – I would like to thank Leslie and the Division and all the sporting groups for working together. I will put this on your desk and you can pass it around. It should be on your email. As was said before the Bowman's, SFW and everybody met together and the houndsmen and this has become a big controversy, harvest objective, bait, hounds what do we do, a lot of opportunity and everybody came together on a pretty good agreement and Leslie is stuck with a bunch of crazy guys that she has to deal with. The Utah Houndsmen Association supports the Division's proposal except for we don't agree with the harvest objective for bears just due to the nonresident conflict that could happen. The Book Cliffs is so close to Colorado. Even right here on the Wasatch if we have 50 guys from out of state come in this Wasatch units is not very big and there could be a lot of problems in campgrounds. We would really like to see it either stay limited entry or if we can't keep it limited entry then lets limit nonresidents. Let's give them the ten percent. If Book Cliffs was 20 permits last year then the nonresidents could draw two. If we have to rename it split instead of harvest objective or some kind of renaming of the hunting season to allow Utah residents to harvest, to take care of our problem, if we have a problem. Thank you for your time.

Gary Nielson – So you are talking about giving them the same percentage of tags as you would on the limited entry.

Jason Binder – It is ten percent. If there are 20 tags then the nonresidents could draw two.

Lee Tracy – United Wildlife Cooperative – I don't know if this is out of order but I might suggest to Leslie that the conflict issue be a big part of that orientation session. I think for the most part Utah hunters are pretty kind and well aware of the situations of other hunters and I think that would go a long way to alleviating some of that conflict.

Mike ?– I am representing myself and I would like to thank you for all the effort you have put into this. I would like to voice support for the two weeks of overlap between the bowmen and the houndsmen. Currently if I'm correct it's the whole spring season that we overlap and two weeks we ought to be able to work that out as gentlemen and adults and address it amongst ourselves the best we can. I'm sure you will still hear some complaints but two weeks is better than six weeks and it gives them a fair chance at the additional days that they are losing. That is what I would like to see. Thank you.

### **RAC Discussion**

Richard Hansen – How are you going to teach your dogs not to chase bears that go into bait? I can see what they are trying to accomplish here. Is the reason you want that extra time is so the pelts will be better and they are not rubbed?

Ben Lowder – There are multiple concerns here and that is one of them. As you get later into June you are going to start to see rubbed pelts and the further you get into that later part of the summer you will see a deterioration in the quality of pelts. In addition to that baiting bears is a very time and physical intensive process. It takes time and with the current Division's recommended season, I haven't counted the number of days but it is less than a month where as prior with the spring season we have been around April 10<sup>th</sup> to the end of May and on some units a week into June. A two month season essentially. The summer season that is being proposed is less than a month. That is a very short amount of time to try to establish baits sites and successfully harvest a bear over bait. We are looking for some additional time for that opportunity so you are not setting bait on the ground at the first part of the season and by the time you have a bear coming in it's a rubbed pelt. Also in my experience the more time you have on a bait the more selective you can be. I think that one issue we have had with the early spring season in the past and baiting is guys are busting their butts trying to get these baits going as early as they can and with the bears not coming out until later they don't even see a bear until right near the end of the season and then they are shooting the first thing they see because they are running out of time. They spend a lot of time and work and put a lot of effort into it and they don't want

to go empty handed. Also I would like to address some of the Forest Service's concerns about baiting and the number of baits in an area. With the later summer season that is going to open up a lot of access. That has been a big issue in the past with the spring season. A lot of that high country access that bear hunters have wanted access to in the spring for years we have never had that. I applaud the Division's recommendation for a later season to open up access and I think that will help spread some of those bait hunters out. Richard, have I addressed your question? Richard Hansen – I just really wanted to understand why the overlap was really that big of a deal. Ben Lowder – That's exactly it, just to give more time. Right now we have nearly a two month season and that summer season is less than a month so it's just an effort, I feel it is the best compromise to maximize time in the field for everybody. Right now as has been mentioned our fall seasons overlap completely and our spring seasons have always overlapped for that entire season so a two week overlap seems minimal to me and I would much rather take that compromise that I might have hounds on my bait a time or two in two weeks but then I've got a month of time where I know there are no hounds so I'm okay with that. Honestly I understand that there are some issue with hounds and baiting and I have talked with multiple bear hunters baiting and houndsmen and I honestly believe a lot of that is incidental. Like you said you are not going to train a dog to not run across bait but I feel like that two week overlap is going to provide the most opportunity possible with minimal amount of conflict.

Gary Nielson – Leslie seemed uncomfortable with the tags from the same pool. Explain why that is a better idea in your mind.

Ben Lowder – The reason I like that idea and the four organizations support that is again with the season restructure, we are talking about completely new seasons and we are changing baiting regulations, so the concern is how is that going to affect the demand of bear hunters and new bear hunters. As was mentioned the reason to open up baiting to any weapon is to allow for new opportunities for hunters that haven't had that opportunity before. What is that going to do to the demand for bear tags? Is it going to increase on the spring season or the summer season? Right now we just don't know so I believe that drawing those two hunts out of one tag pool addresses that exactly as the demand comes in for them. So you draw a tag out of one pool and you draw the season that you put in for but they all come out of one tag pool. We are doing something very similar right now. Right now and in the past we have had one spring season and we have been and will continue to do this in the fall season. You put in for an any weapon tag or an archery tag because in the past you have only been able to bait with archery tackle. You put in for an any weapon tag or an archery tag and they come out of the same tag pool. It's just a matter of which weapon you are going to be hunting with. I don't think it's that big of a change. It's really kind of an extension of what we are already doing. One more thing, again to address as Leslie mentioned we don't know what the demand will be for spring or summer season and if we do see an increase in demand for the summer season because as I mentioned that later season does open up a lot more access to higher country so I think that even though it could potentially put more baits on the ground there is a lot more access for those baits to go.

Kristofer Marble – The first thing I wanted to mention is I read some emails and a gentleman stood up here and talked about expanding the bear hunt. I think that we all need to understand that there are nuisance bears that are being taken today in Utah and I think that the idea is to shift that to sportsmen and not necessarily kill more bears in total as much as it is to just shift how we are taking those bears. I think that is important to note and I think that it should be on the record. Also I think that it is not often that we see four different organizations that have come together and put together some thoughts and some things that they all agree on and you have some key organizations here that have a very vested interest in the bear hunt. From my perspective I think that we ought to send that on to the Wildlife Board for consideration. I would like to make a motion.

## **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the Division's recommendations as presented with the four exceptions recommended by Utah Bowman's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsmen Association, and Utah Wildlife Cooperative**

**Seconded by Richard Hansen**

Karl Hirst – Maybe it is a little early for me on that motion so can I discuss the motion? Part of that motion is to have firearms with baiting. One of my concerns with that is that it will become a lightning rod. We have seen in other states where hounds and baiting have become a lightning rod. Adding firearms to that concerns me and that we will lose our baiting and lose our hounds. That is one of my big concerns. Sarah brought up another concern if the Forest Service is asking for a one mile restriction for baiting. I have had three bear tags in the last I believe seven or eight years. I have sat down with three managers and tried to find a spot for a bait in three different forests and some of the rangers have been expanding that to not allowed baiting in any livestock movement area. To try to find a bait a mile from anywhere that a cow or a sheep might walk in the forest is very difficult at a half a mile. It will be impossible on a lot of these units with any weapon if it's a mile. I don't know how Sarah is going to feel about that recommendation but having worked through that tree times with three different Forest Service areas a one mile restriction will basically just eliminate baiting. That is my concern with the recommendation as it is. I may be the only one that is concerned about that firearm but a one mile restriction on baiting from any trail, any road, any campground, anywhere that a cow or a sheep will walk is going to eliminate baiting.

Gary Nielson – Is that one mile a suggestion?

Sarah Flinders – That was just a suggestion. We currently on our forest have the shortest or the closest baiting distances. Some are up to five miles. We are so happy to keep the smallest distance we can because we know our space is so limited. It's adding that any weapon when you get the rifle in there. A half a mile, we are willing to look at it and if we can keep it we certainly will but if we feel like it is a safety concern we will have to work really closely with Leslie to maybe expand it in some areas and keep it small in others. It is just going to have to be a work in progress.

Kristofer Marble – I had a thought on that Sarah. I would think that there is already an ordinance in place for the one mile from a structure and I would think that would supersede it. So you have the rule that you can bait within a half mile except if you have a rifle you are going to have to be conciese of that other statute that is already in place I would think.

Leslie McFarlane – The statute is in place that you can't shoot within one mile of structures, livestock, isn't that what it is John?

John Fairchild – It is just 600 feet.

Leslie McFarlane – Yes 600 feet, not a mile.

John Fairchild – What we have done is try to work with the Forest Service on a reasonable distribution of bait stations but there isn't any regulation that the Forest Service brings as to how far away those bait stations need to be.

Leslie McFarlane – It does vary by forest.

Sarah Flinders – We know that is going to be a continual and I know that our biologist is happy to work with Leslie and they are looking forward to that process. We are looking into other things like adding more gates to allow more access for some of these hunts. We are happy to work on that. We have already talked about some of that. We just want to work with Leslie maybe on a yearly basis so we can reevaluate but try to get as many of these sportsmen out there as we can. We are really open to new opportunity and we are happy to work with Leslie on that.

Covy Jones – I would like to say we have already started some of these conversations and are working with your biologist and I think that there are not official agreements or anything like that but we both feel comfortable that we can make that work.

Timothy Fehr – I would like to switch directions just shortly. On the Wasatch West where are most of the human bear conflicts? Are they in the populated areas or are they in campgrounds or trails?

Leslie McFarlane – Actually Wasatch Mountains West is not a human conflict it is livestock depredation. Well it is both.

Covy Jones – We did have a lot of livestock depredation there this year. Wildlife Services was forced to remove 20 bears there this year. In addition to that there are times in the summer where we start out with one call a day maybe and at peak we are getting calls from the Forest Service, calls from campers, calls from everybody and we are at two and three calls a day sometimes and it is not just at the urban fringe. It is back in Strawberry Valley and all across there. We understand that that whole forest gets more use and that is part of the reason for the June hunt. We are getting calls from campgrounds in June. Let's see if we can't pull them away in June.

Timothy Fehr – I can see the need for a hunt at least in the area where I live. Our population has definitely increased and we also have a lot more people feeding them which is the biggest issue so combining an educational program so we mitigate some of that problem with the hunt I think could work.

Leslie McFarlane – I want to point out too as someone who had to deal with nuisance bear problems at campgrounds on the Mirror Lake Highway. I would spend an entire summer going from campground to campground to campground and saying please clean up your dutch ovens, please clean up your coolers and then I would drive through there at ten o'clock at night and everything is still laying exactly where it was. You would hand them brochures and pamphlets. So you can do and we do as an agency when Covy talks about responding to two or three calls a day. We spend a lot of time in those areas trying to educate people about bears. I think that it needs to be pointed out that we do try and do that. We try to do signs and brochures and all of those things. When it comes to livestock depredation unfortunately you can't educate sheep to not run around bears and you can't educate bears not to eat sheep so there are two issues there that we try and deal with. We do try to put a lot of effort into educational programs and that is part of that mandatory education course is try to educate bear hunters. We do recognize that and it is actually in our bear plan.

Gary Nielson – Thanks Leslie. We do have a motion on the floor. I think it is a unique that we have that many organizations get together with the same kind of proposal. I also think that it is unique that the Division is excited to work with it and make a go of it. We are calling question on the motion.

John Fairchild – Karl, did you have a motion?

Karl Hirst – I just wanted to bring something up but the motion is as stated with those four changes.

**In Favor: Kristofer Marble, Richard Hansen, Jay Price, George Holmes, Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst (8 )**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**6) Wolf Management Plan Extension (Action)**

**- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Gary Nielson – So this is the same wolf plan we passed several years ago we are just extending it so if we do have an issue with wolves we are ready for it.

Leslie McFarlane – Exactly it is set to expire December 31<sup>st</sup> and the legislature did direct us to have an active plan in place so we are just trying to maintain the current plan because it did take us two years to get this plan developed so we don't want to reopen it.

**Questions from the Public**  
**Comments from the Public**  
**RAC Discussion**

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Jay Price to accept the plan extension as presented**

**Seconded by George Holmes**

**In Favor: All (8)**

**Opposed:**

**Motion passed unanimously**

**7) R657- 55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments**

**- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Section Chief**

**Questions from the RAC**

Kristofer Marble – On your second proposed change why would you not want that to continue to go out to RFP every five years? It would seem it would serve you better to send that out to RFP every five years rather than just do a renewal of some kind.

Kenny Johnson – If we land a good contract and it is working for everybody and all parties are happy there are some benefits specifically to the contract for having that be a little more secure over a longer period of time.

Kristofer Marble – Sure but if you've got the best man for the job so to speak they should win the RFP process anyway, right?

Kenny Johnson – Sure.

Richard Hansen – On the fee they retain, the five dollars, did I understand it that is the same as what the folks in Fallon keep on the big game draws?

Kenny Johnson – Actually the \$3.50 is a little bit higher. The last two years it has been about \$3.12. This year it is \$3.01. We renegotiate with Nevada every year based on what we project as far as applications that we will handle. So those two numbers are kind of always divergent. We are always trying to negotiate the Nevada contract down which is counterintuitive to the way this one works. We are proposing a static \$3.50.

Richard Hansen – So does the Division pay the folks in Fallon more than what they receive from those permit application fees?

Kenny Johnson – No they don't.

Timothy Fehr – So basically what the Division gets in terms of future projects is about five dollars per application and they spend \$3.50 of it on the administration?

Kenny Johnson – No the way that would work is it is five dollars for an application and the contractor would retain the \$3.50 for their overhead and their cost associated with the convention. The Division would then approve the remaining \$1.50 per app for all the Division approved projects.

Timothy Fehr – It doesn't sound very good to me. That is a pretty high cost for a little gain.

Gary Nielson – I think you are missing that there is quite a bit of money that changes hands with the permits they auction off and stuff so they are committed to projects and it is interesting how it benefits wildlife.

Timothy Fehr – So what does that really look like because I don't know?

John Fairchild – We help draw in a lot of participants to that because of the expo permits and then you have the auctions and the money that is generated there.

Karl Hirst – If I understand for a few years the Division didn't get any.

Kenny Johnson – Correct.

Karl Hirst – So for four or five years they got zero. Then in 2013 it went to a percentage based on the general draw percentage that Fallon charges you which would be close to the \$1.50/ \$3.50 split. So the \$1.50 they are getting is not quite what they were getting before. Am I understanding that right.

Kenny Johnson – That's right. There were no real stipulations associated to it until we amended the contract in 2013 and that was to add some transparency and accountability to the five dollar application fee. Sure. I think like John said the convention like it or hate it, it puts a spotlight right on Utah wildlife. It draws people from all over the planet so the trade off is big for us.

Timothy Fehr – I just didn't know what the real advantage was, how do we benefit, the people of Utah?

Kenny Johnson – The average in applications is probably just under one million dollars, 900,000. Prior to the amendment the groups kind of used that for overhead and hosting the convention. Actually trying to attract people to Utah.

Timothy Fehr – And out of the convention what type of money gets generated?

Kenny Johnson – I don't know those numbers off hand. I have heard some of the reports for Utah economy and they are pretty big numbers.

Richard Hansen – I think I read, and I don't know the exact number either but it's in the millions for hotels, meals and all kinds of stuff. It's a pretty darn good situation.

Kenny Johnson – That is the last number I heard was about ten million boom to Utah's economy. Directly if the average is roughly one million the Division would see 300,00 to 350,000 of that go into projects.

Timothy Fehr – So the people that write to me say if it is really 3.50 expense out of five because that is all they see.

Kenny Johnson – If the groups are here I think they can speak to that but they have shown us their expenses and justified the 3.50 and I think they could even justify higher so we are comfortable with that.

Kristofer Marble – I thought I would just mention, Tim, it is worth mentioning that of the \$3.50 that they retain some of that is committed to go back on the ground by those organizations for whatever it's worth. So you've got the \$1.50 that directly comes back and then some of that \$3.50 also go back through the organizations through their projects is the idea. I just thought I would mention that.

### **Questions from the Public**

Jason Hawkins – Kenny, I just had a quick question. One of the concerns I had when I read the rule amendment was dealing with the five year extension to the contract and you mentioned that there is no intent to extend the current contract, this would only apply prospectively to any future contracts. Is there anything in the rule that says that or is that just the position of the DWR on this issue?

Kenny Johnson – That is definitely our position. I don't know if the rule really specifies that it would take effect after and we could work on that but our intent is to let the next RFP happen, then five years later talk about this again.

Jason Hawkins – The rule requires the DWRs approval at least so there wouldn't be approval from the DWR to extend the current contract.

Kenny Johnson – Correct, DWR and Wildlife Board.

Jason Hawkins – Thank you.

### Comments from the Public

John Larsen – SFW – Thank you Mr. Speaker, good to be with you tonight and I appreciate the board and your effort to be here tonight. My name is John Larsen and I am here with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife tonight speaking on behalf of the hunt expo and its partners as well. We completely accept the plan as presented and we agree with it as well. The hunt expo is a great thing. I am new to this organization but I have partnered with the hunt expo for years. I have been in the retail business in the retail arena with Cabelas, Sportsman's Warehouse and a Canadian operator as well and it is amazing the traffic that the expo pulls to this state and what it brings to the state from an economic value and jobs, everything that it does, it's just a really great venue but there is also a very large cost to run that venue. It is not easy. Just negotiating again the terms on that space, the Salt Palace, it's just not cheap. There is a lot that goes into that and it is a true business to run it which is why that overhead is critical and we need that. Again if you look at the holistic view of what that expo does and what it brings to the state and what it does to attract and really show off what we have done with our wildlife in this state I think it is a compliment to the state and what we have all been working together for. So again speaking on behalf of the hunt expo and its partners we accept the rule and are grateful for them. Thank you.

Lee Tracy – United Wildlife Cooperative – While the Utah Wildlife Cooperative appreciates the expo and in fact wants it to continue and be the event that it has become we do have some concerns about the funds that are raised by these application fees. First of all we have just heard someone say that they need the overhead to run the expo. We believe that the expo expenses and the costs of doing the expo need to be separated from the funds that the tags provide simply because they can handle those expo expenses with expo funds without those tag funds. Those tags belong to the public and we believe that those should be designated as public funds not private funds. United Wildlife cannot support the Division's proposal for three reasons. We have just heard the reason for charging the \$3.50. I have done some extensive research into that contract and in fact there is a statement of work that belongs to that contract and the services that the Fallon Nevada company, System Consultants, provide are much more extensive than the services that the expo provides, SFW and MDF. I could go over some of those things but I just sent you an email and hopefully you got some of those emails. The two or three main differences and most expensive things that system consultants provides is they have to man eight phone lines 24/7 eleven months out of the year. That is expensive. They mail 182,000 reminder cards, they also print those. They are the ones that do the surveys after the hunt. They are the ones that notify all applicants whether they are successful or not. They are also the ones that in the end provide the data that the Division of Wildlife Resources relies on to do their annual reports. They charge \$3.01 for each application and that includes their profit. We do not believe that \$3.50 that we are giving to the promoters of that expo merits the services they provide and in fact is far more than they should receive. They are the ones that broke up the five dollars into a \$1.50 and \$3.50 and we agree with that we just don't agree with which way they go. We think that that should be flipped that 70 percent should go to the Division of Wildlife Resources, or to the animals, and 30 percent should go to the promoters to do with what they want to. That is one of the reasons we oppose that. Another one is that there is no independent audit of those funds. There is simply a financial report given to the Division and we think there should be an independent audit by the Division. We also are opposed to renewal of the contract because trilaterally between the promoters, the Division and the Wildlife Board they can lock up a contract for ten years that the public can't access and any possible other promoters can't bid on. In essence United Wildlife Cooperative does not support this proposal. Thank you.

Kenny Johnson – Can I clarify one thing that Lee said maybe. The permit fees that you mentioned up front are actually separate so when you secure an expo permit, you are a successful applicant, you essentially get a letter from us saying come and redeem it at a Division office and then you still pay face value for the permit. Those funds are separate from the applications.

Lee Tracy – My concern is if you are comparing this to the Nevada company that does that those funds are public funds. We are charged ten dollars for that application and the Division gets six dollars and 99 cents of that. Those are public funds.

Kenny Johnson – Okay, I just wanted to clarify that the permit funds are actually separate.

Ben Lowder – UBA – We recognize some of the concerns from organizations that some of this money is not being accounted for and going to the Division. We believe that the proposal presented here today is a fair compromise and we support the recommendations from the Division as presented. Also I would like to make a comment just from my personal experience. I have attended the expo every year, my organization has a booth there and there is a lot of traffic generated. I do believe that there is a huge economic impact to Utah from that both from residents and nonresidents. It is a fun enjoyable experience and one thing that I would like to note that I have noticed is there are a lot of conservation tags sold at those banquets at the expo and they generally sell for a significantly amount higher at that expo than they would at other banquets around the state so one thing that I think gets often overlooked is that the expo is bringing in more money than what we realize in additional conservation tag revenue that is going directly onto the ground to benefit our wildlife in the state.

Jason Hawkins – I am a Utah resident just here speaking on my own behalf. First of all I would like to thank the RAC. I appreciate your patience, we have been here a long time and this is an important issue. I have followed this issue of the convention permits for two or three years. It is something I care about. I appreciate the work the DWR has done on this and I think there are some positive things in the proposal from the DWR. I am happy to see the requirement that these application fees, or at least the portion the groups are keeping, are kept in a separate account and they are not comingled with other funds and that there is an annual reporting requirement. There are some positive things there. I think headed in the right direction. I really have two concerns I would like to speak to today. The first one was touched on by Lee with the UWC. I think that we should require a higher percentage than 30 percent actually go back to conservation. If you read the rule and even the amended rule but even the rule that was enacted from the very beginning there were two purposes for these tags. It was to attract a regional or a national convention and to generate revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities and for the first number of years even though that was one of the expressed purposes to generate revenue for conservation there was no requirement that even one dollar of this money be spent on actual conservation projects. Now the groups have come forward and have amended their contract and we have this rule saying we are going to put 30 percent toward conservation but I think it should be a higher number. I think it should be the majority of this money. We are not talking about all the money from the expo. This is one source of revenue. This is the money from the tags that are public tags. There are other sources of revenue. There are admissions, booth rentals, the groups make money from a lot of other sources and that is none of our business but the money that comes from these convention permits I think it is the public's business to come say how much of this is going to be used for actual conservation. One of the two purposes stated in the rule. I think it should be the majority of the money, more than 30 percent. I think that is a step in the right direction but it's not enough. The second concern that I have is what I asked Kenny about previously which is the proposal to allow a five year extension. I think that is just too long. That essentially gives these groups the potential to lock up these tags for ten years at a time, a decade. We came a couple years ago and expressed some concern that there was no requirement at the time that any of this money be spent on actual conservation. What we were told by the Board, and I think it was a valid concern, they said they weren't going to make any changes to the program while there is an existing contract in place, we will wait until the contract comes up for renewal. So if you have the potential to lock up the contract for not just five years but now possibly ten years that could potentially deny the public an opportunity to provide input for a full decade, to make any changes to the program, to make improvement to the program for up to ten years at a time. Five years is

plenty of time for these groups to come in and make arrangements for a facility and whatever they need to do. They have done it in the past but ten years seems too long. I appreciate Kenny's comment from the DWR that there is no intent to extend the current contract but I think there should be a recommendation to the Wildlife Board to make that clear in the rule. I have read through that and it is not clear. I think that is something that should be addressed that if that five year extension language is going to be passed by the Wildlife Board it should make it clear that it will apply to future contracts I would hope but I would hope that it wouldn't pass and that we keep it the five years and let it come back up and go through this public process. It is healthy to have input and five years is already a long time but who knows where we are going to be ten years from now. Thank you for your time.

Troy Justeson – I am going to speak just representing myself looking at the expo from a person on the outside. I think one thing that you need to understand as Lee brought it up is look at the money that goes back to Fallon Nevada. Look at the scale. How many applicants is Fallon Nevada dealing with and how many applicants are we dealing with at the expo? I guarantee you if Fallon dealt with the number of applicants we deal with at the expo that the price would go up substantially. They couldn't do it for that amount. The other thing it boils down to is semantics. When they claim they are using this money for overhead and it is going into people's pockets, what we could do is say all the monies that we put on the ground that are raised from banquets or whatever, we could classify that as expo money and say 100 percent is going back on the ground. Look at the track record of these two groups and what they have done in the state of Utah. Are we getting fat rich driving new trucks, you judge for yourself. I think it is evident what we have done and the projects we have funded where these funds are going. We get caught up in the sense that we think it is going to overhead, it is just going to pay bills, it's not. We are conservation groups. We are out there continually looking for ways to increase public awareness, habitat and protect our heritage of hunting and fishing to pass it on to those average Joes. Is there a cost to doing it? You bet there is. We've got to have the ability to make money. It is easy to stand back on the sidelines and say do this or that but until you are involved in it and you see the cost of it you don't fully understand. If there is no trust with these groups then move on but I think you can look at our track record and see what we have done and what we have done for this state. I think we have been worthy recipients of it and I support this. Thank you.

Gary Nielson – Kenny, what is the benefit of extending the contract as opposed to just having them re-up it again?

Kenny Johnson – The benefit would be if it's working and all three parties, the Board, the Division and the contact are in agreement it kind of gives three separate input into whether it is extended or not. The benefit is more of a long term commitment. That was one of the concerns the groups brought up and we discussed is that it would be nicer to commit to it long term but I think that is the biggest one.

Gary Nielson – So if all three groups are in agreement to how it is going that would be the only way it would roll through?

Kenny Johnson – Yes.

Gary Nielson – I've been asked and a lot of people I know have questioned where a lot of the money goes. There is a lot of cash flow cruising around there. If you have been there you know. One thing that I appreciate the sportsmen groups for doing is the reason they are raising money is to help animals and to provide opportunity. I appreciate that. I appreciate there are people willing to spend their own time to make that kind of stuff happen. Any other comments from the audience?

### **RAC Discussion**

Richard Hansen – One thing when Lee was talking about with Fallon and what they get out of that five dollars, the Utah DWR is not Fallon's only client. They provide draws for other states.

They have other contracts that they get paid to fulfill. As an independent business man if you have more clients those costs can be spread over a number of clients rather than just one client. So them being able to do that for the \$3.01 really doesn't paint the picture correctly. When the expo goes on that is a onetime deal. That is a big expense. I personally don't begrudge them. I wish there was a little more openness in what that money is used for. Didn't the state do an audit of the expo?

Kenny Johnson – We actually do audit it annually. It's probably not a standard financial audit but we do review the records and we audit it for a lot compliance. We look at their database and their coding and programming. We look at the funds. Since the amendment happened we look at the funds and make sure they are approved on time by the Division and we have seen those projects grow each year.

Richard Hansen – I know we have gotten a report at these meetings occasionally that shows how much money is going into conservation efforts. Bighorn sheep transplants and things like that would not have happened without this expo money. The activities that go on there and things like that. I personally feel comfortable with this proposal simply because these groups have made Utah a better place. There are drawbacks. There is give and take in a lot of ways but I think we are in a better position now than we were back when they asked us to come and stand on the steps of the state capital where wildlife is concerned. That's what I've got to say.

Karl Hirst – It has kind of been presented that the five year extension is a benefit to Mule Deer Foundation solely. But if I am an outside group looking to compete for this banquet and I realize I have five onetime events that I've got to make this happen, five years is not very long on that. If I'm an outside group thinking I want to compete for this banquet I want the ten years and I want to make this proposal trying to bank on that ten years. When you just have one event per year on this five years is not a long time. This has been painted as just a benefit to Mule Deer Foundation but I think it opens it up to other groups that may want to do it because you are not going to compete with somebody and start from scratch with five years only.

Gary Nielson – As Kenny said if all three of the parties the Division, the Board and the organizations aren't on the same page and it's not all moving forward and looking good it doesn't work anyway.

Sarah Flinders – Is there a limit on extensions or are you just going to keep on extending? Or is it just one?

Kenny Johnson – The new rule we just say one extension, 10 years.

Kristofer Marble – I look at it a little different. I look at it as if you are a group and you come in and you want to do the expo I think if you do a good job you win the next RFP process. That is the way I look at it. I don't like the five year extension. I think a decade is too long and it needs to be looked at every five years. I like the other parts of this proposal and I think the only way I could approve it is with that part of it taken out. I just think that is too long. If nothing else and it's not about trust I think It's just good practice. You are a state organization and locking up something for ten years I don't think it looks good. I don't think it is a good practice in general.

Richard Hansen – So if you make a five year extension to whoever is the current contractor on that then basically what you are saying is that you are not going to be bound by publishing an RFP, is that correct? You will just make the decision and it won't be something you have to do.  
Kenny Johnson – Correct, it will be a collaboration between the Division, the Wildlife Board and the contractor.

Richard Hansen – I am kind of with Kris. I don't think it is that big of a deal to do an RFP.

## **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to approve the convention permit rule amendments as presented with exception of the five year extension.**

**Seconded by Richard Hansen**

**In Favor: Kristofer Marble, Richard Hansen**

**Opposed: Jacob Steele, Jay Price, George Holmes, Karl Hirst, Sarah Flinders, Timothy Fehr**

**Motion failed 2 to 6**

**Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the rule as presented**

**Seconded by Jay Price**

**In Favor: Jacob Steele, Jay Price, George Holmes, Karl Hirst, Sarah Flinders**

**Opposed: Timothy Fehr, Kristofer Marble, Richard Hansen**

**Motion passed 5 to 3**

Gary Nielson – The Board meeting to discuss these items will be January 6th. I think some of the details that we have hashed out tonight will probably get cleaned up and fixed up before the other presentations. I have seen that happen in the past. The next Central RAC meeting that is officially scheduled is April 8<sup>th</sup> in the Springville Library.

John Bair – If I'm out of line Calvin can tell on me later. This last round of RAC meetings we had one of the RACs not have a quorum, it wasn't this RAC, this RAC is very good to show up but that is a huge problem when one of the RACs shows up and puts the chairman in a situation to not be able to report. Please do everything you can to be at your RAC meetings, it's important. Several of the recommendations that came from this RAC were later incorporated into the Division's proposals and passed. So if you don't show up we can't get your proposals and it won't pass. That should stand as a huge testament to how important this process is. I appreciate you guys listening and it makes a huge difference on the Board knowing how the RAC voted and that you are here to represent your people. Several of the recommendations that came from this RAC were incorporated into the proposal and those things kind of evolve through this process and so as a Board Member thank you very much for your service and for being here because it helps us immensely when we get up to the Wildlife Board. Thank you.

Calvin Crandall – I want to follow up, Calvin Crandall, Board Member. I just want to follow up what John said. We do listen and look at all the proposals from all of the RACs. Like John said a lot of times we will incorporate those. Sometimes we don't. Sometimes we think you know what that is a little far out or it doesn't fit with what is going on so sometimes we don't go that direction. A lot of times we do. We do listen. I read all the minutes from all the RAC meetings and sometimes it's a lot. Sometimes I read real fast and kind of glossy eye over it but I do read and look. I don't always get to attend like you guys have lives too and sometimes you can't make it but like John said it is always good to make a concerted effort to be there. I have sat where you guys are and sometimes I think isn't my aerobics class ready to start, don't I have something better to do? It's important that you be here. It's for the wildlife. It's a chore but it's a good thing and I appreciate what you are doing. Again we do as a Board look at your comments. Sometimes they are good and sometimes I raise an eyebrow and think okay whatever but we do appreciate that. Thank you very much.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**

**45 in attendance**

**Next board meeting January 6<sup>th</sup> at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake**

**Next RAC meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> at Springville Public Library**

**NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal**  
**December 11, 2014**

**5. R657-59 PRIVATE FISH POND RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION to accept this proposal as presented**

Passed unanimously

**6. 2015 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION to accept the plan. They've looked at what they want to accomplish and worked hard to please the public**

Passed 6 - 2

**Reasons: I agree with the plan but I'm concerned about this nonresident fluctuation in the Book Cliffs. I think we need to put something in the proclamation about that.**

DWR: We're willing to change our recommendation on the Book Cliffs to eliminate harvest objective on that unit for the spring season and turn into limited entry 35 tags so it would be a 90/10 split.

**7. WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION**

**MOTION to accept wolf management proposal as presented**

Passed Unanimously

**8. R657-55 CONVENTION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION to approve it as presented**

Passed unanimously

**NORTHEASTERN REGION RAC MEETING SUMMARY**  
**Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Ave, Vernal**  
**December 11, 2014**

**RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joe Batty, Agriculture  
Andrea Merrell  
Randy Dearth, Sportsmen  
Rod Morrison, Sportsmen  
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor  
Wayne McAllister, Chair  
Brett Prevedel, At Large  
Beth Hamann, Non consumptive  
Dan Abeyta, Forest Service  
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture

**NER RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

John Mathis, Public Official  
David Gordon, BLM  
Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe

**UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:**

Kenny Johnson, Administrative Section Chief, SLO  
Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator, SLO  
Kyle Kettle, Predator Mgt Specialist, NERO  
Eric Miller, Law Enforcement, NERO  
Bryan Clyde, Law Enforcement, NERO  
Ron Stewart, Information & Education Mgr, NERO  
Gayle Allred, Office Manager, NERO  
Amy VandeVoort, Wildlife Biologist, NERO  
Clint Sampson, Wildlife Biologist, NERO  
Derrick Ewell, Wildlife Biologist, NERO  
Larry Wheatcraft, Law Enforcement, NERO  
Randall Thacker, Wildlife Biologist, NERO  
Trina Hedrick, Aquatics Manager, NERO

**WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kirk Woodward

**1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Beth Hamann/Dan Abeyta

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Clarification: Motion that failed last time by Dan Abeyta did not include Mt. Nebo. That was made by Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife and went on to Salt Lake.

Beth Hamann/Dan Abeyta

**3. OLD BUSINESS, INTRODUCTIONS - Wayne McAllister RAC Chair**

Of all the items we approved in the NER RAC last time and recommendations last time, the Wildlife Board approved everything but one item. They approved bucks and bulls but regarding the big game preference point recommendation, they did not approve preference points as recommended, left preference points as is. The Board did approve the Wasatch Front hunt boundary and bighorn sheep boundary but that was the only change.

#### **4. REGIONAL UPDATE: Boyde Blackwell**

In the last RAC meeting I explained the *new application available for phones*. Between then and now there have been 10,000 downloads. It's been pretty helpful.

With the new *Trial Hunting License*, there were approximately 700-800 who have done it. The average age is 22-years old, so we are catching some folks who were past the young folks age who didn't take hunter education.

The *Mentor Program* has had about 500 issued. The average age on that is 14-years old.

*Wildlife Section* just finished deer classifications for the year. The deer are looking good. Buck/doe ratios are up. They don't have all data analyzed yet but it's looking good.

Bighorn sheep surveys in Daggett County area have been completed. I will have more information the next time we meet.

Last Monday the Wildlife Section completed a deer collaring project on the South Slope. They collared 60 deer and also collected ultrasound data to try to measure the health of the deer, fat measurements, etc. They'll recapture them in March and see what's happened to them, where they are. The Tribe allowed us to capture some deer on the Tribe lands and we appreciated that.

Wildlife will be going out on a pronghorn capture and will be bringing back up to 100 off Parker Mountain.

*Habitat Section* has projects coming. Starting internal process now to acquire money and meeting with the other sections.

*Aquatic Section* is doing creel survey census work on Starvation, this will be going for awhile. It doesn't have any ice yet so the staff cannot get out on the ice to check fishermen.

*Law Enforcement*: Will be doing saturation patrols this week, checking deer winter range, making sure deer are doing okay and going over their cases.

*Outreach*: There were a lot of pheasants released again this year working with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. A lot of people appreciated the opportunity to get out and hunt. We have also held hunting several clinics.

**5. R657-59 PRIVATE FISH POND RULE AMENDMENTS - Trina Hedrick ACTION**

(See handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

None

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

Ken Strong: This is a great program. It works a little bit more towards the stopping of illegal transplanting of fish by requiring things with triploids, so I recommend you approve this.

Mitch Hacking: The two or three landowners have had quite a bit of problem with blue herons.

Trina Hedrick: I can imagine it could get expensive.

Mitch Hacking: Shane Mayberry lost almost all his fish. It's not something you're seeing?

Trina Hedrick: We don't hear about it from private pond owners, we see a lot of it on our waters in general.

**Comments by RAC:**

None

**MOTION:**

**Dan Abeyta motion to accept this proposal as presented**

**Beth Hamann: second**

**Passed unanimously**

**6. 2015 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS - Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator ACTION**

(see handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Randy Dearth: How many bears did Wildlife Services take in our region?

Randall Thacker: Nine.

Brett Prevedel: On the Any Legal Weapon on bait, is that expected to make a huge change?

Leslie McFarlane: We're hoping it increases.

Randy Dearth: How do the hounds-men get involved with helping with that?

Leslie McFarlane: Currently, on Wildlife Services, they need to respond immediately and we don't mess with that a whole lot, but when we have bears coming into campgrounds, we'll try to notify a hunter if there's a season that's close or active, we try to get others involved. If human safety is an issue we don't go to that.

Randall Thacker: That's also why we'd like to see increased harvest beforehand to reduce those problems. It seems to have helped on Wasatch Avintaquin last year.

Mitch Hacking: How much is related to density, and how much is related to drought?

Randall Thacker: It definitely cycles with drought, but with population growth we've seen, it ties back to density too. If we reduce density, the bears will have more food. Drought years affect them. Last year we had a mild year, this year the timing of the moisture made a difference.

Leslie McFarlane: On the permits and harvest table 2002, you can see that the dark gray bar increased. It was a really big drought year, so there is a correlation.

Mitch Hacking: On spot and stalk went up, where I live, where you had four ponds, there's only one.

Dan Abeyta: What is the purpose of the waiting period after you buy a harvest objective tag?

Leslie McFarlane: So they can't tree an animal and then run in and get a permit.

Randall Thacker: That exists on lions too. That's a very similar situation we've had for years.

Leslie McFarlane: I'm changing it to make it consistent with the lion rule.

Randy Dearth: 60% success rate?

Leslie McFarlane: It's 42-45 statewide, and it does vary by area and region, but the average statewide is 42-45.

Randy Dearth: So take the Book Cliffs, how many permits would you have to get to take your 20 bear quota?

Randall Thacker: We had 24 this last spring, we'd probably need 34 35-ish, if we went strictly limited entry.

Brett Prevedel: On the Any Legal Weapon on bait, is that expected to make a huge change?

Randy Dearth: You talked about the attorney general not liking, they don't want to discourage or stop Wyoming or Colorado sportsmen from buying permits?

Leslie McFarlane: There are some concerns if we start treating groups of people differently nonresident or resident so to say only residents can purchase harvest objective permits and nonresidents have to do some other avenue to get permits, it causes issues. We would like time to evaluate it. I don't want to rush and put something in right now. I'd like time to evaluate it and do it correctly. We need to pull some data and look at it.

Boyde Blackwell: It goes back to the interstate commerce clause. I was on a lawsuit myself 15 years ago where we denied a sportsman from another state an opportunity to get a permit and they sued us and it cost a lot of money. The Attorney General doesn't want to go through that again using especially sportsman dollars. That's why we have a 90/10 split that we can pass the smile test with, but if we have 100 permits and we offer 1, that's not so good either.

Dan Abeyta: What is the target success rate? Average is 45-47 percent.

Leslie McFarlane: We'd like to increase it by 20%, from 270 to 320 but we don't want to go much higher than that.

### **Questions from Public:**

Daniel Davis: In regards to the Book Cliffs, was Law Enforcement consulted during the proposal for the abundance of limited entry permits in this region?

Randall Thacker: We gave them all the proposals before we even went to Salt Lake. We gave them the opportunity to bring up any concerns.

Daniel Davis: So they didn't have a concern about the abundance of people coming in?

Randall Thacker: I've spent a fair amount of time out there the last 7 years, you look at how many people go out there to pursue. I don't see it being much difference.

Dennis Ingram: You've been adding the bear harvest, landowners issued tags Green River. Will that be subtracted from next year's harvest?

Leslie McFarlane: Has nothing to do with sport take at all.

Jessica Erickson: We discussed the fact on limited entry you can control nonresidents and the number of dogs. Spring pursue is open but nonresidents are going to be driving that far if you can kill a bear. Why would you go to harvest objective instead of limited entry?

Randall Thacker: There's a different mentality with harvest objective. They're willing to take possibly a younger bear. It does get a lot of pressure already from people just pursuing. You might put some more tags in people's pockets but I don't see it as a landslide.

Clint Sampson: People are already pursuing there, I don't think there will be many more, just maybe more with kill tags.

Randall Thacker: Spring pursuit's already unlimited.

Randall Thacker: We didn't have any problem in any others in the state. Same number. There's potential for having many of them but by having 4 or 5 units in the region, it does the same thing. The hunters eventually disperse themselves. The first year will be crazy but once they find out that they can't kill a bear behind every tree, they disperse themselves out. They know the first year will be rough, but after that they expect it to be just like lions and be reasonable.

Daniel Davis: Was there any consideration for applicants who have been putting in for over a decade?

Leslie McFarlane: There are a couple things here. When we're trying to manage a population we have to do some things to control the population. Unfortunately, the bonus points go out, but you have to look at that unit overall. There are different units after that first one that you can still apply for a draw.

Daniel Davis: About how many people think, 850 applications for one unit and it goes to harvest objective how many people do you think would show up?

Randall Thacker: The harvest objective can take out some of the younger bears that are getting into trouble, whereas the limited entry hunters will hold out for the biggest, best, oldest bears. Also more opportunity. We're trying to create as much opportunity as possible as we possibly can. If we can bring in people who aren't going to put in for 10 years because they don't have dogs, but can go with friends and spot and stalk, more people will have more opportunity.

We have guys who buy harvest objective tags on Wasatch, 146 who bought tags, and not near that many have hounds. I get a lot of calls from spot and stalk calls and hunters but yet it's creating the opportunity, and they're happy just to go out.

Jessica Erickson: Aren't you worried that if we do have a large influx of people that anti hunters are going to come out of the woodwork turn against hounds men because they don't want hounds coming through their camp?

Leslie McFarlane: Right now there is a big interest on the Wasatch Front. I have been receiving emails from anti-hunter groups. Right now the issues they're citing that they are against are: increasing permits; the one I got today liked the any weapon hunts because they felt it injured less bears and were against archery which is already in place; most centered around not increasing bear permits and summer season because of concerns over small cubs being abandoned or killed.

#### **Comments from Public:**

Letter from Uintah Basin Big Game Houndsmen Association: see handout

David Worwood (letter): Many have a concern over the DWR recommendation to change the bear season as they have presented it to you. As a concerned sportsman and the State Chapter President of a national conservation group I have had many phone calls concerning the date change for the taking of a bear so late in the season. The date to take a bear over bait is being proposed as June. As most of us know by that late in the year the bears have rubbed a good portion of their beautiful winter coat off preparing for summer heat. I have had one person tell me that as the bear progress into summer and change their diet the meat will also not be as palatable as when they first come out of hibernation. I personally cannot attest to this but this was one of his concerns as well. As an archer and gun hunter I have no problem with the combined weapons but the late date is very questionable with all of the contacts I have had with many sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the state. I would ask you to consider this change very carefully before recommending it. I feel no change is better than this change.

I know I am late getting this to some of the RAC members but felt that all should be aware of the concern of many sportsmen and women in the state. Many that have called me had questions about why the change came about and I know it is to remedy a complaint about conflicts with bait, but again I do not feel this is the best solution. There should be a little more thought & work on the subject to preserve the quality bear of hunting that Utah has had in the past for all hunters. Thank you for your time and work you provide for all of us!

Ken Strong (Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife): I am also representing the Utah Houndsmen Association and the United Wildlife Cooperative. We jointly support the DWR's proposals with four exceptions:

1. Set summer season hunt dates to May 23-July 2. We believe this is the best compromise to maximize days in the field for all types of bear hunters. We understand this recommendation creates a two-week overlap of the spring and summer seasons. We see this as a non-issue as we have been hunting the exact same seasons with minimal conflict for several years.
2. Set San Juan & La Sal Fall dates to mirror the rest of the state (Aug 22-Sep 27 & Oct 31-Nov 19). There are only five fall bear permits issued on each of these units. Both of these units are very large and provide ample room for both fall bear hunting and limited entry elk hunting to occur together. We currently hunt limited entry archery elk on both units during the fall bear season with minimal conflicts. We believe that our recommended season dates will further reduce conflict by allowing bear hunters to spread out over more time.
3. Draw Spring and summer season tags from same tag pool. With the new season structure and new baiting regulations, we are concerned that historical numbers of bear hunters hunting over bait versus bear hunters hunting with hounds does not accurately reflect the future demand of bear hunters. Therefore, we recommend drawing both spring and summer tags out of the same tag pool to fairly distribute tags to the various seasons per applicant demands.
4. Make spring harvest objective seasons harvest objective for residents, limited entry for nonresidents. We are concerned that the new spring harvest objective seasons will draw overwhelming interest and participation from nonresident guides, outfitters and hunters. Therefore, we recommend making these spring units harvest objective for residents and limited entry for nonresidents. For example, the Book Cliffs would have a harvest objective of 18 bears for resident hunters, and a limited entry spring season with two permits for nonresident hunters. If this approach is not palatable, we believe a similar implementation to Idaho's approach would work.

Josh Horrocks: Thanks for looking into various possibilities for sportsmen for killing the bears. This year the government killed almost double what they usually do. Also thank regional biologists for looking at hounds men point of view and looking at October season hunt dates.

Daniel Davis (Big Game Houndsmen Association): Thanks to the Division for this plan. They spent a lot of time and consideration for sportsmen. This proposition incorporates all sportsmen not just one individualized method of hunting.

Few concerns:

-Harvest objective in this region, we feel there will be a law enforcement issue if a majority of this region goes to harvest objective. It's a huge concern to have permits they've been putting in for years be a quality hunt. Our recommendations are looking out for opportunities and quality. There were 903 applications for the Book Cliffs alone last year 51 nonresidents. If we open that unit to harvest objective, how many of those applicants have the opportunity to flock to this unit

and overharvest the unit? I understand spring pursuit, hunters are out there anyway, but you will have an increase of hunters, potential illegal baiting, and it's a big concern. The Book Cliffs, San Juan, La Sal and Boulder are hot units. What we're asking the RAC to consider is to keep the units limited entry for the spring season.

- Another concern is with units on Ashley National Forest, issues with season. The unit for the Forest Service doesn't open so you can't harvest while the area is closed. We recommend the spring/summer format be extended. Currently I can use any weapon, bait, hounds. That would allow an equal playing field across the board.

- Also ask that harvest objective should be for residents only. It shouldn't affect commerce.

Dennis Ingram: I support the proposals DWR has made on harvest objective. I think it will disperse. I've hunted Wasatch the last three years and I remember when it was over the counter and I came to the bear meeting in 1988 when they closed it down. If there's too much interest and activity, people go home. We didn't have harvest objective in the 70s and 80s. If hounds men are concerned about illegal baiting, they need to turn people in and help law enforcement. My only concerns:

1. Colorado with Book Cliffs permits. If you can limit that fine, if not, it'll sort itself out.
2. Bait rifle hunting. I would say, if they're bear hunters, they'll have a very high success, if they're not, they won't. That's probably be high. and I'm glad to see that the numbers are low and may have to be lower. I hope the RAC listens to them and gives them a chance. I'd like to see the harvest to the people hounds men and women who feed the dogs ought to be able to hunt.

J.C. Brewer: Everybody in this room is not a bear hunter. I'm a deer hunter, the deer that your bears are eating. The one that's not up to objective. I support the Fish and Game's recommendations whole-heartedly with one exception until my deer herd gets up to objective. It needs to not go from light to moderate hunting but from light to liberal and keep it out there until we get a balance out there. I run trail cameras nine months out of the year. We have a pack of predators out there. I won't argue. Our fawn crop survival rate is not increasing even though we've gone to limited entry. The objective is not high enough on bears.

### **Comments from RAC:**

Brett Prevedel: Randall, the conflict between baiters and dog hunters. Is that a problem?

Randall Thacker: Every year I get complaints. I have bait, you're here, arguing, hounds men running through baits. It is a problem.

Mitch Hacking: I'd like a response on the exceptions Wildlife has presented.

Leslie McFarlane:

To the first exception: This defeats the purpose of what we were trying to do by separating the seasons to see if we could eliminate conflict. The last two weeks is the main part of the hunt. Second: Concern that hound hunters got two weeks more than bait hunters in June. The reason we extended into June was because of access issues with closed gates, so really those two weeks are questionable as to when they really get to go in their area, and the weather.. Second thing I've heard is concern over the hides not being so good later on into June, so quite honestly, if we're not being fair to the two groups, I've thought a lot about this, rather than have two seasons, combine into one season again if this doesn't work, and just have it go back the way it was and have an extended season into June 4 and have one spring season. We tried to give each equal opportunity. I don't know how else to fix that. We can't go into July because that's the breeding season and holidays.

Mitch Hacking: If you can figure out how to please everybody, let me know.

Leslie McFarlane: If it's really upsetting some people and we could go back and combine like it was.

Joe Batty: What if you rotated them from year to year?

Leslie McFarlane: We can't rotate because of fawning in June. The June season issue is about that.

Randall Thacker: The other option is to pool permits and let them choose. Some think if they can use any weapon, it could be 80% success in June.

Leslie McFarlane: In some units you have 35 permits. If 35 permits all chose summer season, it can potentially affect the Forest Service. 35 permits with 2 bait stations could be 70 bait stations. We would like a limited number to gauge that. Land management agencies have had concerns over impacting recreationalists in spring. We're trying to limit the number who are out and use it.

On La Sal and San Juan season dates, that region had a lot of conflicts between limited entry elk hunters and bear hunters. San Juan takes forever to draw out for and hunters were set up and hounds came through and ran them out, so the region addressed that by eliminating the bear hunt so there's no overlap. Also, the Forest Service received a lot of complaints as well as our agency.

On the pooling of tags in the spring season, we do have concerns over unlimited tags in the summer season and what that will do. We want a year to evaluate what that harvest strategy does. If we can have a year, we can evaluate. We don't want to go drastic but provide opportunity.

Lastly, on harvest. objective and limited entry for nonresidents, we would love to address this issue for everyone, but we're going to need to have time to evaluate it so we're not discriminating. We commit to evaluating it in the future and addressing it. but now it's too rushed to go with a recommendation.

Mitch Hacking: I can see if hound hunters if they don't succeed will go into the second season, so it seems like the program you have will be more fair. They're bait hunters and not going to be for this, but hounds men would be for this. This would favor the hounds men but not the bait hunters if you pooled them.

Randall Thacker: If you keep them separate they both have a chance:

Leslie McFarlane: Concern from bait hunter perspective. When we pulled permits out, looked at baiting CORs, tried to keep it the same, but increasing opportunity from archery to any legal weapon adding people to the pool now that weren't there before. Now they can't draw a permit because there's increased interest. We have to have some way to hold it. I understand the issue but that's why they want to pool it so if somebody pools it it's a bigger pool but it creates an issue with us because of the unknowns with harvest. Maybe after we evaluate it we can increase but we need to evaluate it for a year at least.

Dan Abeyta: So what is the rationale for having the harvest objective on these units on the rest, where it states in the bear management plan not to have harvest objective on areas with high use?

Randall Thacker: The Vernal and Yellowstone, the Yellowstone is not dominated by public land because of Tribal land and low elevation. It fits the definition. The Vernal/Diamond has phosphate property so those are units that are limited and have access in the spring. The reason we went with that recommendation on the Nine Mile unit is the south side of the highway is dominated by private property. North Slope/Three Corners have private lands and restrictions. We want to create opportunities and harvest on that unit, yet we still have nuisance problems on that unit. It's a good opportunity to take lesser bears on these areas.

Joe Batty: Question, you've talked about readdressing that after we have a year to evaluate it, is that in the plan?

Leslie McFarlane: No, but we have on the slide the request to have it addressed next year.

Mitch Hacking: So it's not set in stone for next year?

Leslie McFarlane: No. if we have concerns, we want to be able to come back and address it next year.

**MOTION:**

**Joe Batty motion to accept the plan. They've looked at what they want to accomplish and please the public**

**Andrea Merrell: second. All of arguments and information is complete. It makes sense.**

**Mitch Hacking: Where it's a one-year deal, it makes it a little easier to go with too.**

**Wayne McAllister: They've looked at things many, many different ways.**

**Favor: Joe Batty, Brett Prevedel, Beth Hamann, Dan Abeyta, Mitch Hacking, Andrea Merrell**

**Against: Randy Dearth, Rod Morrison**

**Reasons: I agree with the plan but I'm concerned about this nonresident fluctuation in the Book Cliffs. I think we need to put something in the proclamation about that.**

**Passed 6 to 2**

**Leslie McFarlane: We have heard both in this RAC and the Southeastern RAC, the concerns with the nonresidents and the Book Cliffs. I met with this region and we understand the concerns. We're willing to change our recommendation on the Book Cliffs to eliminate harvest objective on that unit for the spring season and turn into limited entry 35 tags so it would be a 90/10 split.**

Randall Thacker: That would give us a year to look into it and the flocking-to issue. This year we had 24 tags in the spring. It would be an increase of 11 tags.

Leslie McFarlane: 6 - 17 permits adjustment.

Brett Prevedel: Would that affect other areas?

Randall Thacker: It could concentrate hunters. The first year could be crazy. It would give the opportunity to over compensate but we're hoping that we can address that next year. After the first year, there shouldn't be a big influx.

Brett Prevedel: If you get too few of them harvested you've defeated the purpose of what you're doing.

Randall Thacker: It worked with Wasatch.

Leslie McFarlane: For the last harvest objective in the Southeastern fall hunt, there was no harvest.

Randy Dearth: How does that affect what we just did?

Wayne McAllister: We already have the vote and the vote passed, so it would be a recommendation to the Wildlife Board:

Mitch Hacking: I make a motion to follow-up on it.

**Randy Dearth: I'd like to make a recommendation that you let the Wildlife Board know about your proposal.**

Leslie McFarlane: We will do that.

## **7. WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION - Leslie McFarlane action**

### **Questions from RAC:**

Rod Morrison: What do we have to do to put out the message we don't want those tracks in our state?

Leslie McFarlane: It's been put out there.

Boyde Blackwell: I think we have the full support of our director.

### **Questions from Public:**

Ken Strong: How can we get wolves delisted?

Leslie McFarlane: We've been working on it but we've been told it's not going to happen real soon. The Service is taking comments on the proposed delisting and they had to do a comment period and received thousands of comments and they have to address all of those comments.

Boyde Blackwell: When a species gets removed from our management we don't have any control until it gets put back in our control. That's why we try to help these species before they hit a list, like sage grouse and the Utah prairie dog.

Kirk Woodward: The Utah prairie dog is the opposite way, off the list and is going to be a big deal.

**Comments from Public:**

None

**Comments from RAC:**

None

**MOTION:**

**Dan Abeyta motion to accept wolf management proposal as presented**

**Beth Hamann: second**

**Mitch Hacking: I don't think we have any alternative.**

**Passed unanimously**

**8. R657-55 CONVENTION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS - Kenny Johnson**

(see handout)

**Questions from RAC:**

Dan Abeyta: So currently what does the contractor retain of that \$5.00?

Kenny Johnson: \$3.01. I negotiate that down a little bit because application costs are increasing. and this is a fair compromise to standardize that.

Dan Abeyta: The extension agreed upon between the Division, the contractor and the Wildlife Board, will that go through a RAC process?

Kenny Johnson: Through the Wildlife Board. We didn't formalize it though.

Randy Dearth: One slide said those holding funds have two years to commit the funds, does that mean it's earmarked?

Kenny Johnson: They have to be specified for a project that's approved and sign off by the Director or expended.

Andrea Merrell: Regarding what's going to happen in 2021. Prior to that the conservation organization meets with the Division and Wildlife Board. Is there any avenue if there's a different conservation organization that would apply? If they can make a deal between conservation organization, the Wildlife Board and the Division, doesn't that eliminate others?

Kenny Johnson: If it's a good thing and it's working and meeting what we're doing, it allows them to get things going, why disrupt it.

Andrea Merrell: Is there any avenue for a conservation organization that wanted to appeal the process?

Kenny Johnson: They could come to the Board.

Dan Abeyta: So right now contractors are getting 60% of that \$5.00? Why the increase?

Kenny Johnson: Their costs aren't fixed, so their cost to run their mission and put on the convention, continue to go up every year. The fees they provided us showed that it was justified.

Randy Dearth: It also encourages them to tow the line and get better.

Mitch Hacking: Seems like the \$5 fee has been there a long time. Has the application fee ever been increased?

Kenny Johnson: The idea is to attract as many people as we can to get them excited about hunting, so they're walking a fine line to not price people out of that opportunity. It's been discussed but right now there's no plans to change that.

Randy Dearth: Last year I attended a Wildlife Board meeting when they discussed this. Many organizations presented it and talked about the tracking. I think that's the right thing to do.

**Questions from Public:**

None

**Comments from Public:**

Grey Wilson letter: (see handout)

Jason Hawkins letter: (see handout)

Ken Strong (SFW): The Expo brought 8 1/2 million dollars into the economy for the state of Utah. The \$5.00 application fee has gone toward growing and releasing pheasants, to get youth involved in hunting and create public interest in hunting. Also mule deer transplants, tiger musky, etc.

Ken Powell (Mule Deer Foundation:): The Western Hunt & Expo is a large event giving hunters an opportunity to get hunting tags. We support DWR's recommendation to modify the Convention Permit Rule.

**Comments from RAC:**

Rod Morrison: I think we need to thank these sportsmen groups who put this show together. You do an excellent job and we appreciate the benefits we get.

**MOTION:**

**Randy Dearth motion to approve it as presented**

**Beth Hamann: Second**

**Passed unanimously**

Boyde Blackwell: Thank you for coming, taking time out of your schedules, especially at this time of year, missing Christmas parties and other meetings. I am real proud of this RAC, the questions you ask and the thought that you put into these things and is second to no other region in the state.

**Randy Dearth motion to adjourn**

**Dan Abeyta: second**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm**

**Southeast Region Advisory Council  
John Wesley Powell Museum  
1765 E. Main  
Green River, Utah  
December 10, 2014**

*Motion Summary*

**Approval of today's Agenda and Minutes for the last two meetings**

**MOTION:** To accept the agenda and minutes of the past two meetings as written  
Passed unanimously

**R-657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments as presented.  
Passed unanimously

**2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (Action)**

**MOTION:** To keep the hunting season strategy status quo and let the division set permit numbers for the existing seasons as set prior to this year with up to a 50% increase.

Passed with a 6 to 4 vote

**MOTION:** To accept the crop damage and bear orientation proposals in the new bear management plan as presented.

Passed unanimously

**Wolf Management Plan Extension (Action)**

**MOTION:** To accept the Wolf Management Plan Extension as presented.  
Passed with a 9 to 1 vote

**R-657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments**

**MOTION:** To adopt R 657 – 55 with the addition that there be a public audit that will be available and transparent to all who request it.

Passed with a 7 to 3 vote

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

**December 10, 2014 6:30 p.m.**

***Members Present***

***Members Absent***

**Kevin Albrecht, Chairman, USFS**

**Seth Allred, At Large**

**Sue Bellagamba, Environmental**

**Blair Eastman, Agriculture**

**Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson**

**Jeff Horrocks, Elected Official**

**Wayne Hoskisson, Environmental**

**Todd Huntington, At Large & Vice Chair**

**Karl Ivory, BLM representative**

**Derris Jones, Sportsmen**

**Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen**

**Christine Micoz, At Large**

**Charlie Tracy, Agriculture**

**Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

**Others Present**

**Dr. Mike King**

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

I appreciate everyone's effort to be here tonight. Just a little bit on the RAC procedure. We will go through each of the informational and action items and if you have comments up front, there is a yellow card. Put your name and the topic you would like to speak on, and give it to a Division employee or Chris right here. When it comes to comments, we will call your name and have you speak in the microphone here in the front. A Division employee will be at the other microphone and they will do the best to answer your questions.

2) **Approval of this evening's agenda and the minutes from the past two meetings (Action)**

**-Kevin Albrecht, Chairman**

Karl Ivory – After looking at the agenda and reviewing the minutes I would make a motion to accept the minutes as presented for the meeting last time and also the approval of the agenda.

Derris Jones – We need to amend that motion to include the last two meeting, since we did not have a quorum to approve them.

Karl Ivory – I would like to amend that motion to approve the minutes from the last two meetings and also for the agenda for this meeting.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay. So just to repeat that, we have a motion by Karl Ivory to approve the minutes of the last two meetings and also the agenda and that is seconded by Derris Jones.

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous

**VOTING**

**Motion was made by Karl Ivory to approve this meeting's agenda and the minutes of the last two months as printed.**

**Seconded by Derris Jones**

**Motion passed unanimously**

3) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update**

**-by Kevin Albrecht, Chairman**

The Board meeting was on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> and the Director give an update and he gave a lot of information that I would like to share with you. On the Colorado River, the bony-tail chub and the Razor Back Sucker that are endangered species that have gone from very few fish to hundreds of fish. In March there is going to be an Aquatic Seminar for not only the Wildlife Board Members but also for RAC members. We will look for more information as it comes closer. With the Utah Prairie Dog, there was a decision made that put prairie dogs on private land back in the hands of the state to manage. That is a really big decision. It sounds like this is the first time something like that has been done. The Director said that the state wants to work really hard to show the Fish and Wildlife Service that they can manage them. The Director has committed the state to work to manage those on private lands. There are also bighorn sheep transplants all over the state from Nevada and Zion's. There have been close to 150 sheep transplanted. There is going to be a pronghorn transplant on the Parker on December 16<sup>th</sup>. All are invited that would like to come to that. There was an update on wolves. There has been a collared wolf on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. It was a collared female and it has been of much

interest because they did a DNA test on fecal material and it is a Northern Wolf. They have been in touch with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and they haven't done anything with it yet. They also said that there is one in northern Utah and they also have a photo of one that they have tried to find near Cedar City. There was talk about the pheasant hunt and the goose and duck hunts. But I will leave it at that. I would also like to mention that one of the biggest things from our last meeting was the discussion on the preference points and how to do that. I mentioned to the Wildlife Board that of any topics that was probably one that we had quite a bit of discussion on. The Board decided to stay the same as we are right now. They asked the Division to take all of the comments that came through the RAC process and if they wanted to make a change and need to consider, they can bring the issue back. Now that the Mule Deer Plan is in place there might be some things that they want to take out of that. The moose on the Manti and in Sanpete Co. would be included in the Wasatch unit hunt. There will also be a split season on the sheep for the Nine Mile-Range Creek unit. The season dates will be split into two seasons with an overlap in the middle.

Kevin Albrecht-With that, are there any questions? We will then go into the Regional Update.

#### 4) **Regional Update**

##### **-Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

I had hoped to show the new App that I had mentioned to you last time, I brought all of these cords to hook cell phone up with the projector so I could show you exactly how the App works. For some reason the projector wouldn't read my phone. So, maybe next time I can do it. Like I have mentioned last time, we have a new App and it is free and you can download it on I-tunes or whatever Android user's use. It has all kinds of information. You can download your license to your phone. If you're out fishing and a CO ask to see your license, you can pull out your phone and all of the information is there. There is specific identification information and information that links you to our mobile website. You can look at WMA's and walk in access areas along with regulations. There is just a bunch of information available on the App. I encourage you to download it and give it a try.

Just this last week end we were involved in the Helper Light Parade. That is a big event in Carbon County. We had a float you can see in the picture. We are in our shop preparing the float. We had an Aquatics Section themed float. The Law Enforcement section took the lead on that. It was a fun event and it represented the Division and got us involved in our community. Kevin mentioned a meeting coming up in March for all RAC and Board Members. That is March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Central Regional office Conference Room in Springville. The idea is to teach the Board members and RAC members about aquatics issues including hatcheries and how they work and fishing regulations and everything you might need to know in order to be a knowledgeable RAC and Board members to help make decisions and vote on things.

Things got cold and then things warmed up. I believe that there is still ice on Scofield and ice fishing is still happening. Hopefully it continues to get a little colder up there and the ice continues to be good for the tournament on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December. Brent and Walt have been busy in the Outreach effort. We had a Bighorn Sheep Watch here in Green River on Saturday. It is an annual event that we have had for years and years. We had a big turnout. We had people from all over the state including the Wasatch Front along with our local viewers. This year the sheep weren't cooperating quite as much as they have in the past. I think the next year we might do it a week early. They did see sheep but they were pretty far away and you needed a scope to see them. Usually we are closer to them and picture taking is much better. It was still a successful event and 90 people came and they all got to learn about bighorn sheep and sheep management. This Saturday, Walt is teaming up with Blanding and having a 3-Gun Shoot in Blanding. On Dec. 20 our Sensitive Species biologist Tony Wright will team up with Brent and the Moab Bird Club to do a Christmas Bird count in the Moab area.

The Habitat Section is wrapping up a lot of their habitat projects. The habitat section does some amazing work. They restore watersheds and habitats, also restore and repair lower and higher elevation ranges for summer and winter and everything in between. This is to benefit species that we hunt and those we don't. They benefit dozens of species. Nicole Nielson, our habitat biologist is here tonight. She is on the agenda and I believe she is the last one. She is going to give a 10 minute presentation to recap some of the projects that are happening in this region.

Our Law Enforcement Section of course are actively pursuing leads and checking hunters. Specifically this month they are doing what they call a saturation patrol so there'll be several times this month where they'll team up together and go out on the winner ranges together and look for violators and poachers and let the public know that their presence is year-round and they are protecting the wildlife resources that we value so much.

Our wildlife section is busy as well. They are doing deer classifications. They are continuing to collar deer on the San Juan and the Manti as part of the survival study that has been ongoing for several years. They will continue to collar some more deer this year. Kevin mentioned that we have a pronghorn capture and I sent an email out to all of the RAC members inviting you to participate in this event. I do realize this is on a workday and most of you have jobs and it's hard for you to get away and participate, but if you're interested let me know. I need to know sooner rather than later so we can accommodate you and buy enough food for you. We would love to have you. It is next week on Monday night we will meet in Torrey and have a safety meeting. Then Tuesday, we will start with the capture and trap. This is a great opportunity to get hands-on experience with antelope. I believe we are capturing 350 pronghorn and I can't remember if 50 or 100 will go to Hatch Point.

Kevin Albrecht – Chris, is it the 16<sup>th</sup> and the 17<sup>th</sup>?

Chris Wood – You need to be there on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> to be debriefed and we are going to be working on the 17<sup>th</sup> all day and I think a lot of our VIP guests which would include all of you would go home that evening on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Chris Wood – We are going to continue to do some more bighorn sheep captures for our telemetry study. It looks like we're going to be starting our elk flights in January, looking at our South Book Cliffs unit. And then as deer become problematic in communities and

urban areas, we will continue to transplant deer from those areas to units in our region.  
And with that I will take any questions?  
Kevin Albrecht – is there any questions from the RAC?

### **Comments from the Public**

(No Comments)

### **RAC Discussion**

#### **Recognition of Jeff Horrocks who is retiring from the RAC.**

##### **-Kevin Albrecht and Chris Wood**

Chris Wood – I just have one more thing, Commissioner Horrocks has been a great RAC member for a lot of years. He is no longer Commissioner he will finish out the rest of this month and then some new commissioners will be coming in, but we would like to thank Jeff for his work on the RAC as our elected representative. He has done a great job and we appreciate his diligence and his hard work, representing his constituents. I have a print for you. Thank you for your service I understand that you like elk and I hope you can find a place on your wall for this.

Kevin Albrecht – I would also like to thank Commissioner Horrocks for his time. Many times as an elected official there are a lot of things on your plate and I appreciate Jeff's efforts in working with wildlife and understanding the issues from the community and many times he has represented the public very well and I thank you for that service.

#### **5) R-657-59 Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments (Action)**

##### **-Justin Hart, Regional Aquatics Program Manager**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Wayne Hoskisson – I have one question, it's just a technical question. What puzzles me is I cannot follow the way that it is written. It's just really hard to follow. We have G down here H up there. It just seems to bounce around and I cannot follow it easily.

Justin Hart – I'm sorry I don't understand. Are you talking about the rule?

Wayne Hoskisson – I guess if I look real hard I could get it. Never mind it is just weird is just hard to follow. That is all.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any more questions from the RAC?

### **Questions and Comments from the Public**

Kevin Albrecht – no questions and no comments from a public.

Kevin Albrecht – is there any comment from the RAC?

### **RAC Discussion**

Jeff Horrocks – I would like to make a motion to approve R 657–59 on the Private Fish Pond Rule amendment.

Kevin Albrecht – “We have a motion by Jeff Horrocks to accept Rule 657– 59 as presented by the Division. Do we have a second?

Chris Micoz-I second that.

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Chris Micoz. All in favor?

Kevin Albrecht – Unanimous

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Jeff Horrocks to accept the Private Fish Pond Rule Amendment as presented.**

**Seconded by Chris Micoz**

**Motion passed unanimously**

### **6) 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments. (Action) -Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

#### **Questions from the RAC**

Todd Huntington – I was just wondering if there is anything that we can learn from the bears on how we manage them. They have increased quite rapidly. Is there anything that we can learn from that and apply it to deer so that we can grow deer as fast as we can grow bears?

Darrel Mecham –My concern is looking at the San Juan and La Sals as a draw, and you have the Book Cliffs as harvest objective, I worry about the hunting pressure on the Book Cliffs. Have you got any idea of the pressure that you’re going to have from out-of-state guides? How many people are going to be on the Book Cliffs and the conflict that you’re going to have? It is going to be tremendous.

Leslie McFarlane – Yes, we are concerned about that. I will have to have Guy help me on this. Did you guys see a lot of conflict on the Book Cliffs under the cougar harvest objective?

Guy Wallace – I will have Brad answer that.

Brad Crompton – I do not know.

Darrel Mecham – That’s comparing apples to oranges. You don’t have the access you have or the number of people that you’re going to have on this bear thing. I think you’re going to have a public relations nightmare. It’s going to bite you on this one I don’t see any way out and you are creating a bad sinkhole here. I’m not saying you don’t need to take more bears. I just see this is a bad way of doing it.

Leslie McFarlane – One thing that has come up in all of the other RAC meetings was the concern over the harvest objective. There is a request by the sportsman’s group for us to change that. We are going to need some time in order to put something together. So it’s

not going to work as we had recommended. Because of the request on the proposal that you will hear about in a little bit, it does create some issues for us when we start treating nonresidents differently than residents. We do have some past history with being sued over that.

Darrel Mecham – From a law enforcement standpoint, I don't think you can.

Leslie McFarlane – You're right, and so if harvest objective is really going to cause that problem we would like a year to evaluate a way to implement that, and rather than tackle the issue this year, we would be willing to make it limited entry and double the number of permits and split 90/10, so that we can try and get the harvest that we need there. I mean harvest objective on the Nine Mile. It will cause issues because you have a lot of private property there.

Darrel Mecham-Access is restricted and it's a whole different ball game over there.

Leslie McFarlane – It may work on the Nine Mile, but we need time to evaluate a strategy for the Book Cliffs.

Guy Wallace – Having the Nine Mile go harvest objective may take some of that pressure off.

Darrel Mecham-There's just not the access over there.

Leslie McFarlane –There is a concern over there about limited entry and access. So we would rather keep that one harvest objective, but if the Book Cliffs is going to be that way, then we would rather turn it back to limited entry and double the permits.

Darrel Mecham-And then you will nullify the points of the people who have put in for 10 years.

Leslie McFarlane – We do recognize that, but we have to do something with the bear population. It is a management issue more than concern over how many years persons have put in for the draw.

Darrel Mecham-You're going to take a hit.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other questions from the RAC?

Derris Jones – Following up on Darrell's comments and your concern about the population on the Book Cliffs, how many bears were relocated to the Book Cliffs last year?

Brad Crompton – Did we move any to the south of the Book Cliffs?

Guy Wallace – We moved one.

Brad Crompton – Okay so we moved three total this year. In most years it is a bit more than that, but this year it was three. Most bears died this year. Very few of them were moved.

Wayne Hoskisson – You know I always have concerns about these population estimates. I think it is a pretty rough estimate. I don't doubt that there is a good healthy population of bears, but I would not agree with how great that growth is. So I am really not worried about their hunting per se, but in the Book Cliffs right now, I think we're also seeing a different kind of problem. There is a whole lot of activity going on right now up there, especially when you get up into the Roan Cliffs and beyond, where there is a lot of oil and gas wells we are seeing along the border of Grand County and will see even more with the extension to the roadless area. Part of the problem with the bears is not just bears but it is people. I really don't know how you would solve that, but I'm not sure that killing more bears is going to be the way to go.

Leslie McFarlane – I understand your concern over the estimates. We use the way it's

been done for over half a century, so we feel pretty confident about our age data. Every bear has to be turned in and it could be as high as 6,000 and what we are saying is a minimum of 4,100. The other thing that I did not mention when I talked about the status of bears in Utah is that each one of our regional offices has female bears that are radio collared. Every year we go into those dens, and we look at the number of cubs that they have over a five-year period, that is within our management plan. If over a five-year period, in two of those five years they have yearling cubs present, that is considered population growth and recruitment and that did occur this last five-year period. We did see that increase.

Wayne Hoskisson – Maybe I would agree that is a good way. It would be better if there were some way of being more precise about those populations and where they are.

Leslie McFarlane – It is hard with the predators.

Wayne Hoskisson – But still, it is hard to believe that the bear population is in good shape. Using hunting to control the population is something that I am not really going to vote in favor of. And the other thing I object to is bait hunting and pursuit hunting and pursuit with killing. I think those are unethical. , We would probably be fining people and putting people in prison if they were to hunt deer or elk like that and I am not going to vote for this.

Kevin Albrecht – Just a reminder, we are in the question part of this.

Chris Micoz-Leslie, the online orientation course, is it online or do they have to go to one of the region offices?

Leslie McFarlane – It is online and it's connected with their customer ID so it's a complete orientation course that will allow them to go ahead and apply or purchase a permit.

Trisha Hedin-Just to verify, if you put into the plan into place this year, you originally said three years, but then when are you going to evaluate that?

Leslie McFarlane – We wanted to put a safety valve in there, because we are not sure about the summer limited entry season success, so we didn't want to say three years and be locked into it. We want a safety valve.

Charlie Tracy – I'm glad to see the depredation program for some of these guys around here for their crops. That's good. My question is on commercial crops? Do you have a limit or do they have to produce so much in terms of dollars?

Leslie McFarlane – It was mostly written for the melon situation down here, but when we write this, it actually goes statewide. The way we define it is a commercial crop that is for profit. We didn't want to get sucked into trying to compensate for backyard beehives or small orchards.

Charlie Tracy – Okay, thank you.

Wayne Hoskisson – I have one more question for you. With the bait, do you have any requirements to what happens to that bait station once a hunter is done?

Leslie McFarlane – Within 72 hours, it has to be completely cleaned up. They can't just leave it.

Wayne Hoskisson – I thought the Forest Service required a permit to establish a base station on a national forest?

Leslie McFarlane – Hunters do get permission from the land management agency that permits them the use of baiting stations.

Kevin Albrecht – They do have to get approval through the land management agency.

We do have a location where bait station may occur and if it's not cleaned up, then we know who to work with to get it cleaned up.

Darrel Mecham-Leslie, you said something about that if you don't do harvest objective on Book Cliffs, you would do a limited entry. You're going kind of fast. Did you double the numbers when you said that?

Leslie McFarlane – When we put a quota out there, that's the number of permits we want for the number bears we want to have removed. If you consider that 47% are successful, or about half of the permits are successful, you'd have to double the quota in order to get that many killed.

Darrel Mecham-How many conflict bears were removed from the Book Cliffs?

Leslie McFarlane – I've got that just a sec. I have three.

Darrel Mecham- Just three?

Brad Crompton-All within a 3 mile range, which is right here in town.

Darrel Mecham-Okay, so there wasn't any conflict of livestock on the mountain.

Brad Crompton – Not that I'm aware of.

Leslie McFarlane – The Northeastern Region had seven.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other questions from the RAC?

Derris Jones – The population increase is not consistent statewide. Some units are increasing faster than other units, and other units are stable, and some may be decreasing. Right?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes, so if you look at this, some units didn't have a lot of conflict and we didn't see a lot of problems. On the units where we have had a lot of livestock conflicts, we use the rule to adjust those permits so we can try and use sportsmen.

Derris Jones – When you're estimating the population increase based on the denning and harvest, was that statewide?

Leslie McFarlane – It was statewide.

Derris Jones – So it's consistent everywhere then?

Leslie McFarlane – That is correct.

Derris Jones – Each unit has increased that amount?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes.

Derris Jones – Okay.

Leslie McFarlane – That is a statewide estimate and not by unit.

Derris Jones – Is that an average over the state?

Leslie McFarlane –That was actually taken from tooth data, and using that to estimate the population and age increases from year-to-year. It looks like a 5 to 6% increase every year, so when you look at harvest, we took 330 bears this past year. That is not even close to what we are increasing every year.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other questions from the RAC?

### **Questions from the Public**

Kevin Albrecht – If there are any comments please hand in a comment card. We will go to two questions from the public. Please come up to the microphone and state your name.

Guy Webster of the Utah houndsmen – How many conflict calls have you had last year concerning the Book Cliffs? And how many of those were actually called in or how many are the result of your telephone survey? You say you get a lot of conflict calls about

houndsmen? What are the numbers? You say it's a lot. What is a lot?

Leslie McFarlane – We are actually going back through all of the harvest surveys and we're going to pull all of those comments to get a number, because the question has come up in several of the RAC meetings. Everybody wants to know numbers. I know the Northeastern Region has specifically asked about the North Slope and South Slope. They have more conflicts there than anywhere else. It may not be specifically the Book Cliffs. Are you speaking about the different hunt types or something else?

Guy Webster – Are your calls about bait vs. hounds?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes.

Guy Webster – But you don't have a number?

Leslie McFarlane – We can work on getting you a number, but I do not have one here.

Guy Webster – Can you please bring back your slide about summer pursuit on the La Sal's and the San Juan? Can you tell us how many permits were issued on those units the last several years? You said it was pretty much the same. Can you say what the differences were?

Leslie McFarlane – Guy, wasn't at the same at what it was last year?

Guy Wallace – Is that the number of pursuit permits?

Guy Webster – Lets' just take the summer pursuit permits on the La Sal's for instance.

Guy Wallace – It was 13 for the early-season and eight for the late-season.

Guy Webster – Does your bear management plan allow you to go more than 50%? Or does it state in the management plan the maximum is a 50% increase?

Leslie McFarlane – What the management plan says is that we can increase up to 40%, so we have two things that we can use if we have a population increase through the bear denning, we can increase it by 20%. Then on top of that, we can increase and adjust based on where the harvest for the previous year falls. So we can increase up to 40%. If your harvest success is 47% we have to double that number to get that many bears harvested to meet the quota.

Guy Wallace – Just to correct myself, that is 13 early and five late-season.

Kevin Albrecht – We will take additional questions from the audience.

Kevin Albrecht – Okay, seeing none, let's move to comments from the audience.

### **Comments from the Public**

Ben Lowder of Utah Bowman's Association – I handed out a copy of our recommendations to all of you earlier before the meeting started, so you should have a copy of them(see attachment). Last week I met with three different organizations other than my own. They included Sportsman's for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsmen, and the United Wildlife Cooperative. We met to discuss the DWR's proposed changes concerning bear hunting. As we went through the Division's recommendations, we discussed the things we liked and we came up with joint recommendations concerning the things we didn't like. We support the Division's recommendations with four exceptions. I will go through these individually and discuss them individually. The first exception is dealing with the summer baiting season. We are concerned that the amount of time for that season is not going to be enough time to successfully bait bears properly. Baiting is very time intensive and so we are recommending an additional two weeks on the front of that season from May 23 through July 2. We recognize that would create a two-week overlap between the hound season and the bait-season. We do believe that is

acceptable and that the conflicts would be minimal in those two weeks. Our second exception is concerning the San Juan and the La Sal fall dates. Those dates are different and are recommended different than the rest of the fall season dates throughout the state. Those units are very large and there are minimal permits. Each of them only have five bear permits on them and we believe there is ample room for both the fall bear hunting and the limited entry elk hunting season to occur at the same time. I can speak to this personally little bit. The San Juan is a premium elk hunting unit and it is also a premium bear unit. Among my membership there are elk hunters and bear hunters, and I cannot tell one of them that their hunt is more important than the other. I don't believe that we should be giving preference to one hunt over another. As such we are recommending that those season dates mirror the rest of the fall season dates. As I've mentioned, I can speak to them personally. I have spent 30 days on the San Juan during archery elk hunt during the last two years. Last year I had the privilege of having a permit and this year I was helping a friend who had the same permit. In those 30 days, I saw hounds twice and never had any conflict or issues. Nothing but positive experiences. So we believe that those conflicts are minimal. Our third exception is concerning how the tags are allocated between the spring and the summer season. We are concerned with the new season structure that's recommended as well as the addition of being able to hunt over bait with any legal weapon. We would like to see the tag pools combined into one pool and have both seasons drawn out from the same pool. Really this is simply what we are already doing for those that may not be familiar. Currently on the spring hunt, there is an any weapon tag and an archery tag. In order to bait, you must have an archery tag. They both are drawn out of the same tag pool and when you put in, you simply select any legal weapon or archery, so really this is just an extension of that idea. Our final exception is concerning the spring harvest objective units. I failed to see who had that concern earlier, but there was a member from the RAC earlier, and appreciate your bringing that up, concerning the demand and influx we are going to see from nonresidents on those units. I believe that concern is valid. All we have to do is look back at the San Juan and the La Sal summer pursuit season. They are restricted pursuit seasons. And the reason those are restricted is because in the past we had a history of an overwhelming influx of nonresident houndsmen coming on those units during the summer for pursuit. We are concerned about that. As such we have two recommendations to address that. Our first recommendation would be to leave the spring harvest objective seasons for residents and to make them a limited entry hunt for nonresidents. I understand the Division has a concern legally. We struggle with that a little bit if we look at Wyoming and Alaska. They have laws concerning hunting wilderness in certain species that apply to nonresidents and residents. I will wrap up real quick. The other ultimate solution is if we look at our neighbors to the north. Idaho does address this exact situation in their state. The second page of the copy that I handed out to you is a copy of Idaho's hound hunting regulation. They require a hound permit in addition to the bear permit. They are unlimited to residents and they are limited and by application for nonresidents. Thank you very much.

Gomick Hall from the Utah Farm Bureau – We are supporting the recommendations and are excited to see the number of tags increase because we are seeing increased conflicts with bears around the state. More specifically, here in Green River with the melons. The Division shot 13 bears here in Green River to just trying to keep them out of the melon

patches. This is an ongoing problem that we have had for years and years. The Division did a great job for us this year they have spent a lot of time and a lot of effort to do what they did, but we do think there is a simpler way of doing that, and that is to just let the guys that are already pull the trigger and take care the bear, when they see it rather than to have to call around and try and round up somebody to come out there and hope that they can get there before the bear wanders off. We are happy with the help that the Division has given us and we are excited to be given this new approach to try and stop the depredation problem here in Green River with the melons. When they first called me and said they were having problems with the melons, and they said \$20,000-\$25,000 worth of melons lost in a summer, I told them that they were crazy because there is no way that a bear can eat that many melons. Then I went and walked out there through the fields and they are not lying to you. Those bears will come in and they will rip the top off the melon, eat the heart out, and then go to the next one right down the row, acre after acre of melons lost. We hope that this new approach will help solve that problem. We are in support of this. Thank you.

Kevin Albrecht – Just a reminder, if you have comments, please fill out a comment card and hand them to Chris. Frank Darcey, you are next.

Frank Darcey – I am from Moab and I would like to address the La Sal region. The bear population has been under-stated for years. The population is very healthy and obviously is growing by the amount of conflict that is going on now. My concern with the bears are with deer. The deer herds are undeniably diminishing. Bucks, does and everything is going down. The DWR did a survey in 78 where they radio-collared bears on the fawning ground. Bears are quite clever and their survey found that bears found the fawns and slurped up 80% of the deer fawns in the first month with the bulk of the mortality being within the first week. With an increase in bear population, it is obvious that the deer are going to take it on the chin every spring. We really support the increase in tags. If there is any way that the La Sal unit can go to management objective, that would be fully supported as well. Thank you.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other comments or questions?

Guy Webster – I don't know if everybody has got this. If not, everybody needs to update their email. I got my first hound in 1983. I founded the Utah houndsmen Association in 1992 and I have been very involved with hounds, bear hunting, and lion hunting for obviously a lot of years. I have lived in Green River and hunted bears here for close to 25 years here on the Book Cliffs and not missed a year. I think I have a pretty good feel for what the bear population is and what has gone on with the ups and downs. First of all, the biggest concern we have here is going to harvest objective. For instance, last year there were 903 applicants that put in for bear tags on the Book Cliffs alone. If a mere 10% went to the Book cliffs, there would be 90 there.. Could you imagine what 90 can be? We talked about conflicts. That is 10%. Let's say there are 50%. We have a 48 hour check in. With a harvest objective of 20, you can easily see going over by 10, 15 or even 20 bears. In the last four years the harvest success rate has been 59%. It's not 47% that we are talking about. This proposal that we are asking for is that we go back to limited entry and we do agree that there is an increase in bears and there does need to be some bears killed. For instance, if we went back to a 35% increase in tags, it would go up to 32 tags times that by the 59% and you have 19 bears. Also, as far as the hound season, the hounds would be off the mountain on June 5 and then it would go to bait only until July 2 and the

success ratio is undoubtedly going to go up to 59% and will easily going to achieve the 20 bears that they are looking for. It will minus the conflicts and the big guys will still have their time and they can still spot and stalk from April and that gives them more opportunities on the mountain. This can reduce the conflicts if they have a problem with hounds running off their bait, and that way they will still have entire month to bait by themselves when there won't be a hound on the mountain. The local bear problem here in Green River is a problem and it has been a problem but it is not the Book Cliffs bears that are coming off the mountain and coming into town that's the problem. I happen to not run hounds for the last four years out in the roadless area. There hasn't been a hound turned loose from probably Nash Wash west towards Green River during the last four years. If there was, it would either be mine, my son Cody, or Darrell Mecham. That has been taken away from us. Yes, this has been a problem. Two different times I have tried to take care of problem bears in town and ended up with dead dogs both times because of poison in town. I am not going to do it anymore. It does need to be addressed on a local level, but we don't need to say it's because we have too many bears on the Book Cliffs. It is a local bear population problem. I just asked for you to take a look at this for the future of hounds. We are not in any disagreement that there are more bears but let's do this in a sensible fashion. The bear management plan says they cannot double tags. They can go to a maximum of 50%. That is right out of the bear management plan. That is on page 29, if you want to refer to that. The Book Cliffs hasn't got not much private ground. The bear management plan says that quota should not be used on units that are mostly public ground because of the risk of overshooting. The Book Cliffs and the South Slope and the Yellowstone do not fit the criteria and we just ask to remove those from the harvest objective. We can still take the bears that need to be taken, but we need to do it in a reasonable fashion and we can allow those guys that put in, anywhere from 11 to 13 years to retain their bonus or preference points and be able to get a fall hunt opportunity and not just an absolute crazed run on it. And another point, you cannot compare bears with lions. Another point, if you're just trying to single out a couple of units you're going to put all of the pressure there. Regarding the 903 applicants for the Book Cliffs, we could have 900 people on the Book Cliffs.

Kevin Albrecht – I have a question for you, Guy. I think you gave a motion there but a lot of that was pretty fast. Let's just give you a chance to restate that motion of what that percent is, based on harvest.

Guy Webster – I will just go through this real quick. The Book Cliffs spring hunt would be April 4 through July 2 with hounds only from April 4 to June 5 and that falls within the guidelines of the DWR recommendations right now. Baiting is allowed June 6 to July 2 and the hounds would be off the mountain, so you don't have any problem with that. Combine the two tags together. You draw a spring tag and you can hunt any method even both methods or whatever you choose to do. That takes away the problems with nonresidents with your legalities of a certain percentage because they are going to be 10% of the pool, which, for instance, the Book Cliffs would go to 29 tags, and that is a 30% increase from the 22 last year, which is actually rounding up the numbers 30%. It does fall right between the 20 and 40% of what their liberal harvest data is. Nonresidents would go up from 2 to 3 times that by the success rate on the Book Cliffs out of their most recent documentation which was for 59% in the last four years. That comes out to 18.88 bears, so you can say 19 bears with the extended season. I have no doubt that the

success is going to climb from 59% to 77%. Is there any other questions? Did that help clear things up?

Leslie McFarlane – I just want to clarify really quick for Guy, a quota is not set based on the 20, 40 or whatever percent, the recommendation is set on the number of bears that the regional biologists feel need to be harvested. So when I said double the number of permits in the region, they felt that they needed that many bears harvested. And that is in order to address the issue. So when I say double the number of permits, it is in order to try and meet what they need harvested. That does not apply on quotas.

Kevin Albrecht –Are there any other comments from the audience? If there is any other comment, please bring your comment card up.

Matt McCune-I am from Moab and I'm not representing anyone other than myself. I would like to tell you guys my experience over the last year of archery hunting for deer. I had 10 good days on the mountain and six of those days I ran into bears. I ran into them hiking. I had bears come in. I also saw them driving home. I never had a negative conflict with the bear but at some point it is going to happen. I am not the only person who has had this experience on the La Sal Mountains. My other comment is the deer herd is stressed on that unit. Bears play a direct role and are part of the problem. They may not be the entire problem, but they are definitely a problem. They are affecting the deer population. The bear population is raising 4 to 6% according to your data. Is that correct? 5 to 6? What is happening to the deer population on that unit? What is the number? Where is it going? We will just keep that as a rhetorical question. I would definitely like to stand up here and say you need more bears taken off that mountain. You need to have it happen soon. You need to put a dent in that population to help preserve the deer resource. You guys are mandated to protect the deer based on your own slide from the bear population. You guys need to step up and do it. And do it sooner than later. Thank you.

Kevin Albrecht – Thank you Matt. Cody you are next

Cody Webster – I am representing myself. I would just like to say that I support what the Houndsmen Association has put forth in conjunction with the other wildlife groups. I would also like to encourage the Division to involve the sportsman a little bit more, when they say they don't know what it's going on and how to play it out. The baiting with any legal weapon, for example, you want to know how the any legal weapon will change it. It won't. I spent four summers in Canada and we killed over a 140 bears off of bait. Any legal weapon doesn't make difference.

Kevin Albrecht – Thank you Cody, are there any other comments from the audience? Seeing none we will go into comments from the RAC.

### **RAC Discussion**

Tricia Hedin-I will agree with the number of individuals in the crowd stating that we should remove the Book Cliffs from harvest objective. I am also extremely concerned about our deer population and we haven't had a study on fawn mortality regarding predators in a while and maybe it is something that we really need to look at. I just can't see that there is not being a correlation between the two. And I will also agree with Matt. I also archery hunted quite a bit this fall and I actually was seeing an average of 4 to 5

bears a day. I was on the north part of the unit and they say the bear population is slightly heavier there. My concern is not so much having a direct conflict but being able to get a harvested animal out, if I ever kill something with a bow. Someday it will happen, but I won't be able to get that out without a conflict at that junction. I do think it is something that we really do need to look at. My only other comment is backing up the archery season even more to August 10. I think if you just allowed archers to be spotting and stalking, you would raise the harvest by quite a bit. That is all I have.

Kevin Albrecht – I have a couple of comments. First off I would like to thank the Division because I think a lot of what comes out of the proposal is based on a lot of comments that have come throughout the state but a lot of them have come through our RAC. A lot of our audience today has talked about the increase in bears. I think that the Division has heard that and I think the proposal is showing that, and especially in an increase, which is what they've heard from sportsmen and RACs. I have heard a lot of conflicts with bait stations and hounds because of my employment. I think the Division approach to separate those dates because of those conflicts is a step in the right direction. And I think that the sportsmen's proposal from the Bowmen's Association and the S F W and moving those dates together or overlapping those dates muddies the whole purpose of splitting those two out. I do think the Division has put a lot of time into trying to separate those two conflicts. The other comment I have is one of the biggest reasons that the season dates were changed on the La Sal Mountain and on the Elkridge. It's because of comments that came through our RAC.

Darrel Mechem-It is kind of odd that I am mirroring a lot of what you're saying. Mitigation of crop damage needed to happen a long time ago. The melon problem has been going on since 1980. The roadless portion is stacked with bears. You have your resident bears that hang out there and since they don't allow hounds in there, there is a lot of bears, and they are taken by spot and stalk, but I do not know why we are not doing baiting there and letting the bowmen in there. The only glaring thing I see is if you do a quota in the Book Cliffs, and I agree we do need to take more bears, I am not against that, but I do not think that you have heard a fraction of the complaints and problems that you're going to have if you allow hundreds of hunters in. The last year before they closed the Book Cliffs unit, I was in Cottonwood and there was probably 30 to 40 camps in those two drainages with people bear hunting. Hunters were running all over on their four wheelers blocking canyons. The Division does not have enough people to deal with the problems, and I am talking to the law enforcement side. TJ Robertson had better move soon! I really don't like doubling the numbers.

Todd Huntington – Now I am worried if he doesn't know where to go from here. That makes me worried. I tend to pay a lot of attention to what Darrell has to say especially in these predator meetings. So that makes me a little worried. I was feeling pretty good about things but if he doesn't know where to go here, it just worries me. I do get what you are saying about the harvest objective thing so the doubling thing sounded okay to me, but if you're not sure about that, it makes me wonder.

Charlie Tracy – We had this problem back in San Juan County with deer hunters not knowing where to go, because of CWMUs or private property. The front of the Blue Mountains were just swamped. And there was constant conflict there. This year, I heard of several really bad ones that we had. I don't know if the cops were ever called on any of them. I do know if they were threatened to be called. I do think there is a legitimate

problem. On the spring hunt in my area we didn't have one houndsman hunt down there. And we would see bears every day just gathering our cows in the spring. There are bears everywhere. They would be three or four bears in each drainage in Montezuma Canyon. I would call people and have them come down because there are bears everywhere and people would say "It was too hot down there." I think they wanted to go up on the mountain. And that was just an experience that I actually had. I tried to call people to have them come down and help harvest these bears but nobody wanted to and it was not on private property, it was on public land, and I actually had a guy tell me that they were all females, and they didn't care about females anyway. I think that is part of the problem. Everybody is trying to kill a trophy bear and I do understand that. I do get that. I think we need to kill the non-trophy bears. I think that is how we run into this problem. I may be completely wrong but I think that is part of our problem.

Derris Jones – The way I remember, the bear management plan and the portion about you can't raising it more than 50% was kind of a safeguard to prevent from overdoing things too fast. You could go up to 50% a year and if things were still looking good you could raise it another 50% the next year. Now I may be wrong on my interpretation of that bear plan, but the common ground that I'm hearing in this group is that we have plenty of bears in most instances. The Division proposal has a lot of unknowns in it and nobody really knows how it's going to turn out, because none of it has ever been done. We have no history of some of these new hunts and new things that are being added here. I guess my feeling is that until the Division has a chance to flush some of these new proposals, we ought to go with some simplicity and just add some tags to the existing seasons that we do have, and not try to reinvent the wheel. Let's just kill some more bears. Let's go unit by unit and let the Division figure it out. The Division has a better idea than anybody. It sounds like according to the proposal that they want to get pretty aggressive with it. Let's let them get as aggressive as they can but stay within the management plan under no more than 50% increase per unit and number of tags.

Kevin Albrecht – I would like to make some comments to that because I know this has got a lot of Forest Service employees on the edge of their seat. The June and July hunts are the unknown and what happens when you have all of those recreationists up on the forest. That Division has said we're not going to go with it three years. We can adjust it. I appreciate that and I'm just one person, but personally I am good with taking the risk of that conflict, because of the whole plan, and we are taking a step in the right direction and we are listening to many of the sportsmen that have said there is a huge increase. So there are a lot of unknowns but I think the Division is seeing a need and hearing the concern of many of the public. There is some risk in it, but they are going to look at it in a year, and that to me is what gives me comfort.

Charlie Tracy – So do you have any recommendations for a motion?

Wayne Hoskisson – I would be glad to make one but I don't think it would pass.

Derris Jones-If people feel that they have had their opportunity, I will try to make a stab at a motion. I make a motion to keep the hunting season strategy status quo and let the division set permit numbers for the existing seasons as set, prior to this year with up to a 50% increase. Essentially up bear tags following the existing bear management plan. To the level that they feel on each unit.

Kevin Albrecht – do you have that Brent?

Karl Ivory-I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht – seconded by Karl Ivory.

Karl Ivory-and if I could put with that to some clarification the reason for that is to let the Division to address the comments that have been made to the RAC meetings in order to zero in on specifically would be the best for seasons and new changes for the next year.

But that will still increase the harvest that is why the second motion.

Kevin Albrecht – and one comment that I would have to that after having been to the big game RAC a couple weeks ago. Again I have said that the Division has taken into consideration but they got from every RAC and they did take what they liked out of it and made a proposal and I think you made a lot easier for the Wildlife board. I think they have strived to do that. So we do have a motion by Derris and seconded by Karl. All in favor? So we have six in favor. Opposed? Okay again all in favor we have Derris, Chris, Carl, Tricia, Jeff and Charlie and opposed? We have Wayne ,Todd ,Darrell and Sue.

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Derris Jones to keep the hunting season strategy status quo and let the division set permit numbers for the existing seasons as set prior to this year with up to a 50% increase.**

**Seconded by Karl Ivory**

**Motion passed with a 6 to 4 vote. Voting in favor were: Derris Jones, Chris Micoz, Karl Ivory, Trish Hedin, Jeff Horrocks and Charlie Tracy. Voting against were: Wayne Hoskisson, Todd Huntington, Darrel Mecham, Sue Bellagamba**

Charlie Tracy – I would like to make a second motion or an amendment to that. That we include the depredation in there for these watermelon guys and other crop producing guys for these bears, because there hasn't been anything before and it is a bad problem and they do need a little help there.

Derris Jones – So you are adding an amendment to that motion? Can we do that after a vote or not?

Kevin Albrecht – So my question is the other parts of the plan. Are they not accepted? Other than the dates? Because there is a lot of things and I just assumed that it would all be included?

Derris Jones – For clarification on my motion, my intention was to have season structure the same as last year, but with increased bear tags within the existing season structure that is there now.

Charlie Tracy – But everything else would stay the same?

Wayne Hoskisson – I do believe we need to vote on the depredation part of this and use two separate motions.

(Everybody talking over each other made it very difficult to type what was being said. A second motion was made by Charlie Tracy, as follows:)

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the crop damage and bear orientation proposals in the new bear management plan as presented.**

**Seconded by Jeff Horrocks**

**Passed unanimously**

7) **Wolf Management Plan Extension (Action)**  
**-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

**Questions from the RAC**

Charlie Tracy – Are you just including the gray wolves or are you including the red wolves too?

Leslie McFarlane – It is all wolves

Derris Jones –The Uinta Wolf, was it radio-colored by us or was it out of Wyoming or Idaho?

Leslie McFarlane – It came from the Boundary Peak pack and it was radio-colored by the Idaho Fish and Game in August 2013. The last time they heard it was that time. They figured that the color had failed until we had picked it up. We had a list of missing frequencies and we were able to identify that frequency and the picture of the wolf and we are pretty confident that it was that animal. The collar was only good for a year, so we are not sure if it is out of service or the wolf died or if he's gone on to other places.

Derris Jones – Now that one of the northern wolves have moved to Arizona, has there been any discussion from the Fish and Wildlife Service about the Mexican Wolf and its boundary. I know they were talking about portions of southeastern Utah being the boundary between the Mexican versus Northern wolf.

Leslie McFarlane – I know there have been discussions and I know it does create some issues with hybridization and things, and I'm not sure where it is at this point.

Karl Ivory –Just one question. The reason that it has not been in effect is because the wolf has not been delisted statewide?

Leslie McFarlane – That is correct. So we are just holding it into perpetuity.

Kevin Albrecht – One of the things about your question, Derris, came from the Director's presentation last week. I think that was one of the major concerns with that wolf being on the North Rim. They have had a lot of discussions with the Fish and Wildlife Service, asking them to do something with that Northern wolf for fear of hybridization, but as for now, nothing has happened

Wayne Hoskisson –Are we still in questions or comments?

Kevin Albrecht – We are in questions from the audience? Are there any comments from the audience? With none, are there any comments from the RAC?

**Questions from the Public**

(No Questions)

**Comments from the Public**

(No Comments)

### **RAC Discussion**

Wayne Hoskisson – I really do not think this is a good plan and I hope I didn't vote for it before. I was probably medicated if I did. I am opposed to renewing it and I really do not like it and I will not vote to renew it.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other comments?

Kevin Albrecht – Let's entertain a motion.

Darrel Mecham-I make a motion to accept it as presented by the Division.

Charlie Tracy – I second that motion

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Charlie Tracy

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Any opposed? Opposed by Wayne Hoskisson

### **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Darrel Mecham to accept the Wolf Management Plan Extension as presented.**

**Seconded by Charlie Tracy**

**Passed with a 9 to one voted. Wayne Hoskisson cast the opposing vote.**

### **8) R657-55 Convention Permit Rule Amendments (Action)**

**-Kenny Johnson, Administrative Section Chief**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Todd Huntington – I have a couple of questions. In the language it says up to 200 permits. Has there ever been less than 200?

Kenny Johnson – No.

Todd Huntington –What scenario would lead to being less?

Kenny Johnson – It would take adjustments to the total number of permits being available.

Todd Huntington – Out of the \$3.50 that they retain, do they pay someone to run the draw out of that \$3.50, or is that from the other \$1.50?

Kenny Johnson – The money covers a lot of the cost of the Expo and in running the draw.

Todd Huntington – With that \$3.50?

Kenny Johnson – It is used for that purpose. That would probably be a big chunk of that \$3.50

Trisha Hedin-Of that \$3.50, are they having to tell us how much of that money is going into conservation? I would like to know that that money is going into conservation and I do understand, because I am a part of conservation organizations, but the administrative costs are clearly defined in our annual reports, and it is pretty much around 10%. So I'd

like to know that 10% of that \$3.50 is going into their administrative costs and the rest of it is going into conservation, and it worries me that it's not.

Todd Huntington – Be worried!

Trisha Hedin-I am worried. I am greatly worried. When we get into comments I will mention more. I would just like to know if we know where that \$3.50 goes, and if not, I think that line needs to be delineated.

Kenny Johnson – We do not audit the \$3.50. It allows them the flexibility to host the Expo and to run the organization and frankly the Division is very supportive of all of our conservation partners or anybody that shares that mission to protect wildlife and enhance the environment, and to promote our heritage. That is the cost-benefit to us. So when we look at the cost versus the benefits that are derived from it, we are okay with that. We do audit the \$1.50 and we audit the \$3.50 so we know it is kept separate so we know what the total is, but we do not itemize it.

Trisha Hedin-Can you tell me last year's numbers? Because I read it on the mule deer foundation today. I tried to do a quick little research. I got the number 12 million. I don't know if that 12 million was just the Mule Deer Foundation take or if it was the overall five dollars. Can you give me a number?

Kenny Johnson – That was just application fees. It's just five dollars for an application and there were just over 200,000 applicants so is just over \$1 million.

Trisha Hedin – So that was wrong.

Todd Huntington –They have other sources of revenue, like entrance fees and those type of things.

Karl Ivory-You've talked about the process a little bit but generally how many bidders are there when you open it up for the bid process?

Kenny Johnson – I was involved in the first RP's so off the top of my head I do not know how many people bid. I do know there is some interest and there are probably multiple bids next time but I do not know what that number will be.

Karl Ivory – Is it limited to conservation groups, or user groups or can individuals make the bid to?

Kenny Johnson – It is essentially the groups that help us conserve wildlife. There is some technical language about the role but it is essentially non-profit groups.

Trisha Hedin – Do they have to be nonprofit groups?

Kenny Johnson – Yes.

Todd Huntington – Another question here. Doing some rudimentary math, if you have 200,000 applicants at five dollars, that's about \$1 million. The Divisions take is 30% which is a \$1.50 out of the five dollars at a five is 30% right? So that is 300,000. Would we be better served or would the Division be better served if we used conservation tags? Would you generate more revenue for the Division that way?

Kenny Johnson – That is a fair question. That is something that we could probably run an analysis on and see.

Todd Huntington – You give away how many Henry Mtn. tags at the Expo? And I know those are going for 100 grand or so.

Kevin Albrecht – One of the reasons the public is concerned is because those are public tags. I think if you take those away and put them into conservation tags, the public would oppose that.

Todd Huntington – The public can still buy them.

Kevin Albrecht – Well yeah, but not you and I!

Todd Huntington – What if the tags went back into the draw? Then the public would get a chance at them.

Kevin Albrecht – But they have a chance at them now.

Derris Jones – If they went back to the public draw, you wouldn't make anywhere near \$300,000.

Kenny Johnson – There is about \$50,000 worth of face value on those 200 tags. So we are taking that leverage.

Todd Huntington – Just the tag price is about \$50,000.

Trisha Hedin- During that bidder's time, are you evaluating those nonprofits closely? I tried to do a little bit of an evaluation of those organizations today. I could get the financials from the Mule Deer Foundation from the last annual report on their website which was from 2008, so it was hard for me to weigh through their tax returns. For SFW, I had a great deal of trouble. Every financial that I attempted to pull up said, "Oops, website not working." The rest of the website was working just fine but any financials that I attempted to pull up had the error, "Oops", so I just want to know during that bidder's conference that there is a deep evaluation that those organizations are truly doing the best possible with our money because in the end wildlife is it held within the public trust, and so it is our money. It is our resource and so I think it is really important that we are just not feeding a beast, and that we are taking care of our wildlife first, and I hope that we are bidding to the best possible organization, where their funds are transparent and their funds are going into conservation.

Kenny Johnson – We absolutely look at that and scrutinize it. Part of it is to look and see who can meet the purpose of this role, who can excitement for conservation and we look to see who can do that. Part of the RFP is to hear proposals of their business model. How they expect it to work. So that does get scrutinized and looked at closely.

Trisha Hedin- I hope so.

Kevin Albrecht – Any more questions?

Karl Ivory – I have a question more with the extension of the five years. Is that to put it back onto the Wildlife Board to see if that's going to happen or not?

Kenny Johnson – That is correct. The Division and Wildlife Board and the group are a three way check at the end of the five years.

Karl Ivory – Are they looking at specifics if it is working or if it's not working? What's the purpose of the extension?

Kenny Johnson – It minimizes the risks. It helps long-term planning and I'm sure you'll hear that in the comments later. It gives them the chance to continue to keep going.

Derris Jones – You said either the group, the Board or the Division. Can any of those three in the group can decide if they don't want to do it? Can the Division say they don't want this anymore and the Wildlife Board wants it? How do they do that? Does the Division trump the Wildlife Board?

Kenny Johnson – We wrote it such that it had to be all three.

Derris Jones – So all three have to approve it?

Kenny Johnson – Yes.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any questions from the audience?

## **Questions from the Public**

Troy Justensen representing SFW-Kenny how much do you pay Fallon Nevada to process your application fees?

Kenny Johnson –It's about 1.5 million.

Troy Justensen-In that million and a half, how much money comes back into Utah for wildlife and projects?

Kenny Johnson – None of that money

Troy Justensen- None of it, okay. In that million and a half, how many jobs does that bring to the state of Utah?

Kenny Johnson – Good question. It depends on how you slice it.

Troy Justensen- People on the ground in the state of Utah working?

Kenny Johnson – We have a lot of people that work with that contract here in the Division.

Troy Justensen -In the Division, but in a private sector, how many people does it provide jobs for?

Kenny Johnson – None here in Utah

Troy Justensen- What economical value does it bring to say Salt Lake County by having the draw there?

Kenny Johnson – It depends on how philosophical you want to get.

Troy Justensen- Tourism, a dollar spent in hotels, food etc.

Kenny Johnson –No benefits there

Kevin Albrecht – Any other questions from the audience?

Kevin Albrecht – I will entertain any comments from the audience. Please bring up your comment cards.

Derris Jones – Out of that 1.5 million that we are paying Nevada, how many applications are being processed?

Kenny Johnson – We have just about a half million applications a year, but that contract is like apples and oranges. They have a long list of other things that they do. It's a performance based contract. I renegotiate the fees every year, trying to save the state as much money as I can. If we had to re-create in-house, it would probably cost us three or four or five times that much money. It is a niche that they have, and it's just kind of a shrinking market. We had one other bid for that contract and they just didn't have the technical expertise to pull it off. It is an interesting market

## **Comments from the Public**

Troy Justensen representing SFW-I think the key point in remembering this is that we are talking about an application fee. It is no different charging the five dollar fee or the \$10 fee that goes to Fallon Nevada. Those funds are a little bit misleading when you see a \$3.50 overhead. Speaking on behalf of SFW, I can tell each one of you that 100% goes back into conservation. Now not 100% may go back into projects but it does go into conservation. All of our money stays within the state of Utah. All of our money is spent in preserving and enhancing wildlife and the hunting heritage in the State of Utah. The other thing to remember is what it brings to the state. John is going to talk a little bit later but it is a huge economic impact for tourism and food or whatever comes into Salt Lake

to attend the Expo. You asked where the dollars go. I think you talk to any major land agency such as the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service and ask them. When there is a big project that comes up, who steps forward? I can guarantee you that you see by our track record what we have done with the money. We have done a lot in San Juan County. You guys have a huge problem with deer being hit between Monticello and Blanding. We stepped up with dollars to match DOT's to look at putting underpasses to prevent that. We also stepped up and paid \$12,000 to put signs up to help warn more motorists to slow down. We have also spent about \$30,000 in cleaning 22 catchments out on Black Mesa that not only benefit wildlife but also benefit livestock as well. I guess my point is this. Yes, It is a business. You have to have money to run a business. But I know for a fact that our main drive in raising this money is that we can do more things in people's backyards. We spent over \$80,000 in putting out ring-necked pheasants for the youth to hunt. We spent close to \$200,000 for transplanting mule deer. So if you're going to accuse us of anything, one thing is for sure. We have spent this money in our backyards to enhance the opportunity for those of us to enjoy the outdoors. And by the way, we support the Division's recommendations. And even it comes to the time that they awarded the Exp to another group we would support those changes as well. These are changes that allow them to be effective and to plan forward. It's not just because we are in bed with the MDF. The RMEF, NWTF, and the Wild Sheep Foundation were all invited to participate, and they chose to withdraw.

Ben Lowder Utah Bowman's Association – We attend the Expo every year and we also have a booth at the Expo every year and we believe that it is a great event held here in Utah. It draws hunters from around the country here. We do believe the current organizations that are putting on the Expo are doing a great job. We recognize what they are putting on the ground here in the state and we appreciate that, and as such, we support the recommendations of the Division as they are represented.

Kim McFarlane – I am mostly representing myself but I did give you a letter from the United Wildlife Cooperative about this issue. First of all, I have immensely enjoyed the Expo and how it is put on and as a recipient of the sportsman's deer tag in 2009. I think it is a great and awesome opportunity for the State of Utah. I do have three concerns. I would like to see that it is assured that the majority of that money goes towards conservation projects. The majority of the funds from those five dollar tags should be specified for conservation projects. The second concern I have is accountability and transparency of those funds from the Expo. The rule reads that the Division should be able to audit those. I think that it is important that be a public audit, and that the numbers are available and that it shows sportsmen like me where that money is being spent, and how it's been spent, and the benefit that we are providing to the State of Utah. When the Board or Division audits those funds, it should be made available to the sportsman. I also believe that the Division and Wildlife Board should set some expectations on this five-year renewal process that says what these goals are and what we expect. There should be no guarantee of renewal if they do not meet those goals. I also think there should be an audit of those funds. I propose that there be a 50-50 split that the \$3.50 and the \$1.50 and that there be some accountability and transparency in their audits. And make those available publicly thank you.

John Larson representing SFW-Speaking on behalf of the Hunt Expo and its partners as Troy has indicated. We do endorse the Division plan as recommended and presented

tonight and in addition to that I would like to take a couple of minutes and attempt to educate the group on just a couple of things that the Expo does for the State of Utah. I will start with the financial perspectives in 2009. We partnered up with MDF and the University of Utah to conduct a business and economics report, and we found that the Expo generated \$8.5 million worth of revenue streaming into the State of Utah from multiple avenues or multiple channels. Some of which has already been mentioned tonight such as tourism, entertainment, hotels, foods etc. Four years later, we anticipate that number to look like 10 and \$11 million. That's a big win for Utah local economy. That is a great deal for us. Secondly and more importantly, what the Expo does for Utah wildlife however and that's what we are really here tonight to discuss. The last three years we have partnered with the Division in releasing close to 36,000 ring-necked pheasants across the State of Utah. We did that for a couple reasons. First to get kids off the couch and with dad into the field again, and secondly to generate some excitement among the general public to hunt again after a two decade decline. Another example would be in 2013 we partnered with BYU and the Division again in the first ever mule deer translocation project. Moving 300 mule deer off of the Parowan front and Antelope Island to the Pahvant and Oak Creek units where there is better habitat. As a result of that you now have places like New Mexico and British Columbia stepping in, using our model for their transplant projects. So we are now literally modeling the way for big game management on a go-forward basis across the country. Those are just two examples. Now what I want to do is shift gears for a minute and I would ask you to put your business caps on for just a minute. Take a look at the Division's business perspective. Here's what I would tell you. If you have any business sense, you will realize that business relationships are built on trust much like your personal relationships. Those relationships take time to foster. Where you are going with your partner is being refined all of the time. You are massaging those relationships all of the time. For example, I have been with SFW for two months and in the 60 days I have sat in joint meetings with SFW and MDF as we prepare for the Expo which is right around the corner, I am amazed at the amount of massaging that we are still doing with our vendors in nine years just to get them to feel good. These are major vendors that have been with us since day one and we still are massaging those relationships. To think that you can turn around and just hand that Expo over every five years to a new contractor regardless of who the new contractor is, it should go to the best person for the job. But don't think you can turn it over easily. There will be risk. Over the years, we have built up the state's economy and the future of wildlife. About the five dollar application fee, here is what I would tell you. There is a cost to running the Expo. By the raise of hands, how many of you been to the Expo? Just raise your hands. Thank you for your participation. You know that is an enormous undertaking. That is a big show and a huge show. It is the Marquis show of the West in my opinion. And it's right here in our backyard. We don't have to go to Reno, Nevada or Las Vegas, Nevada. It is a show right here in Utah for us to enjoy. There is a cost to make that happen. You have to understand that it is a big cost. It is a big show to do. I can attest to that. And with those fees not only do we pay for the show, that also goes back into the ground. Those two examples that I have shared were paid for by those five dollar entry fees. That money goes back to the ground in Utah. That is our entire mission is to ensure the sustainability of wildlife in Utah for a future generations and so looking at the Division's plan in a closing, I would just like to say it is a great plan

and it will only enhance and develop our economy and our future wildlife in the state. For years to come thank you.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other comments from the audience? Okay with that, I will entertain any comments from the RAC.

### **RAC Discussion**

Trisha Hedin-I want to make comment to Troy. I wasn't making an accusation. I just would highly recommend that you guys update your website and make sure that your financials are up and available to everybody. And it is really good just to have an annual report that is really easily waded through. I would state that. The RMEF does a really good job of just putting an annual report up and available for statewide and nationwide viewing, and it delineates specific projects for a state. It's called PR and it is great, and it is the way to go. It should be really transparent. I was making no accusations. I was simply giving a recommendation, and if you are truly a 501C3 organization, those financials should be available, I've been to that website multiple times and come up with that same response. That page is not available and it should be. When you look at the state, for example, I just pulled up today the RMEF and MDF statements showing, 10% of their revenue goes to administrative costs or fundraising. That is 10% so I would ask that about the \$3.50. We should allow 10% to go to administration. And I think that is an easy number to come up with, and we can look at all the organizations and come up with their average. I looked at the two biggest big-game organizations and that was the number that I came up with. Again, I have a job so is hard for me to spend a huge amount of time. I adamantly oppose the five-year renewal. I think it is okay for those organizations to go back to the bidder's table and show that they are the best organization for the job. And I don't think that is asking too much and I do endorse eliminating "conservation" from Expo, because I actually think that has been muddying the water for a long time and it needs to be eliminated.

Chris Micoz- I am in agreement with Trisha I do believe that transparency is incredibly important. The Expo is a huge asset to the state. I think it's a great thing and is great for people who hunt. It's an awesome thing for us to have and it does bring in a lot of money to the state, but I think the concern about transparency of where the \$3.50 goes is valid. I agree we should be able to see that and we should be able to pull that up and see it at any time.

Charlie Tracy – I really don't have any opposition to this, but I have to comment a little bit about SFW's contribution. They do a wonderful job as far as putting money on the ground. I don't have any complaints. If they contributed to the highway between Monticello and Blanding, that is an awesome deal because we have a serious problem there. That is a bad deal the deer go back and forth and I don't care if it's winter or summer, it's just a bad problem. So that is great. I am grateful for SFW and some of the things that they can do because they can get some of these water projects and receding or whatever you want to call it done. If it wasn't for the guys who did conservation projects in the early 30s to mid-80s, we wouldn't have what we have right now. I am grateful that we still have an avenue to go back and redo those chaining and rebuild those ponds. A lot of those ponds on my place were built with the Fresno plow. If you know what that is, that is very labor-intensive.

Kevin Albrecht – I will speak up a little bit to the convention. I can't speak to the

financials and what's on the Internet but I can speak from an agency standpoint where a lot of these dollars come from, because I have the opportunity to put a lot of those dollars on the ground, so I can't speak for the MDF and the SFW in contributing a tremendous amount of money for Utah habitat work. From an agency standpoint, I can see a lot of that money going on the ground.

Trisha Hedin-I have no doubt about that. All I am asking is that we ensure that as much as possible goes onto the ground and I don't think that is asking too much because again I will just state that is our resource we have all contributed to, so we want to know that resource is generating money for itself.

Sue Bellagamba-I agree with the transparency and public audit. I want to see the money going to projects but I don't want to tie the hands or direct non-profit groups. If we did have a public audit, and it was transparent, then we have a renewal process that would provide some information to help us further understand their permits for renewal or not. If there is no further discussion, I will make a motion.

Sue Bellagamba-so I make a motion to adopt R 657 – 55 with the addition that there will be a public audit and it will be available and transparent to all that have requested it.

Derris Jones – Question on that motion. Is that not a requirement already on all 501C(3) organizations?

Kevin Albrecht – Kenny Johnson can you speak to that please? Are any of the audits made public?

Kenny Johnson – My office oversees the audit and part of the amendment that we made to the contract was to audit. So my staff actually performs an internal audit we look at everything from top to bottom. We look at applications, we look at fairness, we look at code, and we look at the database. We look at the finances also. So we do that. I do not know if we are publishing them on the web but I do not know why we couldn't. I could make that available

Kevin Albrecht – Okay, with that is there a second to the motion?

Charlie Tracy – I'll second that

Kevin Albrecht – Seconded by Charlie Tracy. All in favor? Derris Jones, Karl Ivory, Sue Bellagamba, Darrel Mecham, Jeff Horrocks and Charlie Tracy. Opposed were Chris Micoz, Trish Hedin, Todd Huntington, and Wayne Hoskisson. The motion passes.

## **VOTING**

**Motion was made by Sue Bellagamba to adopt R 657 – 55 with the addition that there be a public audit that will be available and transparent to all who request it.**

**Seconded by Charlie Tracy**

**Passed with a 7 to 3 vote. Voting in favor were: Trisha Hedin, Derris Jones, Karl Ivory, Sue Bellagamba, Darrel Mecham, Jeff Horrocks, and Charlie Tracy.**

**Voting against the motion were: Chris Micoz, Todd Huntington, and Wayne Hoskisson**

**Passed with a 6 to 4 vote.**

## **Habitat Restoration Projects (Information)**

**-Nicole Nielson, Habitat Restoration Biologist**

### **Questions from the RAC**

Trisha Hedin-What type of monitoring do you do after each project?

Nicole Nielsen-There can be a lot of different monitoring. Probably one of the most common is putting in photo points before you establish a site and putting in some sort of marker and taking photos and getting a compass direction so you can mark the exact spot or have some feature out there that will be consistent throughout time. Then you can take your photo and go back each year and monitor what you see. We also have the range trend crew that comes in on certain projects. They do a really intensive monitoring. I can't remember all of the methods that they do, but that data is all on the website. So you could pull that up and see how projects are changing over time.

Kevin Albrecht – One thought to consider is that these dollars are very competitive. They need to be gotten now. One of the ranking tools is monitoring so that is really a high priority now. I want to say it's even a 10 point lead for a project that includes a lot of monitoring.

Nicole Nielsen – That is pretty accurate.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other questions?

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any questions from the audience?

### **Questions from the Public**

Mike King of the Wildlife Board and USU Eastern – I just wanted to let everybody know how much help the Division, particularly the southeastern region, has been to our wildlife science program at USU Eastern in Price, Utah. Nicole, Daniel, and Chris and others are examples of that. They have all come to my various courses that we teach. And in particular, we taught a wildlife techniques class and we were able to get right out in the middle of that Helper bench chaining which was probably the highlight of the course for a lot of the students that were in the class. We got to get up and kick the chain and watch the dust fly and watch how those big chains can tear up a juniper tree in just a very short time. I just wanted to express the appreciation for all of you and we have also had good support from the Forest Service and the BLM and the NRCS. Nicole is great for letting us come out and sit in the middle and watch what was going on so thank you.

Kevin Albrecht –Thank you, Mike. I also would like to thank the Wildlife Board. Are there any other comments from the audience? Are there any comments from the RAC?

### **Comments from the Public**

(No Comments from the Public)

### **RAC Discussion**

Kevin Albrecht – I would really like to thank everybody here for the attendance tonight. If for any reason you see in the future that there's going to be a conflict with your

attendance, please get with Chris or Brent. In the near future, we are going to be working very closely. First is the second year cycle and there'll be some members leaving and new ones replacing them. But it is a good time, if for some reason attendance is going to be a problem, to get with Chris and Brent and during this time they can find new applicants. And once again thank you for your attendance. I do appreciate it  
Chris Wood – Blair Eastman called to say he could not make it tonight. He is in Texas receiving some kind of award from George Bush. Next time you seem ask him about it.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**Public in Attendance: 30**

**The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on January 6, 2015 at 9 a.m. in the DNR board room.**

**The date of the next SER RAC meeting has yet to be determined. The location will be the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.**

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
Beaver High School  
Beaver, UT  
December 9, 2014  
6:00 p.m.**

**1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA**

**MOTION:** To accept minutes and agenda as written.

**VOTE:** Unanimous.

**2. PRIVATE FISH POND RULE AMENDMENTS R657-59**

**MOTION:** To accept the Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments R657-59 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**3. 2015 BLACK BEAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS**

**MOTION:** To accept the 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the exceptions that the Utah Bowmen's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsman Association and the United Wildlife Cooperative proposed (see attachment 2) and that the required orientation course include information about collared bears.

**VOTE:** Carried 8:1 (Dale Bagley opposed)

**4. WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION**

**MOTION:** To accept the Wolf Management Plan as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**5. CONVENTION PERMIT RULE AMENDMENTS R657-55**

**MOTION:** To accept the Convention Permit Rule Amendments R657-55 as presented.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**6. OTHER BUSINESS – DISCUSS 2015 RAC MEETING LOCATIONS AND TIMES**

**MOTION:** To keep the same schedule as 2014 except to change the May meeting location to St.

George and the December meeting to start at 6:00 PM and change the location to Richfield.

**VOTE:** Unanimous

**Southern Regional Advisory Council Meeting  
 Beaver High School  
 Beaver, UT  
 November 18, 2014  
 6:00 p.m.**

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Harry Barber Mack Morrell Dale Bagley Brian Johnson Clair Woodbury Mike Worthen (acting chairman) Layne Torgerson Same Carpenter Rusty Aiken Sean Kelly	Kody Jones Brandon White Josh Carver Jason Nicholes Lynn Chamberlain Stephanie Rainey Clint Mecham Teresa Griffin Kevin Bunnell Leslie McFarlane Kenny Johnson Richard Hepworth Jim Lamb Riley Peck Vance Mumford Trail Kreitzer	Jake Albrecht Steve Dalton	Dave Black (excused) Cordell Pearson (excused) Mike Staheli

Mike Worthen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. There were approximately 24 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Mike Worthen introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Mike Worthen explained RAC meeting procedures.

Mike Worthen: We need to excuse Chairman Black and Vice Chairman Cordell; they seem to have skipped town so it fell on me. First, before we introduce the RAC members I'd like to introduce two Board members, we've got Steve Dalton and Jake Albrecht, two of the Wildlife Board members. And we'll go on down the table starting up here at the right side with Harry, and introduce the RAC members.

Harry Barber: Harry Barber with the BLM, Kanab.

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell, Bicknell, agriculture.

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

Brian Johnson: Brian Johnson, Enoch, Utah, non-consumptive.

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

Kevin Bunnell: Kevin Bunnell. I'm the regional supervisor for the Division out of Cedar City.

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

Sam Carpenter: Sam Carpenter, sportsman's representative from Kanab.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken, agricultural, Cedar City, Utah.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Uh, we will go through the agenda as is, there has been no suggested changes. And the procedures that we will follow regarding questions and comments; first we will have a presentation by DWR staff on each specific issue. After each presentation we'll have questions from the RAC and then questions from the audience. And then please hold your first set of questions to questions only. Comments will be made after that so we can get through this in a timely manner. Yes, and as we do the comments, if you've got a comment there are cards available that you need to fill out and they will be passed up here to the front and then we will call out the individuals off the cards to come up and comment. And when you do comment please state your name and who you represent. If you are an individual representing yourself we will ask you to hold it to three minutes. If you are representing a group we will ask you to hold your comments to five minutes. And then we'll have comments from the RAC and entertain motions to the recommendations suggested by DWR.

### **Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)**

Mike Worthen: And uh, with that we will go to the first, or the second agenda item, acceptance of RAC minutes from last meeting. Any motion?

Layne Torgerson: Mr. Chairman I'll make a motion we accept the agenda minutes from our last meeting.

Mike Worthen: Seconded by Sam. All in favor? Any opposed? Okay, motion carries. Unanimous

**Layne Torgerson made a motion to accept the agenda and minutes as presented. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Wildlife Board Update: -Mike Worthen, Acting Chairman**

Mike Worthen: Then as far as a regional update we'll ask, first we'll ask the Wildlife Board update and I wasn't briefed by the Chairman so I'm going to ask Kevin to give that update and then he can give a regional update.

Kevin Bunnell: Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Board meeting was, went fairly similar to the RAC in terms of the amount of time spent on the different agenda items. A lot of comments and questions relative to the deer plan. In regards to the motions passed by this RAC to ask that all of the southern region units be 18 to 20 bucks per 100 does, the Board decided not to address that primarily because the southern region in the next few months will be going through all of our unit plans and there will be committees put together, not for every unit but for the units where there's some, a need to, and that questions will be addressed specifically in each of those unit plans. So you'll see those unit plans presented here in the Southern RAC in conjunction with the Big Game Recommendations. So that will be a question that will come back in front of the RAC here shortly. As far as recognizing and supporting the bounty program it was, Justin pointed out, the big game coordinator, that there is language in there already but also committed to review that and make sure that . . . I don't think it was part of the Board's motion to add that language, but Justin did commit to looking at that and making sure that there is support for the program in the plan. Moving on to Bucks and Bulls. The Board passed a motion very similar to what we did here, to accept the proposal but to extend the moose boundary for the Manti and the Nebo, and to also extend the bighorn sheep hunts on Range Creek. And the other agenda items, the landowner permit rule change, the CWMU recs, and landowner association recs, passed without any changes. On the preference point agenda, you remember that we spent quite a bit of time and had a lot of discussion on whether that was necessary, the Board decided to table that issue; essentially to not take any action and to keep the preference point system as it is. They are anticipating a new proposal to come out of the Division in using some of the ideas that were presented in the new deer plan. So that's an issue that, it wasn't formally put on the action log but there's an expectation that there will be probably an additional recommendation to address that issue sometime, I don't know, in the next year or two, probably at the most. Ken, anything else that you want to add to that?

Kenny Johnson: (Off mic).

Kevin Bunnell: Jake or Steve, anything you want to add from a Board member's point of view? Or any questions from the RAC members? If not I'll move on to our regional update.

### **Regional Update:**

#### **-Kevin Bunnell, Regional Supervisor**

Kevin Bunnell: So at the last meeting I report that we had just had the court ruling relative to Utah prairie dogs and what that means. And essentially we're in the process; we've started the process of writing a state management plans to deal with Utah prairie dogs on private land. We had a very good meeting with local elected officials and other stakeholders last week and we'll have another one next week. But that issue, we kicked off that process in a very positive manner and I've optimistic that we can come up with a plan that will, like I said, that will continue to move the species towards recovery on the federal lands but do it in a way that treats private property owners fairly throughout the range of the Utah prairie dog. From the Wildlife section, just wrapping up deer classifications. They're mostly done across the region and that data will be coming in to Teresa and Jason, you know, over the next few weeks and they'll be summarizing all that and using that to make big game recommendations later in the year. I mentioned last time the pronghorn trap. That will be happening next week on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Any of the RAC members that are interested will be more than welcome to come out and join us. We'll be at two locations out on the Parker Mountain. And if you don't have all the details and are interested, please get

with me or Teresa afterwards and we can give you all the information. Related to that, tomorrow we're going to be actually up there setting up the trap. And that's another all-day process and as many hands as, we could use as many hands as are willing to show up. So anybody that's interested in being involved with that, we'll be at Jakes Knoll at 8 o'clock in the morning to start that process. From our habitat section, Gary asked me to mention that seasonal road closures on a lot of our wildlife management areas will begin January 1<sup>st</sup>. Just to make everybody aware of that, and that's something that happens annually. And then I think I saw Trail Kreitzer in the audience. If you have any questions about habitat treatments going on around the region Trail would be a great source to answer those questions. Trail, just you stand up so everybody knows who you are. If you have questions or comments or even suggestions on anything related to habitat and the treatments that are going on around the region Trail would be a great resource for that. From our law enforcement section, to the RAC members, and I set a copy out there, we're continuing to have some poaching issues around the region that are concerning. Our law enforcement guys are working hard to do that, or to address that. But you know there's only so many of them and any help and tips and reports of suspicious activity that we can get from the public really helps us in that realm. So, you know, please keep your eyes and ears open and . . . even if you don't think there's anything to it, you know, let us know and we'll look into it. And hopefully there isn't, but let us at least um, have a chance to determine that. Um, from our aquatics section, ice is late coming on to the lakes this year. Normally by this time of year a lot of the lakes are have safe ice; this year they don't. And so, you know, please be careful if you're out fishing. Hopefully the weather that we're having come in this weekend will help with that situation but Panguitch Lake and Navajo and even Koosharem was frozen over earlier in the year and now has open waters. Is that correct Richard? Um, hopefully that will change here soon and people can start enjoying ice fishing. And then also related to ice fishing, just a reminder that we'll have kind of a fishing clinic/derby, ice fishing clinic and derby up at Fish Lake on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January. And we can send more information out to the members of the RAC, as that gets closer. From our administrative services, I think most of you are aware that, or I hope you're aware that there's an app that the Division has released for smart phones. It's really a cool deal. You can put all of your licenses on it digitally so you don't have to carry paper anymore. It has a calendar that tells you all the opening and closing dates for all the hunts. It has some species identification information. There's a ton of information available. You can get that at the I Tunes store or any other places where you can get the android apps. If you have a smart phone and you do anything related to wildlife, you know, why carry the paper around in your wallet when you can just carry, keep it on your phone which you're going to have with you anyway. The other neat thing about it is you can put your kid's licenses on it. I bought my son two replacement licenses last year. I'm not going to have to do that this year because they're on my phone now. Um, just some applications, the turkey applications, the deadline is December 29<sup>th</sup>; so please be aware of that. The big game application period will be January 29<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup>. And the guidebooks should hit the street next week on the 15<sup>th</sup>. You should be able to find guidebooks at our license vendors. And then lastly, there will be a big, what they're calling the ultimate outdoor expo in St. George, January 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a lot of activities there for kids and just a lot of, you know . . . Lynn why don't you fill in the details on that a little bit for me. The ultimate outdoor expo.

Lynn Chamberlain: Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in St George at the Dixie Center. There's an outdoor expo, the ultimate outdoor expo; it's run by the same company that does the one in Heber in April. Um, we're going to have a presence there with a fishing pond and a bunch of archery stuff, as well as a lot of Division information; and the poaching trailer will be there. There's an archery room that's set up where kids can actually go in and learn how to shoot from us, and then they can graduate to a 3-D course that will be in that same room. Anyway, it will be a lot of fun when it comes to gather. I want to encourage everybody to come down to that.

Kevin Bunnell: Lynn... would you also mention details on bald eagle day and the St George bird festival.

Lynn Chamberlain: Yeah, the St. George winter bird festival is the last weekend of January which is the 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup>. The bald eagle day is the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, which is a Saturday, and that will be in the Cedar valley area. And then the snow goose festival will be the last weekend of February, of course in Delta. And come to that if you get a chance; it's a great opportunity to see a lot of geese in a hurry.

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks Lynn. Any questions on any of those items? Dale.

Dale Bagley: On your app, what's the easiest way to search for it? I tried to find it and I didn't spend a lot of time but . .

Kevin Bunnell: Kenny, what's the easiest way to find it on the different venues? Come to the mic would ya?

Kenny Johnson: Which device is it?

Kevin Bunnell: It's for Dale. Dale's asking up here.

Kenny Johnson: Is it an I phone?

Dale Bagley: It's an I phone, yes.

Kenny Johnson: The easiest thing I think is just in the apps, search Utah and hunt. Type those two words. See if Utah and hunt together will bring that up.

Dale Bagley: All right. Thanks.

Kenny Johnson: And I think that's both. We put some key words out there and Utah and hunt should put it to the top of the list. I think in fact if you do Utah there's not very many specific to our state. It would come up in that list but if you do Utah hunts it will pop right up. It's worth downloading.

Sam Carpenter: Is this a Google search? Are you talking, or this on the department website?

Kevin Bunnell: This is at the apple android store.

Kenny Johnson: Yeah, so Google play or the apps store and then just search Utah and hunt. I think it's officially titled Utah hunting and fishing. But Utah hunt, those two key words should put it right to the top of the list.

Kevin Bunnell: You know I've got it on my phone. I'll just open it and pass it down. You guys are more than welcome to just take a look at it and play with it a little bit as we go through here.

Sam Carpenter: This has more to do with the board meeting and your report. We had a long discussion about camping near waterholes and about the number of permits on this late proposed hunt and we asked

that to be brought before the Board. Did that happen?

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, relative to camping on waterholes, uh, the information that was presented at the Board, and Harry you may be able to confirm or deny this, apparently there's already laws on the books from the land management agencies or some regulations that have a distance that people are supposed to not be within a certain distance of water when they're camping, is that true? That's what was presented at the Board meeting. So the Board said, well we just need to enforce it then if there's already something on the books; and maybe Sean if you know of it relative to the Forest Service.

Harry Barber: The Forest Service to me seems to have more of those than the BLM does. What I was talking about earlier, because this was brought to my attention, is I'll go back and look in our resource management plan for Kanab. I can't recall anything real specific but I know when I hunted on the forest they have information there about how close you could camp to a stream. And I didn't recall Kanab having that specific information in our resource management plans but I'll certainly look.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, so anyway, that, it came up and with that response, the information that was given to the Board, and maybe they were lead astray a little bit, they were . . . go ahead Jake.

Jake Albrecht: Kevin, the other thing that we decided there is when we go back to those management plans individual for the southern region, then we would address those because some of those things don't pertain to all the units, just some of the ones that you were concerned with.

Kevin Bunnell: Correct, that's the other thing that, you know, handle individually in the unit plans. Thank you Jake for that reminder. Where it's really an issue.

Sam Carpenter: I just want to make sure we address it because you didn't say anything about it.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, my apologies. And what was the other? Remind me of the other one Sam.

Sam Carpenter: The late hunts and the number of permits that are supposed to be very limited.

Kevin Bunnell: I don't think that the Board addressed that specifically in their motion, the numbers of permits for the late, for the new late season hunts, but there's a general commitment from the Division that those will be kept pretty limited. And they'll come back in front of this, in front, through the whole public process with the Bucks and Bulls permit numbers in March.

Sam Carpenter: But it's still going to be based on buck to doe ratios being high? And when you get your classifications back this year if that's changed are they going to drop those units?

Kevin Bunnell: Certainly that will change according to the units that fit the criteria that were outlined in the plan. Any other questions?

Mike Worthen: Thank you for the updates. We'll now move to agenda item number 5, R657-59, Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments. And I believe Richard is going to give that.

**Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments R657-59 (action) 20:09 to 22:01 of 2:25:03**  
**-Richard Hepworth, Southern Region Aquatics Program Manager**  
(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

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

None

**Questions from the public:**

Mike Worthen: Any questions from the public?

None

**Comments from the public:**

Mike Worthen: Okay, comments from the RAC or the public?

None

**RAC discussion and vote:**

Mike Worthen: Okay, then we will entertain a motion regarding this proposed rule change.

Rusty Aiken: I will make a motion to accept Richard's proposal for the private fish pond rule amendment R657-59.

Mike Worthen: Okay, it's been moved by Rusty to accept the proposed rule change for R657-59, private fish pond rule amendments; and seconded by Sam Carpenter. All in favor? Any opposed? It passes unanimously.

**Rusty Aiken made a motion to accept Private Fish Pond Rule Amendments R657-59 as presented Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mike Worthen: Okay, item number 6, Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments; and Leslie McFarlane will give that presentation.

**2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments (action) 23:28 to 48:39 of 2:25:03**  
**-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**  
**-Teresa Griffin, Southern Region Wildlife Program Manager**  
(See attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC (mid presentation) (40:17 to 43:42 of 2:25:03)**

Sam Carpenter: How come no harvests? What's going on? Are they hunting or, nobody's buying the permits? What's the problem?

Leslie McFarlane: We honestly don't know. Just no harvest.

Dale Bagley: Would the timing of that harvest change things? Because I mean I continually hear people in the summertime having bear problems up there but that harvest is in the later fall time of year. So if you move that harvest objective to a summer time frame would that change things?

Leslie McFarlane: Region? I honestly don't know.

Brian Johnson: Sam, you take the most effective way of killing a bear away from somebody, which is running dogs and baiting and it's pretty tough to find a bear.

Sam Carpenter: I am not arguing that point, I agree completely.

Teresa Griffin: And often times if we do have nuisance situations during, say, July, sometimes we'll call a hunter, possibly from the spring that didn't harvest. Sometimes those nuisance bears are 90-pound bears that a lot of people don't want to harvest anyway.

Mike Worthen: And you call a Division depredation.

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, a Division removal.

Mike Worthen: It's just taken by the Division.

Sam Carpenter: Well why is it that we're having hunts that we don't allow bait? Why can't we bait them if we're not killing them? You know we need to do something. We're growing, what, five to six percent a year? We've got to stop that somehow.

Leslie McFarlane: Harvest objective, so harvest objective the reason we don't allow bait during that time period is because the permit sales are unlimited. So potentially you could have unlimited bait stations across land areas and it's not a really good tool or method to use especially when it impacts like the Forest Service and things like that. So where we're having such a hard time with the harvest objective, it wasn't successful down here, we're going to go back to the limited entry strategy where we were getting the harvest and see if we can focus that a little better.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, so the increase tags that you show here throughout the plan are strictly based on human and bear interaction and not on the population growth?

Leslie McFarlane: It's population, so we looked at all of that data and we can increase our permits in areas by at least 20 percent because of the population growth increase. Then we also took and looked at all of the areas where we had nuisance problems and we also increased those areas further. Some units, like the Monroe where we didn't really have any problems, we left those alone.

Sam Carpenter: And what about predator management units, is there anything about the bears in that addressed at all, they're not considered a predator?

Leslie McFarlane: They are considered a predator but they're not under the predator management policy.

Kevin Bunnell: Well that's not true; all predators are under the predator management policy.

Leslie McFarlane: Right but I mean there's none that are . . .

Kevin Bunnell: We don't currently have any predator management plans that are focused on bears.

Leslie McFarlane: Exactly. That's what I meant to say, sorry. Thank you Kevin.

Leslie McFarlane continues presentation (see attachment 1) (43:42 of 2:25:03)

### **Questions from the RAC:**

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

Brian Johnson: Weird. You guys like me; quit acting like that, both of ya. Um, you mentioned splitting the two seasons for the conflict between bait and hounds. What kind of conflicts do we have?

Leslie McFarlane: So what will typically happen or what we get complaints over is that somebody will come, they'll have been prebaiting, prebaiting, baiting, baiting and they finally get bears coming into their bait station and they're sitting there waiting and here comes some hounds running right through and running the bear out. And so that's the biggest complaint that we've gotten.

Brian Johnson: How many times, what are the actual numbers on that?

Leslie McFarlane: I couldn't tell you the number of people but I can tell you that every single one of the regional offices have complained about that issue.

Brian Johnson: So we don't track the actual complaints.

Leslie McFarlane: I don't have a number of complaints but I can tell you the regions have it more than I do.

Brian Johnson: So we don't know if this is one person yelling really loud or if this is 50 people yelling?

Leslie McFarlane: It's more than one person yelling really loud. It's a constant thing we deal with every single year. I couldn't tell you of a number of people that it has affected but it's a problem that we deal with every year.

Brian Johnson: I've had the opportunity to hunt an archery tag twice in the southern part of the state and never, I mean I just, I just think that, I think that we're making maybe a bigger deal out of it.

Leslie McFarlane: I would say that this occurs probably more than any place in the northeastern part of the state where they have a lot more bear permits and they deal with it more on an annual basis. That's where the biggest complaints have been is off of the South Slope.

Brian Johnson: My next question is this fall limited entry, um, the conflict between on Elk Ridge, what's?

Leslie McFarlane: So . . .

Brian Johnson: I guess my question is, is it takes, it takes 13,14,15, I mean what's it take to draw an Elk Ridge bear tag, 15, 16 points? You know, and so we're putting the elk tag higher on the priority list than a bear tag and it takes a lot of points, I mean it's a premium, it's a premium bear unit too.

Leslie McFarlane: It is both. And so we're trying to provide opportunity for both. There's a limited time for the elk, there's a limited time for the bear, and we're trying to eliminate the conflict. We know there's a conflict; we were trying to eliminate it.

Brian Johnson: I just don't know . . .

Leslie McFarlane: I mean it got really ugly with a death threat and a gun pulled on a person and so we're trying to . . .

Brian Johnson: So if we just make death threats we can change rules. I love it. I don't know. I'm just, I'm just wondering is there a solution where baiting could be allowed during that time? I just don't see why baiting can't be allowed during those limited entry. . .

Leslie McFarlane: You can bait during that time.

Brian Johnson: You can bait, you can bait bears during the limited entry rifle hunt on Elk Ridge.

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah, it's not prohibited.

Brian Johnson: Okay.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions?

Brian Johnson: I have one more, weird. This tag allocation, I just noticed that there's a lot more in the springtime than in the summertime.

Leslie McFarlane: Because we, so what we did, we don't know what to expect with any weapon over bait for harvest. So what we did is we took and we looked at all of the traditional baiting CORs that were applied during the spring hunt and we kept that consistent with what we were applying in the summer.

Brian Johnson: Well of course that's going to be lower, it was archery only before so that you just mentioned in the thing that's it's going to be higher.

Leslie McFarlane: But we do not, so there's, bears are going to be easier to harvest during the month of June. Females are more active during the month of June. We do not want to increase permits during the month of June inordinately high where we don't know what the success rate is going to be over that time

period. So we're trying to take and limit the number during that time period until we can evaluate how successful those hunters are.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Sam, did you have something?

Sam Carpenter: I was just going to ask about pursuit permits. The only limitations on those then are on these three units you mentioned in your summary?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes.

Sam Carpenter: And other than that they're wide open.

Leslie McFarlane: Yes.

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

### **Questions from the public:**

Mike Worthen: Questions from the public?

Jake Albrecht: Jake Albrecht. Leslie, on the multi season was the Fish Lake on there before? I thought it had one tag a year ago. And the other thing that I was going to say on there is if it does and it goes back onto the multi season I think when those multi season permits go on there should be one for who has the most points and one who draws at random. So you would have two of those. And the reason for that is because there's some people with like 15 points that will never draw that because each year you have like 10 people that join in so they have a better odd of drawing out.

Leslie McFarlane: The region didn't recommend a multi season on the Fish Lake.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other comments from the public? Or not comments, questions.

Jason Aiken: Jason Aiken from Cedar City. What uh, I had a question for ya, and this is kind of a dumb one, but what is the population objective for bears?

Leslie McFarlane: We don't have a population objective for bears.

Jason Aiken: So there's nothing that says you need to, once you get to a point where you're at over capacity or anything like that?

Leslie McFarlane: No, it's just says that we will maintain a healthy bear population and we'll use human and nuisance conflicts and livestock depredation as one of the measures and then habitat issues.

Jason Aiken: And then one more question, I have talked about this with some other people and stuff, and what would be the possibility of getting um, a tag when you draw a tag another big game tag like a deer tag or elk tag to where you can piggy back a bear along with that? They mentioned something like that with the mule deer with the cougar. But I was wondering if we could do something similar to that with bears that may help with the increase harvest.

Leslie McFarlane: It would have to be something we look at. We can look at it in the future but not . . .

Jason Aiken: I just wanted to bring it up.

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

Robbie Bradshaw: My name is Robbie Bradshaw from Beaver. I just have a question about, this past year we saw that you sent some people up to trap bears and to run the problem bears or to catch the problem bears. And I was just wondering why are you paying someone to run those bears when people around here would be willing to do it for free?

Leslie McFarlane: I think you are referring to the study?

Teresa Griffin: Our employees, Riley and Clinton.

Leslie McFarlane: It was these two, it wasn't paying people, it was our employees.

Teresa Griffin: Predator specialists.

Kevin Bunnell: But they're getting paid is the point.

Robbie Bradshaw: Are they getting paid?

Leslie McFarlane: Well they're employees I hope they get paid.

Riley Peck: There were 2 situations too where we ran bears off the Beaver and one of them happened to be in a campground. It was coming in every single night and then it would move. And so it was one that we were going to put down. The other one was by the ski resort, there were two, and we did have houndsman chase those for us during the pursuit season. And they actually were harvested as soon as the hunt opened up. So we tried to get houndsman to come. It was the circumstance with the one up by Kent's Lake.

Leslie McFarlane: But they weren't paid by us.

Riley Peck: No they weren't paid. They were doing it for free. The houndsman volunteered to come and do it but it was the houndsman that chased . .

Robbie Bradshaw: How do you get on the contact list to get contacted then? How did you choose which houndsman that got to go run the bear and (inaudible)?

Riley Peck: When it happened a ski resort it was just, they noticed the bear coming in and the paw prints on the garbage can. It wasn't somebody that was contacted by us and since they were running. . .

Leslie McFarlane: He wants to know how pick which houndsman to do it for you.

Riley Peck: They were there and were doing it for us and we allowed them to keep doing it. We didn't

call them to have them come and chase the bear. So it was in a very visible spot and they were able to see the bear daily and so they would come during the pursuit season to train pups and run that bear off; and since that was helping us cut down on the nuisance problem that's how they (inaudible).

Robbie Bradshaw: Why don't you give out a tag? Why don't you give out a tag or . . .

Leslie McFarlane: If you want to be on our list you can approach the region and ask to do stuff like that. They wouldn't have a problem with it.

Teresa Griffin: And when we are in a nuisance situation like that I am sure you understand our dire need to have someone immediately. And they may have to camp up there and be there continually for 5 days. It's pretty intense when it is a public safety issue.

Leslie McFarlane: if you want to be on a list in the region certainly contact (inaudible).

Teresa Griffin: Contact me and I can keep your name but it's pretty intense and we'll need you immediately or . . . Clint is our predator specialist so we often rely on him. But feel free to give me a holler.

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

Jeff Brewer: What is the logic and the reasoning behind the . . . Oh I'm sorry, Jeff Brewer. My name's Jeff Brewer. I live in Richfield. I'm just representing myself tonight. What is the reasoning behind and the deductions that the hounds are running the bears in the LaSal and San Juan into towns? I've hunted both units extensively and you get a bear from up on the loop road above Moab to town through that great big monster canyon is a pretty tough feat. There is that Castle Valley that has cabins and homes around there but we just heard them saying that we use hounds to move them away from campgrounds. I just, the restricted permits is what gets to me. The LaSal is a great unit to chase and train dogs on, so is the San Juan. And then we limit those pursuit summer non-harvest tags to 4. Just a thought; just a question. Any answers here? I know it's not your region.

Leslie McFarlane: I can speak a little bit, the region requested it because they were seeing, so when they were alternating pursuit numbers they did see a decrease in the number of bear problems that they had when they alternated it between the areas. Um, I have approached them and we are going to work going forward to put institute a study using BYU to actually look at the affects of the pursuits in those areas to see if it's, so it will be more of a scientifically based thing to see if the pursuit is really having pushing bears down into Moab, because they did deal with a lot of bears in Moab the past year. So, I can't really justify it for them but that's . . .

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other questions?

### **Comments from the public:**

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's move on to the comment section, and if you do have comments on this please fill out a card and bring it up, have one of the DWR employees bring it up to the table and we'll take them in order. And please remember the time restrictions on this. First we'll hear from Ben Louder.

Ben Louder: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Ben Louder representing Utah Bowman's Association. I met

with the leaders of the Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, the Utah Houndsman Association, and the United Wildlife Cooperative last week to discuss these recommendations that have been put forward by the Division. We discussed them, addressed what we liked, what we didn't like and so forth. And we were able to come up with a joint recommendation for this round of RACs. I handed out a copy of my recommendation to all of you before hand so you each have a copy of them if you'd like to look at those on paper while I'm going through this. First of all we'd like to thank Leslie for the work that she's put in to creating these recommendations, as well to thank her for thinking outside of the box on some of these new strategies compared to what we've done in the past. We support the Division's recommendations with 4 exceptions, and those 4 exceptions are outlined here on my proposal. I'll go through them individually. The first exception is concerning the season dates on the summer baiting hunt. We're concerned that with the, as time intensive as baiting bears is we're concerned that that short season is not going to be long enough and we're a little bit concerned as well as how late it goes and quality of hides as you get into that later part of June and those first couple days of July. So we are recommending an additional 2 weeks on the front of that summer season so those dates would look like, as I've got them listed there, May 23<sup>rd</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We believe that this would be the best compromise to maximize days in the field for all types of bear hunters. We recognize that this would provide an over lap, a two week overlap of the spring hound season and the summer baiting season. We feel that that 2 weeks is minimal. We believe that conflicts would be minimal during that time. I mean we've been hunting overlap for as long as I've been bear hunting in Utah for several years already. So we see those conflicts as minimal. And again, we think this is the best compromise to maximize days in the field for all bear hunters. Our second exception is concerning the San Juan and LaSal fall season dates. These 2 units are very large units and they've got minimal amount of permits, 5 permits, 5 bear permits on each unit. We believe that there's enough space for bear hunters and elk hunters both to be on the mountain at the same time. Currently we're hunting limited entry archery elk on both of those units during, essentially exactly the same season as the bear, the fall bear seasons on those units. And I can speak to this personally, I've spent 30 days on San Juan during the limited entry archery elk hunt over the last 2 years; last year for myself and this year helping a friend. In those 30 days I saw hounds and or heard hounds 2 days; a total of 2 days; 1 day this year and 1 day last year. Didn't have any conflicts with them. And you know my organization has both elk hunters and bear hunters. I can't tell one that their tag is more important than the other on a public resource. So I believe that those season days should be extended to match the rest of the, to match what all the other fall season dates are. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> exception is concerning the tag allocation between the spring and summer seasons. With the new recommendations of the new season structures, and as well the allowing any weapon hunting over bait, we're concerned that that's going to alter the demands of bear hunters and bring in new interest in bear hunters, which is great, but we're concerned about the influx of bear hunters potentially to that baiting season. And so we are recommending that the tag pools for these, that they not be separate tag pools, rather that they be combined into one tag pool and that both spring and summer tags are drawn out of the same tag pool. And our last exception is concerning the spring harvest objective hunts. We are concerned that the new spring harvest objective season is going to draw an overwhelming. . . I'm sorry, okay thank you. We're concerned that they're going to draw an overwhelming interest from non-resident guides, outfitters and hunters. We have precedence for this, we've seen it on the summer pursuit on the San Juan and LaSal and that's why we now have those limited pursuit season. And therefore we're recommending leaving them harvest objective for residents but making them limited entry for non-residents. And if that solution is not palatable I've attached a copy of Idaho's hound hunting rules to this proposal, that's the second page. We believe that the um, that there is a way to accomplish this where we can limit the number of non-resident hunters on those harvest objective that are running hounds. We're not concerned about spot and stalk, non-resident hunters more so the non-resident houndsman. In Idaho they

are required to have a hound permit to run bears in addition to their bear tag. Resident hound permits are unlimited. Non-resident permits are limited and by application. So we believe that that's, we can just look at Idaho and if we need to and model after that, after what they've done up there. Um, I'll just close by again saying this is a joint recommendation from the Utah Bowman's Association, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsman Association and United Wildlife Cooperative. Thank you very much. (See attachment 2)

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Then Dan Cockayne.

Dan Cockayne: Dan Cockayne. I'm president of Utah Houndsman Association. And um, I just want to say that Leslie jumped in to a pretty big firestorm. You know she had cougars a few months ago and now bears and we appreciate the job that she's doing. This is probably history today because there's 4 sportsman's groups that have come together and compromised, we don't love everything, we don't hate everything, but we feel good about that recommendation that you've been presented. We are not thrilled about the harvest objective. We feel that we can increase the tags and accomplish the same end and still have quality hunting and take care of the bear problem. We think a lot of the bear problem is education and sloppy camping and a lot of that could be fixed with education rather than just going and killing a bunch of bears. Personally I have a LaSal bear tag in my pocket that was never punched. And it took me 12 years to get that and I put all my effort into that tag and end up with a shorter season. So personally I would like to see those seasons just the same as everyone else in the state. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Then we have Steve Flinders from the Forest Service.

Steve Flinders: I want to read into the minutes a letter from the Dixie and Fish Lake National forests. The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on bear management, specifically baiting as it relates to the use of national forest system lands. The Forest Service supports the reduction of public conflict issues with bears within the national forest and across all landscapes. Health and human safety issues are the utmost importance to the Forest Service and the proposal from the Division of Wildlife Resources will help to reduce concerns. The tools available for reducing bear human conflicts are many and we support the use of these tools to manage health and human safety issues. The following list of recommendations is being provided to the DWR to be considered in this process. When approached by hunters seeking information on concerns the Forest Service may have particular bait locations the Dixie and Fish Lake National Forest will continue to use a 1 mile buffer around all developed recreation sites, disperse camping sites, wilderness areas, repeaters, oil and gas wells, and municipalities. These buffers were established by the Dixie and Fish Lake to reduce the potential for human encounters with bears as they are drawn to areas with bait. These buffers address health and human safety issues that may be encouraged by bear baiting stations. Next bullet: Extending the bear hunt by allowing hunting with any weapon over bait during June into early July raises concern by some forest service units as it may increase the risk of general forest visitors as they are not use to seeing hunting during these months. Extending the bait season into late June and early July may create a conflict with grazing on allotments with bear baiting stations as bears that would normally be in other areas of the forest away from livestock may be encouraged into areas where livestock has been moved. The forest will work, will coordinate closely with the staff to encourage bait stations away from these potential conflicts. Next bullet: Fall hunting over bait will require us to review many other uses on the forest to minimize conflicts due to the high level of recreation activity during this time of year. Be aware that unresolved conflicts may occur and hunters should contact the forest service office early to check proposed bait locations for concern with other uses. The forest service is committed however to work with those

proposing bait locations on national forest lands in a timely manner. The Dixie National Forest is in support of a telemetry bear study on the Powell Range District, on the Paunsaugant Plateau and hopes these recommended changes don't change the collection of the cooperative data on collared bears. We recognize the time, effort and money put into this study and support the research that's being conducted. In closing we appreciate this opportunity to comment on the proposed bear (unintelligible) regulation changes and hope these comments will be considered in the final development. Thanks for your time. If there's any questions. (See attachment 3)

Sam Carpenter: So, on forest service land there are designated areas they can bait. They can't just go out and set bait wherever they want? They need to go through you guys to bait?

Steve Flinders: Yeah. So the guidebook sends baiters, hunters to land management agencies or private landowners for permission before the Division will grant a COR. The forest puts a 1-mile buffer. So if you imaging the Kent's Lake Highway, or Highway 14, most of it's closed. So this June season will get some additional harvest by baiters but they often hunt the same areas and they're not necessarily going to hunt LaBaron where we've had these problems. It may be that extra week that the recommendation has afforded houndsman to actually kill those, to kill those additional bears.

Sam Carpenter: Ben, and Dan, do you have any conflict with this letter and what they're saying here, as far as being a houndsman and the people that are affected by this?

Dan Cockayne: (off mic) I haven't seen the letter.

Steve Flinders: Yeah, it just really relates to bait. Yeah, Brian's dealt with it first hand.

Kevin Bunnell: Sam, Sam, it's really no change by the way, as they have been dealing with it.

Steve Flinders: The people it will take by surprise are the new any weapon hunters who haven't ever baited before realize oh I can't just go anywhere.

Mike Worthen: Hang on just a minute. Are we through with Steve?

Ben Louder: I thought he called me up to respond to . . .

Sam Carpenter: I just wanted to know if you were on the same page and if this was some kind of a change, if there was a conflict.

Mike Worthen: We were just having a question, we'll have a comments, if you've got another comment you wanted to ask you need to fill out a card.

Ben Louder: I just thought he was asking us to come up and address that.

Kevin Bunnell: Sam asked Ben to come and answer a question.

Mike Worthen: Okay, all right. So fine, go ahead.

Ben Louder: So like Steve said, it's nothing new. It's what we've dealt with um, yeah, for, in the past.

Um, Ben Louder, sorry. Um, with that said it would be nice to see the Forest Service regulations more closely match the Division's regulations because they are different. But that's all I have, thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Now we have Tom Twitchell. Okay, question from Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: The collared bears, is it illegal to kill a collared bear?

Kevin Bunnell: No.

Rusty Aiken: No?

Mike Worthen: Just have to take the collar in I would imagine. Okay, Tom.

Leslie McFarlane: While he's thinking can I address some of the things in the request from the bowman and the houndsman? Will you give me the chance to do that or?

Mike Worthen: Yes, yes, go ahead.

Leslie McFarlane: So as far as the 4 recommendations that they have made on their, the 4 exceptions, the purpose between our splitting the spring and the summer season was to try and eliminate conflicts. So by putting those two weeks back together we're kind of doing away with the purpose that we created the two seasons for in the first place. So we would object, we do kind of oppose this request, we do oppose this request. I will still support the southeastern region request to keep the season dates shorter just because of the conflict issues. As far as drawing the spring and the summer tags from the same tag pool, we do have concerns over this because we are creating a new hunt with new hunters that will have interest in that summer season because they can now hunt over bait with any weapon. So we're opening up this pool for a new group of people that have never bear hunted before. We do have concerns that on some of these units where we have like 35 permits between those two seasons that all 35 people could choose to go during that summer season which would then impact the Forest Service or other land management agencies with 70 bait stations now that want to be registered on their properties. So we're requesting that we keep that limited to the shorter number of permits until we can really evaluate what the interest is over the coming years; and then we'll adjust permits accordingly. But for this first year we want to have a chance to evaluate it. As far as making spring harvest objective different for residents versus non-residents, it does create some issues for us as far as um, treating people equally. It's come up before when we were not allowing people to pursue, non-residents to pursue in our state. I did meet with the attorney general's office and there are concerns over us doing that. Rather than going down that road we would rather see it go back to limited entry, double the number of permits and then split it 90-10 so that we're not creating that inequality issue that does create some issues for our agency

Sam Carpenter: Can I ask you one question?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes.

Sam Carpenter: Wouldn't you like to see a higher success rate in the number of bears that are taken? I mean you're under 50 percent on it. And some of this stuff I think would help that out. Aren't we trying to, you know, get better success rates for these people?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes we are trying to see higher success rates.

Dale Bagley: One question. On the limited entry, if we allowed bait to be out starting on May 23<sup>rd</sup> but they couldn't actually hunt until June 6<sup>th</sup>, so you wouldn't really have any conflict with the hunters, but they're still getting their bait and getting hits on it maybe a couple of weeks early. Would that be something the Division would (unintelligible)?

Leslie McFarlane: So in our current proposal we were allowing them to begin baiting May 30<sup>th</sup> but we were requesting that they didn't start until June 6<sup>th</sup>, to give them a period of time that they could start prebaiting before they actually hunted. Their proposal actually added an extra week on the front of that and then they wanted to start hunting on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. So there would be that overlap again.

Kevin Bunnell: So right. So Leslie, so what Dale's asking is there an objection to just extending the baiting, to put the bait out two weeks early than a week early, they still couldn't hunt until June 6<sup>th</sup>. Just add an extra week to just putting the baits out not hunt.

Leslie McFarlane: Their request was to begin . . .

Kevin Bunnell: I know but his question was to split that in half.

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah, I wouldn't have a problem with that, no.

Brian Johnson: I have a question. So the hound season gets an extra 4 weeks of hunting and the bait season, I think all that these organizations that have come together to do is say, look I understand there's going to be a conflict or a potential for an imagined conflict. I'm sure there is, I'm sorry. But they're all sitting here saying, you know, historically Utah Bowman's Association has been the group bow hunting over bait, they're saying we'd rather have the risk of a conflict and have those two weeks in the front half of that season then not have those two weeks at all.

Leslie McFarlane: But I think that the Bowman's Association isn't the one receiving all of the complaints that the agency gets. They are not hearing them. I mean Ben and I have discussed this and they are not hearing the complaints that we get from people that are not members of the Bowman's Association.

Brian Johnson: I can appreciate that.

Leslie McFarlane: The other thing is, is the Division, we were trying to make an effort to provide different opportunities for different people. If hides during that time period are that much of an issue we would rather probably try and combine the two hunts back together again and put them into the spring season rather than have the newer extended period. If it's that much of a perceived, if it's that much of a conflict because they're not getting the same amount of time as the houndsman, which also have access issues in the early spring . . .

Brian Johnson: I am well aware of access. Yeah, I've had that tag twice and I've . . .

Leslie McFarlane: But I mean what I am saying is that if we are creating that much issue where we're not fair to both then we'd rather combine the two seasons back together and have one.

Brian Johnson: And have it go an extra 3 weeks that would be great. I've been asking for that for like ten years.

Leslie McFarlane: Probably not the 3 weeks. It would be a shorter season.

Brian Johnson: I mean we've actually passed that recommendation in the southern region every single time.

Leslie McFarlane: So the issue there though is if the bear hides are rubbed we would shorten the season if that's the concern.

Mike Worthen: All right, let's move on. Tom Twitchell. Is Tom here? Jim Twitchell.

Jim Twitchell: My name's Jim Twitchell. I'm representing myself. I've got a comment concerning the baiting and getting access to the maps to do the baiting. It becomes a lengthy process between going through the Forest Service, going back to the DWR. You do not have access to a copy of the map. You do not, you can't look at an online version. You can go down to the office and look at it, go up and get your GPS, come back. It can add weeks to the process. If you're off by 10 feet, if you don't have (unintelligible) because you still have to get approval. The baiting period is very short. I was just wondering if there was any way that we could get better access to the maps, better communication between the DWR and the Forest Service so that as a hunter you have the time to do it right, get your bait in? Because it's a very short window before you can actually get the bears out, because a lot of years because of snow access to areas, it becomes very difficult. Thank you guys.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Robbie Bradshaw is up.

Robbie Bradshaw: Yeah, my comment comes from the June, you added the 5 tags in June, and you added the 5 tags because of bear human conflict, is that? On the Beaver unit, yes. Okay, so to me these bears are in a problem area, in a camping or a dwelling area, and then they open it up for bait, but you can't bait within a mile of a camping area. And I don't see these bears leaving the troubled area, the camping area out a mile to go to a bait and leave. For me personally I think that a houndsman should be able to go up and run a problem bear. And they're the ones who could pursue the bear out of the area, and run it out of the area. I don't see baiting a bear out of a camp spot. They said, just barely a few moments ago, that the bear was coming in every single night to the dumpster. It's not going to leave the dumpster to go to somebody's bait that is a whole mile away. To be able to get rid of the problem bear you're going to need houndsman, and a houndsman to run that bear out of there.

Mike Worthen: Okay. Leslie, did you want to respond to that?

Leslie McFarlane: You're talking about houndsman during the summer season?

Robbie Bradshaw: (off mic) In June I don't see how, how is baiting a bear in June out of a camping area, when you can only bait a whole mile away from a dwelling . . .

Leslie McFarlane: So there are a couple of issues there. The reason that we're not allowing June hound season is because that's our primary season for elk calving and deer fawning. And so we do not want to

have hounds running through those areas during those time periods. If we had a campground bear we would probably elect to have a houndsman come and do it and it would be more of a controlled situation. And we would use hounds to do that type of thing if we're trying to get a bear out of a campground. We wouldn't be relying completely on the bait hunter to try and attract them away. If we've got a campground bear we would go to hounds.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Jeremy Gale.

Jeremy Gale: Yeah, my name is Jeremy Gale. I'd just kind of like to basically say the same thing that Robbie said. And I think that we need to look at maybe micro managing the units for bear. You know we're speaking for the Beaver unit. And like Robbie said, pursuing these bears in these problem areas is going to be a lot more effective than baiting in these problem areas. In May and April when the hounds can run on the Beaver unit we can't even access these areas where these problem bears are. Even if there was no snow the roads are closed. So I would like to propose that we flip flop those two seasons, let the baiting happen, at least on the Beaver unit, in the month of May, April and May, and let the hounds run that last part of May and June. I think that would be a lot more effective for these, you know, helping these problem bears.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Leslie.

Leslie McFarlane: There is one other thing that I didn't touch on though, that there is concern when you start using hounds through the month of June and you do have baby bears out. And there is the possibility that hounds come on the baby bears. The sows are out more in June than they are in that earlier season; because you have the boars that are emerging early on and that is why we allow the hounds during that earlier period because you have more boars. We don't want to get more into hounds during that summer season because there are more females with more cubs out. And that is a reason that we lost spring hunting in the past.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you.

Layne Torgerson: Leslie, I have a question, correct me if I am wrong, but this summer season, the June 6<sup>th</sup> - July 2<sup>nd</sup> season, baiting is allowed, it's not required, correct?

Leslie McFarlane: You can spot and stalk or bait.

Layne Torgerson: My point being is if we, these problem bears that these guys from Beaver are talking about, um, I mean if they're coming into the dumpster, they're coming into campgrounds and a guys got a tag up there, it's an any weapon hunt, he can just go shoot that bear.

Leslie McFarlane: Uh huh. As long as he had the permit for that season, yes.

Layne Torgerson: As long as he has a permit for that season. It doesn't have to be over bait.

Leslie McFarlane: No. No. And the other thing to remember too though is if we're dealing with a nuisance bear we will try and call the hunters in to take that bear. Um, and if we can't get hunters from the current season we usually go to the previous season and start calling them.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Brayden Richmond.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing the local SFW chapter here in Beaver. We just want to support this joint proposal that the UBA, SFW, UWC and the houndsman put up. As mentioned before that's pretty unique that the 4 organizations get together and all agree on a proposal. Now if I can represent myself quickly. I want to address a couple of concerns that I have that I've heard go back and forth. One, we talked about this baiting in June and this idea of having the tags come out of the same draw pool, that's the way it's been in Utah for a long, long time. The tags come out of the same draw pool. We're not asking for anything unique. That's the way we're doing it currently, the tags come out of the same draw pool. The concern was expressed, what if everybody jumped to baiting? Well first of all that's not going to happen, but let's say it did. We're actually opening up probably double or triple the amount of area on these mountains by having that later season. So if we do have substantially more bait sites we've got substantially more area you can access. I think we limit that impact. Another one was uh, it was brought up and I think it's a really good point, what do we manage bears to? Do we manage them to population objective? What are we managing them to? Why don't we look at bears the same way we look at deer? We shoot them for fun. Let's be honest about it. The houndsman want to chase them for fun. I want to kill them for fun. This is an opportunity hunt and to not have a management objective seems a little strange to me. So we're making arbitrary decisions without really knowing why. One other thing I want to say is, actually I had two more. Um, this is a concern I have and it actually goes to a couple of other RACs, the DWR has said we made this decision based on complaints. I just have a concern that we're acknowledging complaints from people that are doing things that aren't illegal. If a bow hunter calls and he's got a bait that's being hit by dogs, that's not illegal. So why does the DWR acknowledge their complaint? In my business if someone calls me up to complain about something that I don't deal with I don't acknowledge that complaint and I surely don't change my processes to deal with that complaint. So I think we've got to be careful on that road. Then to feed off of that idea, my other thought with that is once again in Utah we've been baiting and running hounds over the same dates for years. Now we're asking that the archers extend two weeks back into the hound season. The archers, if they choose and they don't want to have conflicts they have a month they can bait alone. If they choose they can potentially have conflicts, not a DWR problem, a hunter problem. Let's let the hunter make that decision. Let's quit . . . I just . . . Very passionate that we need to get government away from making our decisions. And if a hunter makes the decision to potentially have a conflict let's let that be a hunter decision. Anyway appreciate it, thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Jeff Brewer.

Jeff Brewer: Jeff Brewer. I'm here just representing myself. I am a houndsman. I've had hounds 30 years. Not that that makes me more knowledgeable than anybody else, but I've been around a long time, chased behind dogs a long time. I'm just going to say I came tonight to fight the bait. I'll be honest with ya. I thought, na, I'm not going to cave in to bait and guns and shooting bears over bait with rifles but after the proposal tonight, I haven't had a lot of conflicts with other hunters but I try to be pretty easy to get along with when I'm in the hills with my dogs. They have the ultimate say over us because they're carrying guns and bows and our dogs are running through the hills. So I try to be a good guy. Anyway I'm going to go ahead and support the DWR's recommendation for the spring season to June 5<sup>th</sup> and to separate the bait hunters from the hound hunters and see what the bait season in June does. Separate the two and let's have a go at it and see how it goes. I'm going to come back to the summer pursuit season, it's a great time of year; we camp, we take our families, we run bears out of campgrounds. The only thing I'd like to say is the two of the best units in the state, LaSal and the San Juan, it's crazy that we're

limiting tags on those two units. It's just crazy in my mind. I'd just like to see the Division look at that, to let us pursue down there. The fall season, uh, a few more tag. You know we give 4 or 5 tags. I've actually had LaSal tags the last 2 years in a row. Hunted down there, ran into Dan Cockayne. We had great times. To have conflicts with archery elk hunters, no. Actually just the opposite, we stopped, we talked, they tell us where they've seen bears. They ask us if we've seen any big bull elk; same thing on the San Juan. I hunted the San Juan for years, and years and years; never had trouble with the elk hunters. When the season went to full length, and that's my last recommendation, or my recommendation is that the fall season be the regular season; not modify it for the elk hunts. We get along really good. We are hunters. You know there are personalities but it's not really a management problem. I'd say the fall hunt be the regular season that it is not cut it short on the San Juan and the LaSals. And the last thing that was brought up is this Beaver spot and stalk hunt, it just didn't work. My brother-in-law's brought tags. Late on that season they thought they'd shoot a bear during the deer hunt or the elk hunt, didn't happen, never seen bears. You know the best way to harvest bears, again, is with hounds. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. We got Jake Schoppe.

Jake Schoppe: Jake Schoppe; thanks for the opportunity to address you guys tonight. I'm here to address that real specific comment in that Forest Service letter on Paunsagaunt. For a lot of you guys that aren't aware, I know the Division folks are, they started a habitat study last year. I think we have 8 or 9 collared bears right now. BYU did the research and we work really hard with those guys to put those bears out this year. And I know that these guys work real hard with them and helped them. So there's a lot of time, money and investment on those bears. I spent the morning talking with Josh Pollock about, you know, are the bears there for harvest? And he really feel like, yeah, there's plenty of bears that are for harvest so that's not the concern. The concern is we have a lot of neat things coming out of that study right now. I would have never guessed that the bears were ranging as wide as they are. We have bears crossing over to the Dutton. We're getting a lot of great data. I don't want to lose that investment. And so if you could put a provision in there that says, hey don't harvest the collared bear. Let us get a couple of years worth of data out of that, I think would be great. My questions would be why would you want to let somebody harvest a collared bear? Let the houndsman chase them around, see where they go. There's a lot of good information that can come out of that. So, that's my comment on it. Let's see what else was in my notes here. I'm glad the extra 4 was a typo. Maybe just one other personal comment I had was you mentioned that it's really hard to track down hunters to take the harvest questionnaire and so you're going to require it of every hunter that puts in for a bear permit now. A lot of people in the state only put in for a point every year so they would have to take a questionnaire just to get a point. It would seem like maybe there would be another work around that, that's just a personal comment I have. Thanks.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Any other comments from the public? That's all the cards we've got.

### **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Mike Worthen: So let's move on to the comments from the RAC. Okay, we will consider motions but before we do let me kind of read a summary of what some of the comments were. The uh, joint 4 associations suggested a summer season date change, and the San Juan, LaSal fall dates, is that to be the same? And then the draw spring-summer tags from the same pool. And then the spring harvest objective units same as residents and limited for non-residents, limited entry. And then the Utah Houndsman Association supports the joint proposal; even though they don't love it all, love all of it, they recognize

the need to compromise. Then a letter from the Forest Service which had the 4 points: One mile buffer around the forest service camping or recreation or whatever areas, June and July extension conflict with other uses hunting on bait conflict, come into the Forest Service to get those areas, and the restrictions that will be placed. And then they are concerned with the research on the Paunsagaunt, which Jake mentioned. Then we have the houndsman of Beaver concerned that they can't get to the areas with problem bears during the time when bears are causing problems. And why are we acknowledging complaints regarding issues where there is no illegal activity – conflicts between baiting and houndsman. And allow more summer pursuit opportunities on the LaSal and the San Juan. And protect collard bears from harvest, which you mentioned. So please consider those recommendations as we start to form motions. Brian.

Brian Johnson: I would like to make a motion.

Dale Bagley: Before you do I'd like to ask a question. On the Monroe we restrict collared take of cougars, right? So could that be something we could do on the Paunsagaunt?

Leslie McFarlane: (Off mic) It would require a rule change . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Leslie, come to the mic please.

Leslie McFarlane: It would have to be changed and approved through the rule change. It would require a rule change.

Dale Bagley: So it's not possible at this time to do that then?

Leslie McFarlane: No.

Kevin Bunnell: The rules not open right now?

Leslie McFarlane: Oh the rule's open right now, yeah. I mean, he, I thought he meant . . .

Mike Worthen: You could make a recommendation to change that in the motion.

Mack Morrell: Mike, can I have a comment. John Keeler called me just before this to say he wouldn't be able to make it tonight but from the Farm Bureau they support the Division's recommendation. support

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Sam did you have a comment?

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, this is concerning some of the comments that Jake just made. Where you stated that they do have to take an orientation course prior to applying for a permit. Why can't we inject something in there about these collared bears, their importance and see if that can be addressed, you know, through that course that they take, and uh, probably prevent some of that from happening. And I totally misunderstood you, Rusty asked the question about whether or not they could shoot a collared bear, and I thought you said they could not.

Kevin Bunnell: No he asked if, I could have asked if there were restrictions on taking collared bears and I said no. And I know there weren't. Okay, so just to be clear, there are no restrictions on harvesting a

collared bear. And uh, I mean I see Leslie down there shaking her head. You know the orientation course and putting information in there you know may be a happy medium and a place that we could go and see what difference it makes. We've had, you know we've had collared bears all over the state for years. Um, we don't get a lot of harvest on the collared bears. It hasn't been a huge issue. But these are a different kind of collar, they're GPS collars. They're, you know, cost quite a bit more than the standard collar so it's a balancing act that we try to, you know, you try to balance between getting the research done and then not limiting a guy that, you know, same issue that we had that came up at the Board meeting about not being able to harvest a big horn sheep. There was a big long discussion about that. Should we not allow people to harvest a collared big horn sheep on some units? And the discussion revolved around, you know, how do you tell a guy that's got a tag that he can't harvest a bear that he's got in front of him; and so maybe an effort to educate people and help them make that decision, you know, from an ethical side. Give them additional information on why that might not be an idea, you know, may be a first step towards protecting those.

Brian Johnson: Aren't the majority of the bears you collared females?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes, but on the study down on the Paunsagaunt there are some males. The majority are females.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, the study on the Paunsaugunt is different because they're collaring, specifically collaring nuisance bears. And so it's, it's, bears that are getting in trouble and so we're not specifically collaring just females on that study.

Harry Barber: The BLM is part of that study, and like you just described, I don't want to get in the way, BLM doesn't want to get in the way of somebody being successful. But we would support some level of education in some form, some fashion or another, to at least give opportunity for people to avoid that and leave some level of discussion there.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any more comment from the RAC? Okay, go ahead Brian.

Brian Johnson: I would like to make a motion that we support the Division's recommendations with the exceptions that the Utah Bowman, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsman and United Wildlife Cooperative made. (Attachment 2)

Mike Worthen: Okay, it's been moved that we support the recommendations with the exceptions of the Utah Houndsman, Utah Cooperative, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife, and the Utah Bowman Association recommendations. And it has been seconded by Rusty..

Brian Johnson: Before that second Rusty, if you would allow me to add something in there about the orientation and education with collared bears I think we'd all, if you would allow me to amend that and still second that.

Mike Worthen: Okay so would you state your motion again?

Brian Johnson: I would also like that motion to include some education on collared bears and how the study is important for the progress of a healthy bear population, how expensive it is to collar them, and encourage hunters not to shoot them.

Mike Worthen: Okay let me see if I can grasp the motion one more time.

Brian Johnson: I shouldn't say to encourage them not to shoot them but just to encourage them, to educate them about the purpose of the collars on the bears.

Mike Worthen: So the motion now is to accept the DWR proposal with the exceptions of the 4 groups as reads earlier and to include a recommendation to educate or provide an education on collared research bears in the orientation portion of the permittee process. And do we have a second? Seconded by Rusty. Discussion?

Sam Carpenter: Yes. There are 2 pages to this. Are we including the second page as well as the first page? There's another complete page to the 4 points.

Brian Johnson: My understanding is the second page was more of an education. It was more of an FYI.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, it's not part of the proposal. It's just an example of . . .

Sam Carpenter: That was my question, okay.

Mike Worthen: Okay, are we ready to have the question? Okay, all in favor? Opposed? One opposed. Motion passes.

**Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the 2015 Black Bear Recommendations and Rule Amendments as presented with the exceptions that the Utah Bowmen's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Utah Houndsman Association and the United Wildlife Cooperative proposed (see attachment 2) and that the required orientation course include information about collared bears. Rusty Aiken seconded. Motion carried 8:1 (Dale Bagley opposed).**

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's move on to the next agenda item, R657-55, Convention Permit Rules, and Kenny Johnson is going to give that presentation. Oh hang on. Wolf Management Plan Extension, Leslie you're up.

**Wolf Management Plan Extension (action) 1:47:32 to 1:49:56 of 2:25:03**

**-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

(see attachment 1)

**Questions from the RAC:**

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

Sam Carpenter: Of course. I noticed that you say here that these wolves that you've acknowledged, did we not acknowledge the one that showed up on the North Rim that it had traveled through the entire state to get there?

Leslie McFarlane: Oh we acknowledged that it went through, yeah. That's why it's around.

Sam Carpenter: Okay, so there is, that wolf is still alive and well and somewhere between northern Utah and the Grand Canyon, true?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes. Well it's in the, it's in the, it's on the Grand Canyon still. It hasn't left there. It's on the North Rim still.

Sam Carpenter: It has a collar but it's not active, is that true?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes. They're trying to catch it so that they can replace the collar but they've still got sightings and things that have occurred in the last little while.

Sam Carpenter: So have you got any kind of an update when we will finally get this, the wolf delisted in the entire state?

Leslie McFarlane: No, no. It's a . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Sam, there is actually a, there's currently a proposal out there from the Fish and Wildlife Service to do that in areas other than with Mexican wolves. That's been a very, been very political and I don't know how long it's going to take to work through that process. But that proposal is out there which is a big step in the right direction. Um, and just in response to, and I've just, I, wolves are one of the things that I've dealt with for my entire career. Just to put you into perspective the ability of these things to travel is pretty amazing. And just as an example, seven or eight years ago there was a collared wolf that had a GPS collar on it that was moving down towards Utah from Montana. And we got a phone call; this particular collar would download once every two weeks. It wasn't one that you could just find out at any given time where it was. And the researchers called us and they said we've got a wolf that's, you know, just north of the Utah border and wanted to give you a heads up. We said, okay. Two weeks later they called me and said that wolf is now on the South Slope of the Uintas, and this was in January. And then they called two weeks later and said that wolf is in Vail, Colorado. So in a month's time it went from north of Logan, across the Uintas, in January in 8 hours, and headed over to Colorado. I mean when they're wandering they can just cover land at an amazing rate. They just travel across in huge chunks. So, and what that goes to is certainly we have wolves coming in and out of the state fairly regularly, not all of them are detected. When one sets up shop I think we know about it, is kind of the point.

Sam Carpenter: So this one that we do know about is considered to be traveling alone, true? Have you seen it alone? Is it that there's no way to justify . . .

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah, it was sighted several times by our biologists out there, and different hunters and we have pictures of it, and we were never able to identify any other wolf with it.

Kevin Bunnell: The thing about wolves, that's nice about them, is when they do set up shop they're not very secretive. They're pretty, you know they're there.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions from the RAC?

Dale Bagley: So in this plan on page 20, it says some economic impacts of wolves, and it gives some figures. Are those, I assume those figures are from when the plan was first done.

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah, so there are some things here, we're not looking to alter or make any changes to the plan. We only want to extend the dates so we are not updating any information in the plan and not opening it up for changes.

Dale Bagley: All right.

Mike Worthen: And correct me if I'm wrong, but this plan does come into effect when the wolf is delisted and it's something that the Fish and Wildlife Service will probably require the states to have in place before?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes, the Utah State Legislature requested that we put a plan in place.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions from the RAC?

**Questions from the public:**

Mike Worthen: Any questions from the public?

None

**Comments from the public:**

Mike Worthen: And any comments from the public? I don't have any comment cards so let's move on to comments from the RAC.

None

**RAC Discussion and vote:**

Dave Worthen: Hearing none let's entertain a motion. Brian.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we accept the Wolf Management Plan as proposed

Mike Worthen: Okay it's been moved and seconded by Brian, seconded by Layne that we accept the Wolf Management Plan as explained. All in favor? Any opposed? Unanimous.

**Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Wolf Management Plan as presented. Layne Torgerson seconded. Motion carried unanimously**

Mike Worthen: Okay, item number 8, R657-55. Convention Permit Rule Amendments, and Kenny Johnson.

**Convention Permit Rule Amendments R657-55 (action) 1:55:33 to 2:00:26 of 2:25:03**  
**-Kenny Johnson, Administrative Section Chief**  
(See attachment 1)

## Questions from the RAC:

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

Layne Torgerson: On the permits that are, these 200 permits, it says in here that they come from traditional public drawings. Is there a percentage of so many resident, so many non-resident, I mean where do they come from? Do they come out of the non-resident pool, out of the resident pool, or out of the total pool, or where do these tags come from?

Kenny Johnson: They come off the total pool.

Layne Torgerson: Okay, so it's not all coming out of the resident pool or not all coming out of the non-resident pool.

Kenny Johnson: Correct.

Mike Worthen: Oka, any other questions? Mack.

Mack Morrell: Question on the funds received for these conservation permits. I received a few emails regarding the split of the money. Uh, it seems to me that there's a lack of transparency on that split and where it goes and what it's used for and everything else. Can you explain that?

Kenny Johnson: Yeah, so, so in the initial terms of the contract there were no real requirements for those funds at all. And so when we, when we reviewed it in 2013 and made the amendment to the contract we decided to pay, it was kind of agreed upon by a bunch of the groups involved to pay the contractor the same rate that we paid our, even though it's completely unrelated, our Bucks and Bulls contractor. So the one we do in kind of that January/February timeframe. So we made that step then and, and, you know the 350, it's a fee that we've discussed with them internally and we're comfortable that they can justify the use of those funds. And then the \$1.50 per application that is set aside specifically for projects; we do scrutinize that and make sure that it's kept separate and used for projects.

Mack Morrell: What's the current split?

Kenny Johnson: It was 3.12, \$3.12 the first year for the contractor, and \$3.01 this year. So those two are, when we tied it, when the amendment tied it to the existing contract that we had it didn't really take into account that, me personally I renegotiate our contract with Nevada every year and we typically increase applications which means they can do it for less money every year. And we just wanted to separate the funds in a standardized way so we, so there wasn't really any guessing year to year, we kind of knew and the contractor knew what funds they had available.

Mike Worthen: Any other questions from the RAC?

Dale Bagley: So when that contract is up, you're going to offer a renewal, but is there going to be a new contract or it's going to be the same contract as the one that expired on the renewed contract?

Kenny Johnson: So it will go, it will be open again, open for bid again. When the 2016 time lapses it will be open to the world again for a new contract.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any more questions?

**Questions from the public:**

None

**Comments from the public:**

Mike Worthen: Then let's move into the comments from the public, Jon Larson.

Jon Larson: Thanks Kenny. Jon Larson with Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. Speaking on behalf of the expo and it's partners, we accept the Division's proposals tonight. In addition to that I'd like to spend just a few minutes and attempt to educate the group here, it's a small group, but on a couple of things that the expo does really well for the state of Utah, and I'll start with the financial perspective first. In ... in 2009 we partnered with the Mule Deer Foundation and the University of Utah to conduct the BEBR Report, which is the Bureau of Economic Business and Research. And what we found was the financial impact to the state of Utah based off that report stated that there was a revenue stream of about 8.5 million dollars of revenue flowing back into the state of Utah, which is great for Utah's economy. That was 4 years ago. So we anticipate that looking more like, I'm going to say between 11, well 10 and 11 million dollars today. So that's really a big win for Utah's personal economy, or our state's economy. Secondly, is what the expo does for our wildlife. And probably more importantly what it does for our wildlife in the first section there. And if I could I'll explain that by sharing two examples with you, one is this, the last three years we partnered with the Division to release close to 36,000 ring neck pheasants across the state. And you know there's a cost associated with that. We figured that cost is about, well it's a little over \$180,000 dollars and the majority of those funds have come through SFW, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife to do that. We did that for 2 reasons, one to get kids off the couch and in the field with their dad's, which is a neat thing, number 2, you know to take a 2-decade decline in pheasant habitat and really poor pheasant hunting conditions across the state and turn it around, and we've done that. We're actually seeing the benefits of that right now with a great pheasant hunt this year, which I sat with the Division earlier and talked about that. Also, another project, in 2013 we partnered with Brigham Young University and the Division to conduct the first mule deer translocation project in the state of Utah, removing 300 deer, mule deer off the Parowan Front and off Antelope Island to the Pahvant, and the Oak Creek units which is just better habitat, winter habitat, better winter range for those mule deer. So they have a better chance of survival, survival rate goes up, further enhancing Utah's mule deer herds, which is a real big win for the state. As a result of that, interestingly enough, we now have New Mexico and British Columbia following our model with their transplant project. So in essence Utah once again is leading the way, literally modeling the way for future big game management across the country. That's a big win. Now if I could I'm going to ask you to put a business hat on with me just for a minute and look at this from a business prospective regarding the Division's proposals starting with the five-year extension. If you understand business principals at all you understand that your relationships there are built on trust. Just like your personal relationships, it's all about trust, and that takes time to build and cultivate. Once you define your relationship and where you're going you then have to continuously refine it, all the time. You never really reach that plateau, at least I haven't see that where it's just golden and you have a perfect relationship, no matter what you do you're not going to offend or affect your partners. This doesn't happen that way. And so to explain that, let me share this with ya, recently in the last two months I sat in two different joint meetings with Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsman for Fish

and Wildlife and I'm amazed at the level of massaging we still have to do with our vendor partners at the expo, after nine years, not 5, nine years later we're massaging these relationships all the time. So to think you can just turnkey that expo over to a new contractor regardless of who the contractor is, the best manager gets the job. But to think you can turn that over every 5 years and it's not going to affect the two things I started with, the economic value to the state, or the funds that allow us to do what we do with our herds and make us a model state in the country, I would politely and humbly disagree with that. I don't think that would happen. I think it would be damaging and it's a risk. Secondly, and I'll be brief here, speaking to the \$5.00 permit, those first two projects that I shared with you are a direct result of the funds generated from that \$5.00, the \$5.00 entry fee. So that's a big deal. Those funds go right back down to the ground every time. In addition to what it costs to run the expo, by raise of hand who's been to the expo in this room? Most of you have, then you know it's a big deal and it's a big show and it takes a lot to put that on. It's an enormous project and there is a cost associated with that. But more importantly than the cost, at the end of the day it's the big game management that we have here and what that expo allows us to do. So I think, you know, big proponent of the Division's plan to do this. I think it sets us up for long-term success to keep those two things viable, the economic value and what it does for our big game management. I think if we accept that you'll see that enhancement for years to come. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you.

Sam Carpenter: Can you come back up? I guess my question on this is what is the split between MDF and SFW with the rest of the proceeds on this thing? I know SFW is big time into Utah stuff. Utah's put forth the permits, SFW not so much. So what's that split? Or MDF I mean.

John Larson: 50 / 50, we split that right down the middle. The majority of those funds cover the cost of the program. And there's some left over which we put back on the ground, but 50/50.

Mike Worthen: Okay. All right, Ben Louder.

Ben Louder: Ben Louder, representing Utah Bowman's association.. Thank you Mr. Chairman. We attend the expo every year; we have a booth at the expo every year. We believe that the two current contractors are doing a great job with the expo as well as with the funds that are generated and what they're doing with habitat projects in the state. And thus we support the recommendations as presented. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you. Do we have any further comments or questions from the RAC?

Kevin Bunnell: We have one comment card here from Troy.

Mike Worthen: Go ahead Troy.

Troy Justensen: I am sorry; I was busy eating the brownies that Teresa passed out. Troy Justensen, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. I just want to speak a little bit pertaining to this. One thing that I think we really need to take a look at is with the monies that we retain is what we do with them. I think you can ask any federal land agency, Harry you're sitting over there, BLM, Grand Staircase, Forest Service, that when there's something in need and they ask us, Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife steps up. These

funds are critically important for us. I think the slide's a little bit misleading when it says \$3.50 for overhead, not necessarily. That money goes into our general fund and allows us to spend that money where we see fit. As projects come up such as on the Paunsagaunt or this deer transplant on the Parowan front, it allows us the flexibility to do those things. Jon mentioned that, you know, the ring neck pheasants, I mean we spent over \$180,000. That's why we exist, that's why we're here. That's why we generate those monies to be able to invest them back on the ground. SFW is unique in itself for the simple fact that all the monies we raise stay here in the state of Utah. And all the monies we raise go towards wildlife in one form or another. Now they may not all be as far transplants, chainings or whatever, but we try to leverage our money to increase wildlife and protect the heritage we all enjoy which benefits the non-consumptives, the cattlemen, the sportsman and everything alike. One thing to really consider is we pay 1.5 million dollars to Fallon, Nevada every year. Do you know how much of the money comes back to the state of Utah? Zero. You know how many jobs that creates in the state of Utah? Zero. Do you know how much money goes back into wildlife of that money? Zero. I think the key thing is, and these two changes even if we change contractors in the future, whoever it may be, we'd still support these changes because we understand the importance of it. The key thing is to look at what we're accomplishing as groups. And I think we've done a good job and our track record speaks for itself, saying we put Utah's wildlife first. Thank you.

Mike Worthen: Thank you. Okay, any other comments from the public before we jump on? Okay, we've got one more comment card. Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: I'll be quick. I'm not going to say anything that hasn't been said. Oh sorry, Brayden Richmond, Beaver SFW. I just figured you had that on record at this point. I just want to take this down to a local level a little bit too. This is the southern RAC and I thought I'd point out some local issues. I'm the chairman of the Beaver SFW committee. Let me just tell you quickly 3 projects we did last year in Beaver with funds in this general fund. Milford wildlife group, raising pheasants for youth hunts came to us, they were out of money, needed some money. SFW wrote them a check to do their program, a different organization, not even our organization. Same time of year some cattlemen came to us, there had been a burn north of town, wasn't feed up on the hills, the elk were coming into their hay fields and eating their crops. Came to us to ask us, they said we put together some money for some feed, we don't have enough money to get it done. Would SFW consider helping us out with this project? Wrote them a check that day. I called up to Salt Lake, said can we get a check for this? Yes. Called them back; it was less than an hour later that we said you're a go, get this project going. Planted feed up north of town to put those elk back up in the hills, take care of the elk, take care of the ranchers. Um, and then we did another project over on the Greenville bench where we ran some water up higher on that bench where there's no water. Once again, to help keep the animals further up on the bench out of the fields; help the animals, help the ranchers. So here on a local level we're seeing these projects all the time, consistently and regularly. So just wanted to put that plug in too. So we support this. Thank you

Mike Worthen: Okay, thank you Brayden.

### **RAC Discussion and Vote:**

Mike Worthen: Okay, do we have any comments from the RAC? Go ahead Sam.

Sam Carpenter: Yeah, I can personally testify to the work that's been done on the Paunsagaunt with SFW through the water projects, the fences; every time we've needed something down there. We had a

period of time down there where we had no water in any of the catchments, cattlemen were hurting, SFW jumped in, provided the money to buy and haul water to these different tanks. This went on for several months at their expense. And I can tell you, I personally feel they have earned the right to do this expo and I think it's theirs to lose.

Mike Worthen: Okay, Harry.

Harry Barber: I'd be ungrateful if I didn't point out that the BLM, we've been pretty blessed by some of those monies on several occasions, multiple projects. So SFW has been pretty helpful for a lot of the BLM work that we do in Kanab.

Mike Worthen: Sean.

Sean Kelly: Yeah, I just want to echo that from the forest standpoint too. They have been a great partner and we've done a lot of good work over the years. So we appreciate their involvement.

Mike Worthen: Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I want to thank SFW because I have been involved with the pheasant deal the last few years and had the opportunity to take some of those young kids that Jon was talking about. Some of them weren't even my own kids. They were kids that didn't have a dad that were wanting to go hunt pheasants. And by releasing those pheasants in Sevier County the last few years has been an awesome, awesome deal; and the look on those kid's faces. Again, I applaud SFW for the way they've allocated those monies for those projects.

Mike Worthen: Okay, thanks Layne. Uh, any further comments? Okay, let's go into . . . Did you have a comment?

Brian Johnson: I was just going to make a motion if I can.

Mike Worthen: Okay, let's go into the motions.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we accept the Conservation Permit Rule as proposed.

Mike Worthen: Seconded by Sam that we accept the presentation by the DWR as proposed on the Convention Rules. All in favor? Any opposed? Unanimous.

**Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Convention Permit Rule Amendments R657-55 as presented. Sam Carpenter seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Other Business (action)  
-2015 RAC meeting locations and times**

Mike Worthen: Okay, the other business, let's turn the time over to Kevin so we can discuss the 2015 RAC meeting locations and times.

Kevin Bunnell: In your packets, you all have this in front of you, there's a list there of what the times and places would be if we kept things consistent with the way they were this year. That, not meaning to say that's what we need to do but just to give you an idea of kind of what the year would look like. So what we do need to do is discuss this in terms of are there times, do we want to look at an earlier time overall like we did tonight? The southern region has traditionally been 7 o'clock. Most of the rest of the RACs have moved to a 6 or 6:30 start time; that's something to consider. I think the rationale for being later in the southern region is to give people time to travel because it's a larger region; so again, something to think about there. And then the locations, currently we have, for next year if we kept things the same we would have three RAC meetings here in Beaver, two in Richfield, and one in Cedar City. In the past we've gone to Delta, we've gone to some other places; haven't done that for a couple of years. So if you want to consider that that would be, now would be the time to do it as well. So with that being said what are, what's everybody's preference?

Mack Morrell: I think the December 8, 2015 ought to start at 6 pm right here.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay. What about, I mean, are you, is everybody comfortable with a general start time of 7 o'clock with a few exceptions or do you want to look at an earlier start time across the board? Okay, so kind of look at a, and the other thing about the winter is, you know, it's dark earlier, people were . . . It's easier to get away from home a little bit easier. So, so it seems like there's general agreement to have the December meeting start at 6 o'clock. Any other adjustments to times? Are we okay with that? What about locations? Are you pretty happy with where we've been or? It looks like Clair has a comment.

Clair Woodbury: Yeah Kevin. It's something I've thinking about for a little while, I know we meet here and Richfield is kind of a central kind of location. But looking at the mission of the RAC, it's for public input. And I think we'd all be less than honest if we don't say that's there's rarely more than 10 people here. Population center in the southern region is Iron and Washington Counties, Cedar and St. George area. Yet it has been, to my recollection, 9 years since we've had a RAC meeting in St. George. And I was there, that's why I joined the RAC, and we haven't had one since. Uh, more than 50 percent of our population is in St. George proper or around St. George. I think we need to expand at least once a year down there.

Kevin Bunnell: Okay, so there is a request from Clair to look at potentially having a meeting in St. George. What are everybody's thoughts?

Sam Carpenter: Let me remind Clair that he and I expire in July, we're done.

Clair Woodbury: Sam, and that's why this has no reference to you and me because we won't be on here next year very long.

Kevin Bunnell: If you did the May meeting it would work.

Sam Carpenter: I'd rather be there as a public person.

Kevin Bunnell: I'd rather be in St. George in May than August, I can tell you that.

Brian Johnson: Yeah, I don't want to be there in August.

Kevin Bunnell: So what about the idea of having that May meeting in St. George? Is everybody okay with that? Okay, we will find a location. I'm sure Lynn has several ideas already.

Sam Carpenter: The meeting 9 years ago was at Pine View High School, I believe. And the auditorium was full, clear full. There were several hundred people. There was one in Hurricane a few years ago but the last one in St. George was at Pine View.

Kevin Bunnell: So with that, so that leaves 1 meeting in Richfield and 3 in Beaver now. Is there, would it make sense to move one of those three meetings that are currently scheduled in Beaver to be in Richfield so we have two and two, and then one in Cedar City?

Mack Morrell: I think we need to leave the one in Richfield there.

Kevin Bunnell: No, but I'm saying add another one to Richfield? Right now, so we just . . .

Mack Morrell: Good idea.

Kevin Bunnell: So right now we just moved the May meeting, the May meeting it is currently scheduled for Richfield, we just moved that to St. George, so if we just did that we would have three meetings in Beaver and one in Richfield. I'm asking if it makes sense to move one of the meetings that's currently in Beaver to Richfield so we have two and two.

Mack Morrell: Good idea.

Clair Woodbury: Richfield is the north end, St. George is the south end, Beaver is the Center.

Mack Morrell: Beaver is the center.

Clair Woodbury: If we're trying to get central Beaver is the one. If we're going to have more than one meeting on either end it should be two in St. George. Well I won't be here. I won't be on the RAC by then. I'm just saying, that's honestly the population center of the southern region is more than 50 percent in St. George. If we're doing this for us or are we doing this for the public?

Kevin Bunnell: We'd have the one in Cedar that's also set.

Mack Morrell: What about the one in December in Richfield that's here?

Kevin Bunnell: Does anybody have any objections to moving the December meeting to Richfield? Okay, um I think we have a proposal. Mr. Chairman, if you want to ask for a vote.

Mike Worthen: Okay, we have a proposal on the table to move the May meeting from Richfield to St. George, and to move the December meeting from Beaver to Richfield. Yeah, and change the start time to 6 o'clock in December. All in favor? Motion carries, it's unanimous.

Mike Worthen: Okay, any other business for the RAC before we adjourn? Do I have a motion to adjourn

Mack? Okay, so moved and seconded.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.**

The Utah Bowmen's Association, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, the Utah Houndsmen Association, and the United Wildlife Cooperative have met and discussed the DWR proposed changes concerning bear hunting. We jointly support the DWR's proposals with four exceptions. Those exceptions are as follows:

**Set Summer Season Hunt Dates to May 23 – July 2**

We believe that this is the best compromise to maximize days in the field for all types of bear hunters. We understand that this recommendation creates a two week overlap of the spring and summer seasons. We see this as a non-issue as we have been hunting the exact same seasons with minimal conflict for several years.

**Set San Juan & La Sal Fall dates to mirror the rest of the state (Aug 22 – Sep 27 & Oct 31 –Nov 19)**

There are only five fall bear permits issued on each of these units. Both of these units are very large and provide ample room for both fall bear hunting and limited entry elk hunting to occur together. We currently hunt limited entry archery elk on both units during the fall bear season with minimal conflicts. We believe that our recommended season dates will further reduce conflict by allowing bear hunters to spread out over more time.

**Draw spring and summer season tags from same tag pool**

With the new season structure and new baiting regulations, we are concerned that historical numbers of bear hunters hunting over bait versus bear hunters hunting with hounds does not accurately reflect the future demand of bear hunters. Therefore, we recommend drawing both spring and summer tags out of the same tag pool to fairly distribute tags to the various seasons per applicant demands.

**Make spring harvest objective seasons harvest objective for residents, limited entry for non-residents.**

We are concerned that the new spring harvest objective seasons will draw overwhelming interest and participation from non-resident guides, outfitters, and hunters. Therefore, we recommend making these spring units harvest objective for residents and limited entry for non-residents. For example, the book cliffs would have a harvest objective of 18 bears for resident hunters, and a limited entry spring season with 2 permits for non-resident hunters.

If this approach is not palatable, we believe a similar implementation to Idaho's approach would work. Please see the attached copy of Idaho's hound permit rules.

## Hound Hunting Rules

### Dogs

Dogs may be used to pursue black bears or mountain lions in either an open take season where use of dogs is allowed, or during a dog training season open for black bear or mountain lion. Pursuit is allowed regardless of whether a black bear or mountain lion already has been harvested. During a dog training season, black bears or mountain lions may be pursued and treed, but may not be captured, killed, or possessed. Dogs may not be used to take or pursue any other big game species.

Any dog found running at large and actively tracking, pursuing, harassing, attacking or killing any big game animal, **except** black bear and mountain lion, may be destroyed without criminal or civil liability by the director of Fish and Game, any peace officer, or other persons authorized to enforce Idaho wildlife laws.

The use of one blood-trailing dog controlled by leash during lawful hunting hours and within 72 hours of hitting a big game animal is allowed to track wounded animals and aid in recovery. A hound hunter permit is not required.

### Hound Hunter Permit

When dogs are being used to hunt black bears or mountain lions, the following persons must have a valid hound hunter permit and a black bear or mountain lion tag for the current year in possession:

- Anyone who owns pursuit dogs.
- Anyone having control of dogs owned by another person.
- Anyone who harvests a black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, raccoon, or fox with the use of dogs. **Except**, clients of licensed outfitters are not required to have a hound hunter permit.

**Resident hound hunter permits** may be obtained from any license vendor. There is no limit on the number of resident hound hunter permits.

### Limitation on hound hunter permits for nonresidents:

Nonresident hound hunter permit applications must be received at the Fish and Game headquarter's office by December 1. Permits for the following year are issued in December. Applications are available on the Fish and Game website. No more than 70 nonresident hound hunter permits will be issued to nonresident hunters who are not licensed outfitters (see exceptions for Middle Fork and Selway zones below). Nonresident outfitters and guides who have obtained a hound hunter permit shall not use the permit for personal hunting. Sales of nonresident hound hunter permits to the following persons shall not be counted in the quota for nonresidents:

- **Persons who have moved into Idaho** and by notarized affidavit show proof of their intent to become bona fide Idaho residents but are not yet qualified to buy a resident license.
- **Middle Fork Zone:** Persons who hound hunt solely in game management units within the Middle Fork elk zone (Units 20A, 26, and 27).

- **Selway Zone:** Persons who hound hunt solely within the Selway Zone (Units 16A, 17, 19, and 20). A total of 40 permits will be issued for Units 16A, 19, 20, and all of Unit 17, excluding Hunt Area 17-1 which will have 6 permits. Hunt Area 17-1 is defined as that portion of Unit 17 south of the following boundary:

Beginning at the junction of the Unit 17 boundary and Forest Service Trail 24, then west along Forest Service Trail 24 to the Selway River, then north along the Selway River to Forest Service Trail 40, then southwest along Forest Service Trail 40 to Forest Service Trail 3, then west along Forest Service Trail 3 to the Unit 17 boundary.

**Hound Hunter Alert:** Selway and Middle Fork zones are wilderness areas. Vehicle access is restricted and rugged terrain can make pursuit extremely difficult. Contact the local Forest Service office for maps showing trails and access. Wolves may be present in any game management unit.

## Tagging and Transporting Game

### Proper Tagging and Transportation of Animals and Meat

Immediately after any deer, elk, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, or gray wolf has been killed, the hunter harvesting the animal must comply with the following regulations regarding the proper tagging, transportation and shipment of a carcass:

- The appropriate big game tag must be validated and securely attached to the animal immediately after the kill. The validated tag must remain attached to the carcass until the meat is processed and reaches the place of final storage or personal consumption.

**Note:** Immediately after the kill, the triangles denoting the month and day must be cleanly and completely removed. Tearing, slicing or punching the tag is not legal.

### Proper location of tag:

- Deer, elk and pronghorn: Attach to the largest portion of the carcass.
- Black bears, mountain lions or gray wolves: Attach to the hide.

Any license, tag or permit that is defaced or altered is invalid from the date and time of issue. It is unlawful to use or attempt to use any license that has been defaced or altered.

### Transportation issues:

Any person who transports any wildlife for another person or receives any wildlife for cleaning, processing, as a gift, or for storage must have a written proxy statement signed by the person who killed the animal specifying the numbers and kinds of wildlife, date taken, hunter's name and address, license, tag and permit numbers. The proxy form on the following page is provided for your convenience.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Dixie National Forest  
1789 N. Wedgewood Lane  
Cedar City, UT 84721-7769  
(435) 865-3700

Fishlake National Forest  
115 East 900 North  
Richfield, UT 84701-1847  
(435) 896-9233

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File Code: 2610

Date: December 9, 2014

Mr. Dave Black  
2074 Princeton Circle  
St. George, UT 84790

Dear Mr. Black:

The Forest Service appreciates the opportunity to comment on bear management and specifically baiting as it relates to the use of National Forest system lands. The Forest Service supports the reduction of public conflict issues with bears within the National Forests and across all landscapes. Health and human safety issues are of the utmost importance to the Forest Service and the proposal from the Division of Wildlife Resources will help to reduce concerns. The tools available for reducing bear/human conflicts are many and we support the use of these tools to manage health and human safety issues. The following list of recommendations is being provided to the Division of Wildlife Resources to be considered in this process;

- When approached by hunters seeking information on concerns the Forest Service may have in particular bait locations, the Dixie and Fishlake National Forests will continue to use a one-mile buffer around all developed recreation sites, dispersed camping sites, wilderness areas, repeaters, oil and gas wells and municipalities. These buffers were established by Dixie and Fishlake Forests to reduce the potential for human encounters with bears as they are drawn to areas with bait. These buffers address health and human safety issues that may be encouraged by bear baiting stations.
- Extending the bear hunt by allowing hunting with any weapon over bait during June and into early July raises concern by some Forest Service units as it may increase the risk to general Forest visitors as they are not use to hunting occurring during these months. Extending the bait season into late June and early July may create a conflict with grazing on allotment with bear baiting stations as bears that would normally be in other areas of the Forest away from livestock may be encouraged into areas where livestock has been moved. The Forest Service will coordinate closely within its staff to encourage bait stations away from these potential conflicts.
- Fall hunting over bait will require us to review many other uses on the Forests to minimize conflicts. Due to the high level of recreation activity during this time of year, be aware that unresolved conflicts may occur and hunters should contact Forest Service offices early to check proposed bait locations for concerns with other uses. The Forest Service is committed however to work with those proposing bait locations on National Forest lands in a timely manner.



- The Dixie National Forest has been supportive of a telemetry bear study on the Powell Ranger District, on the Paunsaugunt Plateau and hopes these recommended changes don't change the collection of the cooperative data on collared bears. We recognize the time, effort and money put into this study and support the research that is being conducted.

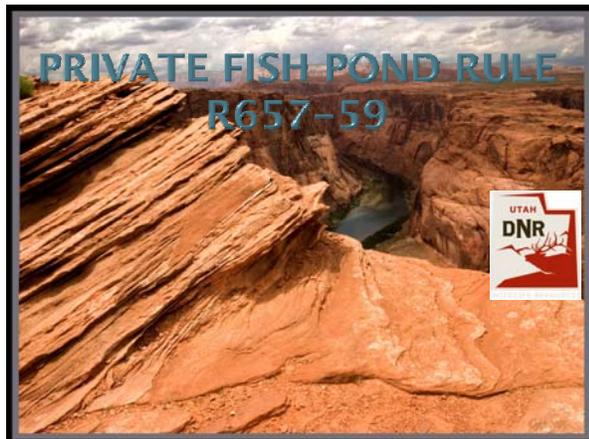
In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed bear baiting regulation changes and hope these comments will be considered in the final development of the proposed planning effort. If you have questions, please contact Allen Rowley at 435-896-9233, or Ron Rodriguez at 435-865-3732.

Sincerely,

  
Acting ANGELITA S. BULLETTTS  
Forest Supervisor, Dixie National Forest

  
ALLEN ROWLEY  
Forest Supervisor, Fishlake National Forest

cc: Ronald Rodriguez, Kevin R Schulkoski, Diane Freeman, Steve Flinders, Sean Kelly, Joanne Stenten, Lisa Young, Jake Schoppe, Devin Johnson



## Purpose of Rule

- The Private Pond Rule provides private fish growers and private pond owners instructions on the following:
  - what species of privately grown fish may be stocked
  - whether fish stocked in private ponds need to be sterile or can be fertile
  - what the responsibilities of the private pond owners and the private fish growers are

## Purpose of this Rule Change

- Currently the pond owner may not pick up and transport their own fish without paying for and receiving a COR in advance
- This is:
  - difficult
  - time consuming
  - fairly expensive

## Proposed Change

- Private pond owners may transport privately grown fish to their pond without a COR if:
  - they are transporting small amounts (less than 50 pounds)
  - they are transporting sterile rainbow trout (There are special restrictions and even outright prohibitions on the management of other sterile fish species in portions of the state)
  - they sign a formal affidavit or contract that assigns responsibilities and penalties for not living up to those responsibilities

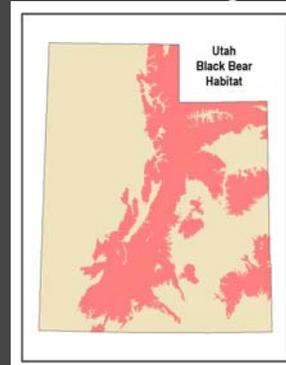


## Black Bear Harvest Recommendations

• 2015 - 2017



## Black Bear Management Plan 2011- 2023



### Advisory Group Participants

- Utah Woolgrowers
- SFW
- 2 Wildlife Board members
- US Forest Service Wildlife Services
- Kirk Robinson - Western Wildlife Conservancy
- John Weis - Non-consumptive
- BYU
- Utah Houndsmen Assoc
- DWR Representatives

## The 2011-2023 Bear Plan

Plan goal - maintain a healthy balanced bear population

- Livestock Depredation
- Nuisance and human/bear conflict
- Habitat limitations
- Other wildlife species population objectives
- Recreational opportunity



## Management System

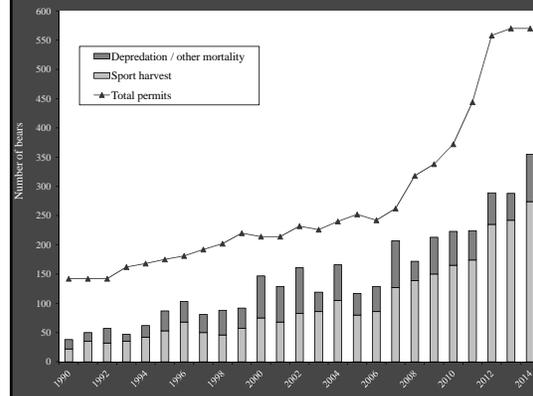
Permit recommendation adjusted based on **harvest results (3-year avg.)** in relation to performance targets in harvest strategy

Light	Moderate	Liberal
Ad M (≥ 5yrs) > 35%	Ad M (≥ 5yrs) 25-35%	Ad M (≥ 5yrs) < 25%
Female < 30%	Female 30 - 40%	Female 40 - 45%
Low level of human/bear conflict	Human/bear conflict	Human/bear conflict

## Current Status

- 15 years of harvest data, including age and sex, and determined population increasing 5-6% annually
- Bear denning data – if a female has yearlings in 2+ out of 5 years an increasing population indicator
- Estimate at least 4,100 bears (up from an estimated 3,500 in 2009)

## Permits and Harvest



## Spring Limited Entry (No Bait) April 4 – June 5, 2015

- Effort to eliminate conflicts between bait hunters and hound hunters
- Hounds or spot and stalk only
- Add one week to the end of the season – access issues



## Summer Limited Entry (No hounds) June 6 – July 2, 2015

- Change the timing of harvest to help eliminate or control nuisance/depredation problems
- Allow harvest with any legal weapon – previously only allowed archery tackle over bait
  - More opportunity for different type of sportsmen
- No hounds because of concerns for fawning and calving season
- Allow bait hunters to begin baiting 1 week prior to the opening of the season – May 30, 2015.

## Harvest Objective

- Spring season dates - April 4 – June 5, 2015 (no bait)
- Fall season dates – (Nine Mile) September 28 – October 30, 2015 (spot and stalk only - no bait/no hounds)
- Unlimited permits are sold during this season
- The unit closes when the quota is met or the season ends

## Fall Limited Entry Archery Only/Bait Only

- Season dates – August 10 – September 11, 2015
- Weapon type limited to archery tackle only – reduce conflict during this time frame between firearms and archery hunters
- May have a bait station or could do spot and stalk
- Only on the Book Cliffs units



## Fall Limited Entry - August 22 - September 28, 2015 and October 31 – November 19, 2015

- No changes to this strategy
- La Sal and San Juan Unit - **August 18 - September 11, 2015**
- Book Cliffs-Bitter Creek, South - **October 6 - November 19, 2015**



## Limited Entry Spot and Stalk

- Book Cliffs, Little Creek (roadless)
  - Spring - April 4 – June 5, 2015
  - Fall - September 12 – November 19, 2015
- La Sal and San Juan
  - October 6 – October 27, 2015

## Limited Entry Multi-Season

- Can hunt any of the seasons approved for the unit the permit is authorized for
- Must use the appropriate weapon type and method authorized for the season being hunted
- Cannot be used during harvest objective unit or for pursuit.

## Northern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Cache/East Cyn/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	3	3	2	1	9	+5
Chalk Creek/Kamas/North Slope, Summit	5	5	4	2	17*	+4

\*Includes expo/conservation permits

## Northeastern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Fall Archery/Bait	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek-South	20 (quota)	5	6	5	3	41*	+6
Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	3 (spot and stalk)	2	7 (spot and stalk)	2	1	15	+5
North Slope, West Daggett/Three Corners	4 (quota)	3	3		1	12*	Same
South Slope, Yellowstone	6 (quota)	5	5		1	18*	Same
South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	15	6	6		3	31*	Same
Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	10 (quota)	5	7		1	24*	+4

\*Includes expo/conservation permits

## Central Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Central Mtns, Nebo	8	6	4	2	21*	same
Wasatch Mtns, West	30 (quota)	20	15	7	75*	+20

\*Includes expo/conservation permits

## Southeastern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Fall Spot and Stalk	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Central Mtns, Manti-North	17	5	6		3	32*	+3
Central Mtns, Manti-South/San Rafael, North	5	3	8		3	19	+3
Nine Mile	15 (quota)	6	16	10 (quota)	2	49*	+5
La Sal	35	5	5	50	7	104*	+25
San Juan	35	5	5	50	7	104*	+25

\*Includes expo/conservation permits

## Southern Region

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Beaver	8	7	6		22*	+5
Fillmore, Pahvant	1		1		2	same
Monroe			1		1	same
Mt. Dutton	2	2	1		5	+2
Panguitch Lake/Zion	6	3	6	1	17*	+1
Paunsaugant	2	2	3		7	+3
Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	16	8	11	4	41*	-1
Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	2	2	3		7	same

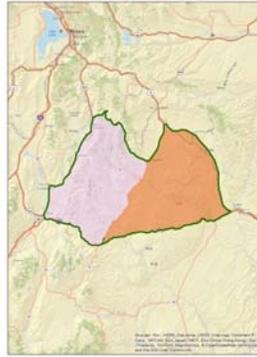
\*Includes expo/conservation permits

## Expected Harvest and Evaluation

- Average statewide success rate 42-45%
  - Bait success 47%
  - Hounds ~45%
  - Fall Spot & Stalk 17-20%
- Expect harvest of 300 – 320 bears
  - If the harvest is 20% below or above our estimate we would like to evaluate and come back with permit recommendations for the next year.



## Boundary Change



- **16c, 12a Central Mtns, Manti-South/San Rafael, North:** Boundary begins at SR-10 and SR-31 in Huntington; north on SR-10 to SR-6 at Price; east and south on US-6 to I-70; west on I-70 to US-89 near Salina; north on US-89 to SR-31; southeast on SR-31 to SR-10 in Huntington. USGS 1:100,000 Maps: Huntington, Manti, Nephi, Price, Salina, San Rafael Desert.

## General Pursuit Season

- Spring April 4 – June 5, 2015
- Summer July 6 – August 9, 2015
- Fall October 31 – November 19, 2015



## Restricted Pursuit Season

Unit Number	Unit Name	Resident	Nonresident	Season Dates
10	Book Cliffs	25	3	July 6 – July 20, 2015
10	Book Cliffs	25	3	July 27 – August 9, 2015
13	La Sal	4	1	July 6 – July 20, 2015
13	La Sal	4	1	July 27 – August 9, 2015
14	San Juan	13	2	July 6 – July 20, 2015
14	San Juan	13	2	July 27 – August 9, 2015

## Bear Crop Depredation



- Commercial cultivated crops with a profit
- Minimum 5 acres privately owned land enrolled in greenbelt
- Chronic bear damage to crops or history of chronic damage
- DWR may issue bear control permits to landowner, immediate family, or employees to remove problem bears
- Crop owner must notify the DWR after a bear is killed

## Bear Orientation Course

- Before a hunter applies for a bear permit they will be required to take a mandatory educational orientation course on an annual basis
- Currently only those that draw a permit are required to take the orientation course
- Problems trying to get hunters to complete the course after they have drawn the permit
- The course would be modified annually and used as an educational tool for bear identification, population management and ethics

## Housekeeping Rule Modifications

- Minor housekeeping modifications
- Modify to allow crossbow use that was previously approved
- Change name from premium permit to multi-season
- Changes to allow for crop depredation
- Shorten waiting period from 7 days to 3 days on harvest objective permit purchase
- Allow any weapon to be used over bait

## Recommendation Changes after RAC process

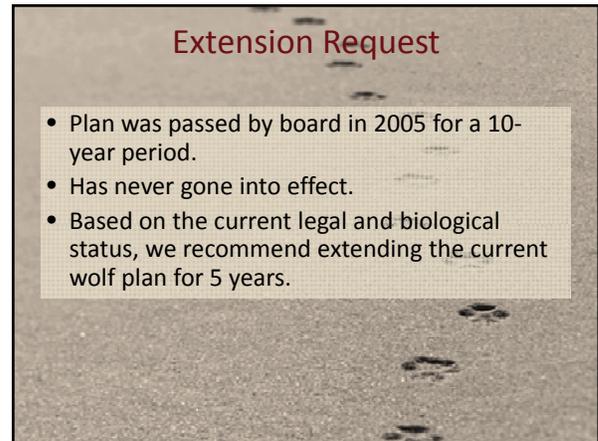
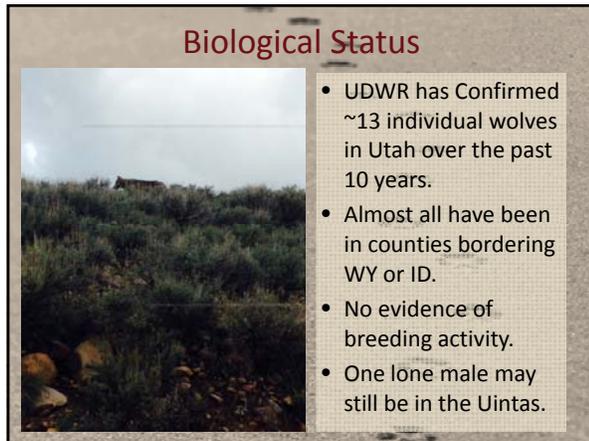
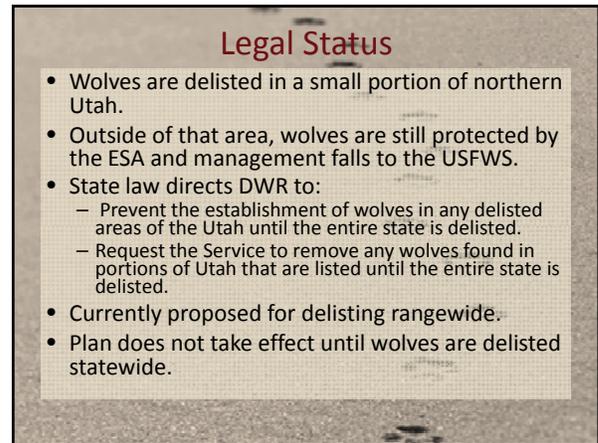
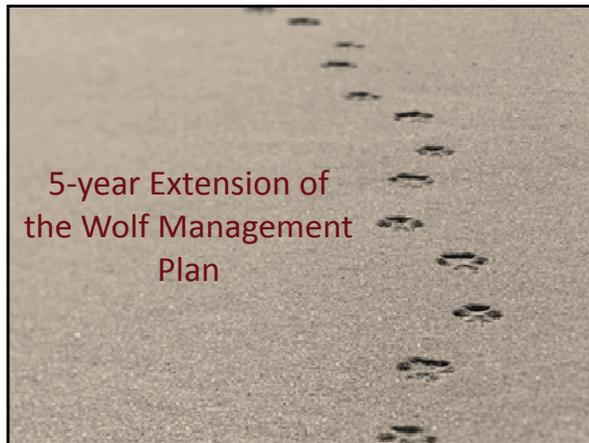
Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	2	2	2	1*	7	same

\*Add 1 multi-season permit

Unit Name	Spring Ltd Entry (no bait)	Summer Ltd Entry (no hounds)	Fall Ltd Entry	Fall Archery/Bait	Multi-season	Total	Adj. from 2014
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek-South	35**	5	6	5	3	56*	+22

\*\*Go from Harvest Objective to Limited Entry





## Wildlife Convention Permits R657-55

### History

- R657-55 "Convention Permit Rule" adopted in 2005.
- Provides up to 200 limited entry permits of various species.
- To be issued at a convention within Utah.
- Must attract at least 10,000 attendees.
- The permits are available to a conservation group with a demonstrated record of enhancing protected wildlife species in Utah.
- Permits are issued through a random process with an application fee of \$5/hunt.

### History Continued

- Permits have been approved and contracted for 5 years at a time.
- The Wildlife Board approves the actual permits allocated each year.
- The permits are subtracted from those approved for the traditional public drawings.

### Current Status

- 2016 will complete our second 5 year contract.
- Contract was amended in 2013 specifying the contractor retain only the same part of each \$5 app fee allowed by our big game draw contractor for administrative expenses.
- Remaining funds used for projects approved by the Division Director in writing.
- Funds must be expended or committed to approved projects by Sept 1, two years following when the revenue is collected.

### Proposed Changes

- Rename the rule from "Convention" to "Expo".
  - This change will separate the identity of conservation permits and convention permits.
  - Remove some public confusion.



### Other Rule Modifications for Language

- R657-5. Taking Big Game.
- R657-38. Dedicated Hunter Program.
- R657-41. Conservation and Sportsman Permits.
- R657-42. Fees, Exchanges, Surrenders, Refunds and Reallocation of Wildlife Documents.
- R657-57. Division Variance Rule.
- R657-62. Drawing Application Procedures.
- R657-68. Trial Hunting Authorization.

### Proposed Changes

- Allow the conservation organization named in the Expo contract the option to extend for up to 5 additional years upon mutual agreement of the division and approval of the Wildlife Board.



### Proposed Changes

- Formalize in rule the amount of application fee revenue that can be retained by the contractor for overhead. \$3.50 per application.
  - This will establish a set amount to be used for division director approved projects.
  - Increase transparency .
  - Discontinue reference to division draw contract.

Thank You

