

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
August 27, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah

Thursday, August 27, 2015 – 9:00 am

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| 1. Approval of Agenda
– John Bair, Chairman | ACTION |
| 2. Approval of Minutes
– John Bair, Chairman | ACTION |
| 3. Old Business/Action Log
– Kirk Woodward, Vice-Chair | CONTINGENT |
| 4. DWR Update
– Gregory Sheehan, DWR Director | INFORMATION |
| 5. Cougar Management Plan
- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016
- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 7. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016
- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator | ACTION |
| 8. AIS Rule Amendments – R657-60
- Jordan Nielson, AIS Coordinator | ACTION |
| 9. Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments
- Rick Olson, Captain | ACTION |
| 10. Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment
- Rick Olson, Captain | ACTION |
| 11. Possession of Firearms rule amendments – Waterfowl and Upland
- Rick Olson, Captain | ACTION |
| 12. 5 – Day Falconry Meet Request
- Carter Wilford, Director of Events, IEEA | ACTION |
| 13. Red Flead Management Plan
- Trina Hedrick, NERO Aquatics Manager | ACTION |
| 14. Expo Permit Audit
- Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Section Chief | ACTION |
| 15. Expo Permit Allocation
- Mike Fowlks, Deputy Director | ACTION |
| 16. Conservation Permit Allocation 1yr and 3yr
- Bill Bates. Wildlife Section Chief | ACTION |
| 17. Certification Review Committee Recommendations
- Staci Coons, CRC Chairman | ACTION |
| 18. Other Business
– John Bair, Chairman | CONTINGENT |

Wildlife Board Motions

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

August 2015 – Target Date – Primitive Weapons

MOTION: I move that we put the following on the action log item to be presented at the August 2015 Wildlife Board: The Division will prepare an informational status review of allowable primitive and non-primitive weapons usages compared with other states. Additionally, the Division will prepare a review of evolving technologies in hunting weapons and related peripheral devices and optics. That review should include, but not be limited to, the use of crossbows of various categories of archery hunts, magnified optics on muzzleloading rifles, calibers of firearms allowed on rifle and pistol hunts, draw poundage and sighting devices on archery equipment, as well as the use of self firing rifles.

Motion made by: Kirk Woodward
Assigned to: Justin Shannon
Action: Under Study
Status: Informational item to be presented at the July RAC meeting
Placed on Action Log: March 5, 2015

December 2015 – Target Date – Northern Goose Zone

MOTION: I move that we accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division and put on the action log item an informational survey to gather input from other waterfowl hunters who use the area in the northern region. This will be presented at the December meeting.

Motion made by: Bill Fenimore
Assigned to: Blair Stringham
Action: Under Study
Status: Informational item to be presented at the December board meeting
Placed on Action Log: June 4, 2015

May 2016 – Target Date – Manti Unit

MOTION: I move that we add to the action log item that the Southeastern Region consider options for splitting the Manti unit as they review their management plan and present their findings (i.e., advantages, disadvantages, how it affects the buck:doe ratio) to the Board in May 2016.

Motion made by: Mike King
Assigned to: Justin Shannon
Action: Under Study
Status: Informational item to be presented at the May board meeting
Placed on Action Log: April 30, 2015

Fall 2016 - Target Date – Impacts of lead poisoning

MOTION: To add a provision into R657-19, Taking of Non-Game Mammals, for proper disposal of non-game mammals shot with lead ammunition as proposed by Derris Jones in the Southeast RAC and report back to the Board at a later time.

Motion made by: Mike King
Assigned to: Kim Hershey
Action: Under Study
Status:
Placed on Action Log: March 5, 2015

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting

June 4, 2015, DNR, Boardroom
1594 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
AGENDA

Thursday, June 4, 2015 – 9:00 am

1. Approval of Agenda **ACTION**
 - Jake Albrecht, Chairman

2. Approval of Minutes **ACTION**
 - Jake Albrecht, Chairman

3. Old Business/Action Log **CONTINGENT**
 - Bill Fenimore, Vice-Chair

4. DWR Update **INFORMATION**
 - Greg Sheehan, DWR Director

5. Waterfowl Recommendations **ACTION**
 - Blair Stringham, Waterfowl Coordinator

6. Urban Deer Control – R657-65 Rule Amendments **ACTION**
 - Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

7. Southern Region Deer Management Plans **ACTION**
 - Teresa Griffin, SR Wildlife Manager

8. Request to Donate 2014 CWMU Voucher **ACTION**
 - Scott McFarlane, Private Lands/Public Wildlife Coordinator

9. Utah Prairie Dog Rule Amendments – R657-70 **ACTION**
 - Kevin Bunnell, Southern Region Supervisor

10. Wildlife Action Plan **INFORMATIONAL**
 - Ashley Green, Habitat Section Chief

11. Other Business **CONTINGENT**
 - Jake Albrecht, Chairman
 - Elect Board Chairman and Vice Chairman

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 4, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
Summary of Motions

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

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

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

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

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 30, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

3) Waterfowl Recommendations (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division and put on the action log item an informational survey to gather input from other waterfowl hunters who use the area in the northern region. This will be presented at the December meeting.

4) Urban Deer Control – R657-65 Rule Amendments (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Urban Deer Control Rule Amendments R657-65 as presented by the Division.

5) Southern Region Deer Management Plans (**Action**)

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed 3:1. John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we accept the proposal to change the Oak Creek Unit boundary as presented by the Division.

The following motion was made by, seconded and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we accept the remainder of the Southern Region Deer Management Plan as presented by the Division including the exceptions as presented by the Southern RAC.

- 6) Request to Donate 2014 CWMU Voucher (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the Request to Donate 2014 CWMU Voucher as presented.

- 7) Utah Prairie Dog Rule Amendments – R657-70 (**Action**)

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Utah Prairie Dog Rule Amendments R657-70 as presented by the Division.

- 8) Other Business (**Action**)

Kirk Woodward nominated John Bair for chair. Bill Fenimore nominated Kirk Woodward. John Bair was appointed via three votes from Steve Dalton, Kirk Woodward, and Jake Albrecht.

Bill Fenimore nominated Mike King for vice-chair. John Bair nominated Kirk Woodward. Kirk Woodward was appointed via three votes from Steve Dalton, John Bair, and Jake Albrecht.

Utah Wildlife Board Meeting
June 4, 2015, DNR Auditorium
1594 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah
http://wildlife.utah.gov/public_meetings/board_minutes/audio/15-6-4.mp3

Wildlife Board Members Present

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

RAC Chairs Present

Central – Gary Nielson
Southern – Dave Black
Southeastern – Kevin Albrecht
Northeastern - Randy Dearth
Northern – Robert Byrnes

Donnie Hunter	Carl Stettler
Troy Justensen	Craig Dangerfield
Lee Tracy, UWC	Jeremiah Cornia
Andy Monroe	John Brennan
Becky Wood	Joel Ferry
Pine Torgensen	Brad Williams
Robert Spafford	Ken Strong
Ken Dillree	Scott Christensen
Larry Larsen	Bryce Pilling
Kenny Givens	Shane Brown

Division Personnel Present

Mike Fowlks	Rick Olson	Judi Tutorow
Mike Canning	Bill Bates	Karen Caldwell
Martin Bushman	Roger Wilson	Lindy Varney
Staci Coons	Dean Mitchell	Phil Gray
Thu Vo-Wood	Mark Martinez	Mike Styler
Blair Stringham	Justin Shannon	Mike Christensen
Scott McFarlane	Dax Mangus	Greg Hansen
Teresa Griffin	Randy Wood	Mark Hadley
Kevin Bunnell	Jason Robinson	Chris Keleher
Ashley Green	Covy Jones	Riley Peck
Justin Dolling	Dustin Schaible	Kent Hersey
Chris Wood	Jimi Gragg	Anita Candelaria
John Fairchild	Paul Gedge	Kirk Hawk
Boyde Blackwell	Kim Hersey	Bill James

Public Present

Byron Bateman, SFW
Mike Edson, Chesapeake Duck Club
Tom Bowen, Chesapeake Duck Club
Jon Larson, SFW

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

- 1) Approval of Agenda (**Action**) **00:02:00 – 00:02:15 of 04:16:51**

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

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

- 2) Approval of Minutes (**Action**) **00:02:17 – 00:03:10 of 04:16:51**

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

MOTION: I move that we approve the minutes of the April 30, 2015 Wildlife Board Meeting as presented.

- 3) Old Business/Action Log (**Contingent**) **00:03:13 – 00:03:22 of 04:16:51**

None.

- 4) DWR Update (**Informational**) **00:03:33 – 00:22:11 04:16:51**

Greg Sheehan gave an update on board member Mike King's condition; drought status; sage-grouse efforts; Nature Center development; and accidental wolf shooting case.

DWR hosted the Stewardship awards a couple of weeks ago. Greg thanked all the partners who contributed to the conservation of wildlife resources. Board chair and vice-chair were recognized as well as outgoing RAC chairs and were given a moment to speak. Sheehan thanked all of them for their service.

Jake Albrecht explained the Board procedure.

- 5) Waterfowl Recommendations (**Action**) **00:23:42 – 01:25:33 of 04:16:51**

Blair Stringham presented the Waterfowl Recommendations.

Board/RAC/Public Questions 00:38:29 – 00:41:49

None

RAC Recommendations 00:38:50 – 00:41:23

All RACs passed the recommendations unanimously, except for the Northern RAC. They had some opposition and provided an amendment to eliminate the Northern Dark Goose Zone, which barely passed 7:6.

Public Comments 00:41:24 – 01:08:23

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 01:08:24 – 01:25:33

Chairman Albrecht summarized the RAC reports and the public comments. He noted the lack of public notification for changes made in the northern region.

John Bair suggested hosting an open house to discuss changes before moving forward. Kirk Woodward agreed that more discussion is necessary before making changes.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Waterfowl Recommendations as presented by the Division and put on the action log item an informational survey to gather input from other waterfowl hunters who use the area in the northern region. This will be presented at the December meeting.

Justin Dolling discussed the Huntsville residences' issue with hunting in proximity of their homes near Pineview Reservoir. John Bair suggested adding signs to the area to remind hunters to be aware of surrounding homes and the hunting zone.

- 6) Urban Deer Control – R657-65 Rule Amendments (**Action**) **01:25:35 – 01:45:56 of 04:16:51**

Scott McFarlane presented the Rule Amendments for R657-65 Urban Deer Control.

Board Questions 01:35:50 – 01:37:29

The Board asked about implementing programs for small towns and if there are improvements on deer mortality rates since the program was implemented.

Public Questions 01:37:37 – 01:39:27

Public questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendation 01:39:37 – 01:40:38

All RACs unanimously approved the Urban Deer Control Rule Amendments.

Public Comments 01:40:40 – 01:44:30

Public comments were accepted at this time.

Board Discussion 01:44:31 – 01:45:56

Kirk Woodward asked if there has been any feedback on Highland City's lethal approach to Urban Deer Control.

The following motion was made by Steve Dalton, seconded by Kirk Woodward and passed unanimously.

MOTION: I move that we approve the Urban Deer Control Rule Amendments R657-65 as presented by the Division.

7) Southern Region Deer Management Plans (**Action**) **01:45:58 – 03:31:24 of 04:16:51**

Teresa Griffin presented the Southern Region Deer Management Plans.

Board/RAC Questions 02:04:30 – 02:30:02

Questions centered on the Monroe, population objectives, boundaries, Oak Creek, and landowner issues.

Public Questions 02:30:06 – 02:33:02

Public questions were taken at this time.

RAC Recommendations 02:33:04 – 02:34:34

Southern RAC unanimously passed the deer management plans. They requested to include an increase to the buck-to-doe objective on the Monroe and incorporate any changes to the predator management plans in the deer management plans.

Public Comments 02:34:35 – 02:53:07

Public comments were accepted at this time. Bryce Pilling provided a list of signatures in support of the recommendation.

Board Discussion 02:53:08 – 03:31:24

Greg Sheehan provided applicant and permit number statistics to demonstrate the rise in public interest.

The Board discussed landowner issues on the Oak Creek unit and permit distribution. They struggled to make the right decision.

The following motion was made by Kirk Woodward, seconded by Bill Fenimore and passed 3:1. John Bair opposed.

MOTION: I move that we accept the proposal to change the Oak Creek Unit boundary as presented by the Division.

Chairman Albrecht touched on the Monroe unit.

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the balance of the Southern Region Deer Management Plans as presented by the Division including the exceptions as presented by the Southern RAC.

- 8) Request to Donate 2014 CWMU Voucher (Action) 03:33:20 – 03:42:20 of 04:16:51

Scott McFarlane presented the Request to Donate 2014 CWMU Voucher.

Board/Public Comments 03:38:43 – 03:42:20

The Board and public expressed appreciation to the CWMU and operators and different organizations involved this great program.

Board Discussion 03:42:21 – 03:42:57

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Request to Donate 2014 CWMU Voucher as presented.

- 9) Utah Prairie Dog Rule Amendments – R657-70 (Action) 03:42:59 – 03:50:57 of 04:16:51

Kevin Bunnell presented the Utah Prairie Dog Rule Amendments R657-70.

Board Questions 03:47:29 – 03:50:00

The Board asked for an overview of the project status.

Board Discussion 03:50:03 – 03:50:57

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

MOTION: I move that we accept the Utah Prairie Dog Rule Amendments R657-70 as presented by the Division.

- 10) Wildlife Action Plan (Informational) 03:51:00 – 05:28:24 of 04:16:51

Ashley Green presented the Wildlife Action Plan.

Board Discussion 04:06:00 – 04:09:16

Jake Albrecht commended all those involved in the development and authoring of the plan.

Public Questions/Comments 04:09:18 – 04:10:48

Public questions and comments were accepted at this time.

11) Other Business (**Action**) **04:10:50 – 04:16:51 of 04:16:51**

The Board discussed the nominations for the new Wildlife Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

Kirk Woodward nominated John Bair for chair. Bill Fenimore nominated Kirk Woodward. John Bair was appointed via three votes from Steve Dalton, Kirk Woodward, and Jake Albrecht.

Bill Fenimore nominated Mike King for vice-chair. John Bair nominated Kirk Woodward. Kirk Woodward was appointed via three votes from Steve Dalton, John Bair, and Jake Albrecht.

Meeting adjourned.

**Regional Advisory Council Meeting
Summary of Motions
July/August 2015**

COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

NRO, CRO, NERO, SERO

Motion: Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Cougar Management Plan as Presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

SRO **MOTION:** To accept the Cougar Management Plan as presented with the exception to change the language to “When Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer or **Goat** transplants or reintroductions will occur in the next year or **have happened in the previous three years**, then see attachment C Predator Management Bighorn Sheep and Transplants”.

VOTE: Unanimous

COUGAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS 2015-2016

NRO **Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 as presented.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

CRO **MOTION:** To keep Nebo and Nebo West Face as split units (not change to limited entry)
Passed unanimously

MOTION: The permits on Fillmore Pahvant be increased from eight tags to ten tags
Passed 10 to 1

MOTION: To reduce the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek tags from 38 tags to 30 tags
Failed 4 to 7

MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

NER **MOTION** to accept the Division's proposal as it's been presented, with the exception that the Book Cliffs permits be raised from 20 to 27 permits.

Passed Unanimously

SER **MOTION:** To accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 as presented, except that the increase in cougar tags on the Book Cliffs-Bitter Creek unit be increased by 5 rather than 18 cougars.

Passed unanimously

SRO **MOTION:** To accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments 2015-2016 as presented with the exceptions to increase the Pahvant permits to 10 and change the strategies on the Paunsaugunt, Pine Valley North & South, Cache and Southwest Desert units to Harvest Objective.

VOTE: Motion carries 10:1

FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS 2015-2016

NRO **Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendation for 2015-2016 as presented with the exception of extending Bobcat, spotted skunk, weasel, badger, kit fox, gray fox, ringtail and martin by one week and requiring a fur bearer license for trapping.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

SERO **MOTION:** To approve the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations, except that the bobcat and all furbearer seasons, except for beaver and mink, be extended by one week.

Passed unanimously

CRO, NERO, SRO

MOTION: To accept Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations 2015-2016 as presented with the exception to add a week to the season dates (ending February 14th) for Bobcat, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk, Weasel and Marten.

VOTE: Unanimous.

AIS RULE AMENDMENTS R657-60

NRO **Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept AIS Rule Amendments- R657-60 as presented with the exception boat owners may remove the tag after an acceptable dry time or other acceptable decontamination methods.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

CRO, NERO, SERO, SRO

MOTION: To accept AIS Rule Amendments R657-60 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

YOUTH FISHING EXEMPTIONS RULE AMENDMENTS

All Regions

MOTION: To accept Youth Fishing Exemptions Rule Amendments as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

SELF DEFENSE AGAINST ANIMALS RULE AMENDMENTS

All Regions

MOTION: To accept Self Defense Against Animals Rule Amendments as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

POSSESSION OF FIREARMS RULE AMENDMENTS – WATERFOWL & UPLAND

All Regions

MOTION: To accept Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments – Waterfowl & Upland as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

FEE SCHEDULE

NRO **Motion:** Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Fee Schedule as presented with the exception of considering establishing multi season permit fees for elk and deer.

Motion Passes: Unanimous

CRO, NERO, SERO, SRO

MOTION: To accept the Fee Schedule as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

5-DAY FALCONRY MEET

CRO MOTION: To approve the request
Passed unanimously

NERO RED FLEET MANAGEMENT PLAN

NERO MOTION to approve stocking the Colorado River cutthroat trout into Brush Creek and also into Red Fleet as proposed by the Division
Passed Unanimously

Northern Regional Advisory Council
July 28, 2015
Brigham City Community Center
Brigham City, Utah

Draft Meeting Minutes

Meeting Begins: 6:07 p.m.

RAC Present

John Cavitt- Chair
Matt Klar- At Large
Mike Laughter- Sportsman
Russ Lawrence- At Large
Kevin McLeod- At Large
Kristin Purdy- Noncon.
Bruce Sillitoe- BLM
Bryce Thurgood- At Large
Craig VanTassell- Sportsman
John Wall- At Large

DWR Present

Jodie Anderson
Nathan Owens
Randy Wood
Justin Dolling
Chad Wilson
Krystal Tucker
Darren Debloois
Rick Olson
Brandon Baron
Leslie McFarlane

Wildlife Board

Byron Bateman

RAC Excused

John Blazzard- Agric.
Justin Oliver- At Large
Robert Sanchez- Forest Service

RAC Unexcused

Joel Ferry- Agri.
Chad Jensen- Elected

Agenda:

Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure
Approval of Agenda
Approval of May 5, 2015 Meeting Minutes
Wildlife Board Meeting Update
Regional Update
Cougar Management Plan
Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016
Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016
AIS Rule Amendments – R657-60
Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments
Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment
Possession of Firearms rule amendments – Waterfowl and Upland
Fee Schedule

Item 1. Welcome, RAC Introductions and RAC Procedure

Welcome: John Cavitt- Chair
Introduction of RAC Members
RAC Procedure: John Cavitt- Chair

Item 2. Approval of Agenda and May 5, 2015 Minutes

Motion- Craig VanTassell- Move to approve the agenda.
Second- John Wall
Motion Passes- Unanimous

Motion- John Wall- Move to approve the May 5, 2015 Minutes.
Second- Bruce Sillitoe
Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 3. Wildlife Board Meeting Update

Justin Dolling-Adopted all our recommendations with the exception of waterfowl recommendations. They voted in favor of the division's recommendation to stay with the straight early north zone and then directed the division to go out and gather more public comment on whether or not to split that zone or change that zone. Large group on either side at the board meeting. Some wanted to split it and others did not. Based on the turnout, the board did not feel comfortable making a recommendation. The division is prepared to gather more public input. A survey has been conducted and an open house will be held to discuss that issue on August 6th from 5:30-8:30 pm.

Welcome 6 new RAC members. New chair and vice-chair. RAC training on August 26th at Scheels.

Trapping at Pineview concerns. The Wildlife Board directed the region to develop signs and post around the reservoir reminding hunters that they need to share that space with other users. We are in the process of developing those signs. It is in review right now. This will also include a trapping message.

Item 4. Regional Update

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

Aquatics- Completed a 7 year project on Johnson Creek to restore Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Boreal Toad surveys in west Box Elder County.

Habitat- Working with vendors for approved habitat restoration projects.

Wildlife – Summer rabbit routes during August and September, Pronghorn pre-season classifications.

Archery deer hunt starts on Aug 15. General deer numbers are up.

Item 5. Cougar Management Plan

- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Craig VanTassell- How do you determine where the cougars are harvested?

Leslie McFarlane- Meaning units?

Craig VanTassell- Yes, I know they have to be checked in.

Leslie McFarlane- It is similar to deer and elk units. The units are set up depending on the color, that is the type of management strategy for that unit. If it is harvest objective, anyone can buy a permit over the counter and hunt in that area. We rely on them to tell us where the animal came from. If it is limited entry, they had to take it out of the unit they have the permit for. They have to tell us where they got it.

Craig VanTassell- There has been talk about using GPS coordinates, I think that might be good. In the plan, you talked about 3 different habitat and you had a range of animals in each one. It had 100 km². What is that in square miles?

Leslie McFarlane- I am horrible at math. Anyone want to convert that?

Matt Klar- I think it should be close to 2 square miles, a little bit more.

Bryce Thurgood- I think it is 45 square miles. Is that right? You said 100 square kilometers.

Leslie McFarlane- They do use broad areas.

John Cavitt- 38.6 square miles.

Leslie McFarlane- Thank you. I could not have done that in my head.

Craig VanTassell- How do you determine the numbers? You probably use harvest?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Craig VanTassell- It talked about a source sink type management. Could you explain that in simple terms?

Leslie McFarlane- Source sink gets back to the idea that cougars use broad areas. In some areas, if you have a high cougar population and you have lower densities in other areas, the one with high cougar populations serve as a source. Those animals tend to migrate out so they can find territories they can occupy without another animal being there already. That is your source. Your sink is your lower density population. Does that help? The way we establish our numbers, we have been doing cougar recommendations since before the 1999 plan. We have a history of harvest in all of these areas. It was based on previous year's harvest and where you go up and down.

Craig VanTassell- So, it is mostly on harvest then.

Kristin Purdy- Proposed 3 units proposing to be limited harvest. This is pretty serious predator management on these units. If we had no cougars at all on those units to benefit the big horn sheep, this would be a good thing because we are looking for those populations to increase. Unlimited, we are talking about any number of hunters can go there.

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Kristin Purdy- I am wondering about the second permit that a hunter can get in order to take a second cougar and keep the carcass. Is there an unlimited number of the control permits?

Leslie McFarlane- No, that will be in my next presentation. We have worked out how we are thinking that will work. In order to get the second permit on those unlimited units because they are harvest objective units, you have to have a harvest objective permit in your possession. Then, you can purchase the second permit and it will only be good on those three unlimited take units.

Kristin Purdy- In this proposal, there is no where it says there will be a specific number of controlled permits offered.

Leslie McFarlane- I don't think it is really going to help that much.

Kristin Purdy- That is because these units are so hard to hunt.

Leslie McFarlane- Out of those three units, one cougar was harvested this last year. I think it was one or two at the most.

Kristin Purdy- How does that compare with the health of the cougar populations on those three units?

Leslie McFarlane- It is hard to do because it is such a broad open area and cougars are really hard to determine in the area anyway. Honestly, they are probably very low densely populated in these areas anyway. They do not want them to exist primarily on the big horn sheep.

Kristin Purdy- Knowledge of the population base there is not good. Because it is such a hard unit to assess.

Leslie McFarlane- Exactly. So few cougars are harvested there anyway and the ages are from very young to very old. It is really hard to make a call on how many cougars are in those areas. There is no way to go

in those areas and survey. Hard to get an estimate. In this case, these units are being managed primarily for big horn sheep and not cougars. That is the reason for that classification.

Kristin Purdy- Do we have evidence that the cougars are strongly using the big horn sheep as their prey base?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, there was a research study on San Rafael. Over 20% of animals killed that were radio collared were taken by cougars.

Kristin Purdy- Thank you.

John Cavitt- Under the definition for health population, you have indicated that there is a reasonable proportion of the population that should be older age individuals. What does that mean and who is deciding whether or not we have a healthy population?

Leslie McFarlane- We have a history of tooth aging in these populations that goes back to 1999 at least. In the 1999 plan, there was a goal that was in the plan that a certain percentage of the population had to be 6 years or older. In the 10 years of the life of that plan, that goal was not reached either for social or management reasons or whatever it may be. Going back and looking at data, many of our populations are already at this level for 5 years, between 15-20%. When you look at the ages on a graph, you can see that most of our populations fall within that. More than anything, we are just trying to maintain the populations to have at least that level of 5 years old. Breeding age in cougars, a female can breed as early as 16-18 months of age. A male usually is 3-5 years of age. It all depends on their ability to establish a territory before they will start breeding. If we have at least some level of breeding age animals, we feel we are protecting recruitment and population status.

John Cavitt- My concern is that it is a very vague definition. I am wondering if we couldn't have some age proportion of the population with that age category. It is not possible to derive a number that would say like 20% or 10% needs to be at that age?

Leslie McFarlane- That is what that range is meant to be. We want 15-20% of the animals harvested to be 5 years or older. If we start seeing it above that, we know we have a lot of older age animals in the population. If your percent females was really high and your age was really high, then you would know that you are taking too many older age females and affecting the population. We are trying to say that we want less than 40% to be female and the age to be between 15-20% to maintain that population. If you start getting too high, then you need to increase. If it is way too low, you have too many young animals and you have affected the population.

John Cavitt- I guess I was confused because the definition you have for the healthy cougar population was fairly big. I can see the detail there. The plan in the population management strategies section objective, there is a statement that says when cougar predation is considered a potential limiting factor, the certain strategies will be enacted and so forth. I am wondering, that is also rather vague, who is deciding whether it is a potential factor and how that is being addressed? It is under the population management section. It is in objective 2.

Leslie McFarlane- The predator management part?

John Cavitt- My concern is that it is vague and predation is going to be potentially limiting. Maybe you don't even need that in there. Maybe it needs to be firmed up a bit. Predation is always considered a potential limiting factor for population.

Leslie McFarlane- The reason it is vague and still in there is with the plan, we are trying to move away from doing predator management plans for each unit. We are trying to use the plan itself to address our predator management policies. That is actually a holdover from our previous plan. If a population was not doing well, it would be put under predator management plan. The reason we left that in there is so in case there is a unit that needs to be put under predator management but does not quite meet the goals we have established. That is just if the plan is not working.

Kristin Purdy- Looking for a couple of clarifications on definitions. To maintain a balance with the cougar natural prey. Can you define balance, what are we seeking to maintain?

Leslie McFarlane- Mule deer are the primary prey in Utah for cougars. We are trying to look at deer population and survival. Then linking that to predator management so that we are not always punishing cougars if deer populations are doing well. We want specific targets in place to go in and do an action

based on deer populations or big horn sheep. If we hold cougars back enough to give the prey population time to increase, then you could reduce the predator management you are doing because the prey population has time to bounce back. That is the idea behind this and we are trying to put in specific keys or cut off points.

Kristin Purdy- How do you monitor genetic variability?

Leslie McFarlane- We have been doing some DNA work on cougars in Utah. One of the things we are working now with law enforcement is to establish a population base of cougar populations throughout the state. Some of our research studies looked at relativity of cougars that are radio collared across the state. We have a baseline to compare it to.

Public Comment

Kirk Robinson-Western Wildlife Conservancy- It might be worthwhile to compare the performance targets from 1999 to the plan now. Three of the targets are no longer present. Two have been retained but somewhat modified. All we have now is this 15-20% and 5 years of age or older. In the previous plan, it was a little different. It use to be over 6 years and 15% or greater. This is the one target that gave me the biggest problem. No sufficient rationale was given in my opinion. We could look at the research. Plans are suppose to be based on the best available scientific research. There should be a broad spectrum of ages. Cougar populations are self regulating. It allows total discretion to the DWR. This plan has a long way to go and it will depend on how it is implemented.

Bret Selman- Utah Wool Growers and Farmer Bureau- Thank the RAC and Leslie. Sat on advisory board. Spent a lot of time working this plan. Support this plan.

Tyler Farr- Utah Houndsmen Association- Supports the recommended cougar management plan and ask you to vote to accept it as written. Supports the DWR's 2015-2016 cougar harvest recommendation with a few exceptions.

Leslie McFarlane- Do you want to do your recommendations when we do the actual recommendation part?

RAC Comment

Craig VanTassell- I am not a big fan of harvest objective. I think it needs to be a tool but I think if conditions are right, you can overharvest. You can harvest more females than you want or more younger cougars than you want. I think limited entry is the best way to go but I think you need a split because it gives hunter opportunity. Harvest objective should be the last option.

Mike Laughter- I was on the advisory committee.

Motion

Motion- Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Cougar Management Plan as Presented.

Second- John Wall

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 6. Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016

- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator & Darren Debloois, Regional Wildlife Assistant Manager

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Kirk Robinson- Western Wildlife Conservancy- I noticed with the harvest objective, there are 42 more permits than last year. I am surprised because my understanding was that the number of predator management units would go down. Typically, predator management units are managed by harvest objective. So, I know that it is just a matter of looking carefully at the numbers. I cannot compute that quickly. Would you explain how they went up?

Leslie McFarlane- It's not permits, its quota. The quota increased on the harvest objective units and most of those are big horn sheep units.

Kirk Robinson- So it is because of Big Horn Sheep?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Jon Larsen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- Those units that can harvest 2 lions, what units were those?

Leslie McFarlane- The Bookcliffs, Rattlesnake with the addition of the 9 mile south, Kaparowitz and San Rafael.

Jon Larsen- San Juan does not make that list, is there a reason for that?

Leslie McFarlane- It was never identified originally. These have already been identified through previous meetings as take units.

RAC Questions

Bryce Thurgood- Wasn't a lot of the increase on the Bookcliffs? That does not reflect sheep, that is more for the deer.

Leslie McFarlane- Sorry, I should have remembered the Bookcliffs. 18 of those were for deer on the Bookcliffs.

Public Comment

Tyler Farr- Utah Houndsmen Association- Two recommendations to permit and quota. You brought up the Bookcliffs. Last year there were 20 lions, the quota was 20 and it jumped 90% to 18 and that is a big concern for the houndsmen. Mainly in the Vernal/Roosevelt area. The Bookcliffs is a little different than the San Rafael because there are no roads or snow. The bookcliffs is the opposite. We would like to reduce that from 90% increase to 25%. Some of our club members in the south region that were nervous about the Monroe unit because of the lack of age that has been harvested on the unit. On the Monroe unit, over the last 5 years, only 7% of lion harvested were over 5 years old. That is really low. We would like to get that moved from a split to a limited entry to help that unit provide a quality trophy hunt.

Jon Larsen- Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife- We accept the plan as presented but have some suggestions and recommendations. Pine Valley north and south we would like to see it changed to harvest objective year round. Southeast Manti, we would like to see tags increase from 10 to 15. They are not seeing the mule deer and is way below population objective right now.

Leslie McFarlane- Which unit?

Jon Larsen- Southeast Manti. I don't know if cougars are the issue but they eat deer, as do coyotes and all predators. It is an issue and great concern to our membership. It is well below population objective.

Leslie McFarlane- The issue on the Southwest Manti is that it is not under predator management. In the previous year, it was at 66% of objective. So, it does not qualify. It has to be less than 65% in accordance with the plan. It has to be less than 90% of objective in the previous year and then it has to be less than 84% for 2 of the 3 years. It also has to have a declining trend. All of our deer populations right now have an increasing trend. So, that kicks it out of predator management.

Jon Larsen- The scientific data is great but our membership is not seeing the deer. I am not saying it has to be in a predator management plan. We are asking for the decrease because it is real close to that 65%. It needs to be looked at. The mule deer population is great and is rebounding. There are still pockets you have to protect and watch those areas. On the Pahvant, looking at that area, the recommendation is to take that from 9 to 8 permits. We would like to see it go to 10. to decrease the permit, despite the money and work involved, seems counterproductive to our group. On the Southwest Manti from 6 to 8 rather

than 6 to 5. Just not seeing the animals there. We would like to see Mountain Dutton increased to 15 tags rather than the decrease. We have transplanted mountain goat and spent a lot of money doing that.

Leslie McFarlane- The reason you see those decreases is because it is in accordance with the plan. Mt. Dutton does not qualify for predator management for big horn sheep. It was 60% female in the harvest with 25% of those being over 5. The region chose to decrease because it is outside of the plan if we do different. What was the other one you had?

Jon Larsen- I was just referring to Mt. Dutton for goats.

Kirk Robinson-Western Wildlife Conservancy- You can see how controversial this topic is. DWR never really seriously tried to meet that previous performance target. They decided to lower the bar. I am happy to see the Division and Leslie stick to what the plan actually dictates. Even if I don't necessarily agree with the plan. When it comes to predators and prey and in this case, cougars and deer, I know it is counter intuitive to think that cougars are not making an impact on the number of deer. Many factors affect the population of deer. Studies done recently have not been able to detect a cause and effect relationship between removing cougars and increases in deer herds. We need to get over the idea that cougars are the ones getting rid of the deer. It is habitat changes.

RAC Comment

Craig VanTassell- Do cougars prey on rocky mountain sheep?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Craig VanTassell- How much?

Leslie McFarlane- Depends on the area. Some research shows it depends on each individual cougar. Once they learn to specialize on a specific species, they can have a detrimental impact to that species. I can't tell you how many they take. If you look at the northeastern region recommendations, all of those sheep units are rocky's.

Craig VanTassell- I meant to say rocky mountain goats.

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, they can. I don't know how much they do. On the last chance plan, I believe 2 of the goats radio collared were taken by cougars.

Russ Lawrence- I appreciate you following the plan. We all have concerns here and there but I like how the plan is dictating what you do.

Leslie McFarlane- Thanks.

Bryce Thurgood- Leslie has done a great job. It's nice to see the houndsmen and hunters getting along.

Leslie McFarlane- Thank You.

Motion

Motion-Russ Lawrence- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 as presented.

Second- Craig VanTassell

Motion Passes-Unanimous

Item 7. Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016

- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

See RAC Packet

Public Comment

Stan Bassett- In regards to the waterfowl management units, I think it is important that you have people have a trapping license and possibly have the title changed from "muskrat trapping" to just "trapping".

Kent Fowden- Utah Trappers Association- Appreciate time and effort that has gone into this. We support the recommendations. There are two caveats. One would be in regards to the length of the season. We were given an extension of a week last year.

John Cavitt- For what species?

Kent Fowden- Bobcat. Part of that was to prove a point that toward later in the season, we get more harvest of mature toms. We ask that the RAC vote to reinstate that week extension for one more year to get through to next year's amendments to the bobcat management plan. The other thing is the licensing.

RAC Comment

Kevin McLeod- Why wasn't the extra week added for this year?

Leslie McFarlane- Because I have to go with the bobcat management plan which dictates which days the season can be within.

Bruce Sillitoe- How was it added last year?

Leslie McFarlane- They came through the public process and proposed a two week extension. The board went with a compromise and gave them an extra week.

Bruce Sillitoe- That could happen again this year?

Leslie McFarlane- If the RAC and the board chose to support that. There is one request that I would make and that would be that if you do recommend a change to the bobcat season, then I would also have to add a week onto badger, gray fox, ringtail and martin to end on the same date. We ran into problems this last year with people incidentally taking the other species and the season was closed while trying to harvest bobcat.

Bruce Sillitoe- When you presented that before, it seemed to me that DWR had been able to gain some valuable information regarding that. Is that a true impression I have and would it be valuable to have 2 years of that?

Leslie McFarlane- I think that the harvest would remain the same. It would hold true and I have met with Mr. Fowden and we have talked about making changes to the future bobcat plan that does expire this coming year. Right now, for the division, we have to stick with the guidelines of the plan.

Craig VanTassell- Do you see any problems with those other species if you extend the season for them?

Leslie McFarlane- No, the biggest issue would probably be the "for sale" that takes place at that time. I don't see any biological issue with extending the season by a week.

Kristin Purdy- You are saying the population dynamics of the bobcat can sustain extending the season again. The additional take of the mature toms, does not negatively affect the population but it is desirable for the trappers to take the toms and the population can sustain it?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, because really where we need to make the adjustment is probably on the beginning of the season so we are not taking as many females as males. We would rather see higher harvest males later in the season and fewer harvested females to sustain the population better.

Kristin Purdy- Extending it this past year was simply a wildlife board action based on a proposal they received and in order to do it again this year, the same type of thing would have to happen. Because the plan is not due for update until next year.

Leslie McFarlane- The plan expires in 2016 and I can't recommend seasons outside of the plan.

Bruce Sillitoe- Based on what you just said, it makes sense that if the board was to make a recommendation, that it would be a shift, not just an addition. Does that make any biological sense to you?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, probably what we would be looking at in the future is maybe opening the season November 1st and closing it by the end of February.

Kristin Purdy- If that season were extended once again for a week for the trappers to be able to harvest more mature toms and we also have to extend the season for all fur bearers because of incidental takes of other species, can their population dynamics absorb the difference of the take of the extended week?

Leslie McFarlane- I believe they could.

Motion

Motion-Kristin Purdy- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendation for 2015-2016 as presented with the exception of extending Bobcat, spotted skunk, weasel, badger, kit fox, gray fox, ringtail and martin by one week and requiring a fur bearer license for trapping.

Leslie McFarlane- So, beaver and mink would end April 6th.

Kristin Purdy- Just the species that end on February 7th.

Leslie McFarlane- Yes.

Second- Craig VanTassell

Discussion on the Motion

Bryce Thurgood- Going back to the other proposal about having a trapping license on the WMA's, could that be an amendment to the motion?

Leslie McFarlane- I believe that would be part of that anyway.

Craig VanTassell- Does that include the licensing?

John Cavitt-Yes.

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 8. AIS Rule Amendments – R657-60

- Nathan Owens, AIS Regional Biologist

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Robert Byrnes- Can the seal be removed after the decontamination time has expired?

Nathan Owens- Are you talking about the blue seal or the orange seal?

Robert Byrnes- Orange seal.

Nathan Owens- No.

Robert Byrnes- Have you thought about having any allowance for if the boat has to be removed from the trailer or has to be inverted for storage?

Nathan Owens- That person can probably retain that orange seal. We have not had anyone retain that orange seal and keep the receipt. If the orange seal is on there, they usually don't have the receipt. Or they take the orange seal off and chuck it. If they can explain they had to remove it and have the receipt that goes with that seal, I'm sure an exception can be made.

Robert Byrnes-There is currently no allowance in the rule as written?

Nathan Owens- No, there is not.

RAC Questions

John Wall- On the hot water cleansing, how much time does that take?

Nathan Owens- That varies a lot by the boat type. A little boat can take as little as 10 minutes, while some of these large cabin cruisers and wakeboard boats can take 1 1/2-2 hours.

John Wall- Is there a cost to the boater?

Nathan Owens- No, this is a free service.

Kevin McLeod- It sounds like a daunting task to try and enforce that law. Is there a database that those numbers will be entered in and if I am putting my boat in Bear Lake, they are going to check that number to see if I have been in an infected water?

Nathan Owens- We are currently entering this information into a database. All of our technicians have an electronic tablet they use to record the data. Once that data is uploaded in the cloud, that data is accessible by anyone across the state that has that login information. There have already been instances this year where we have had a boater show up at one state park claiming that they had pulled out of Lake Powell 7 days ago. When we did the search on their number, we find it was actually 3 days ago. We do have that capability. We have had it for 2 years now and is progressing each year. That is one way we can verify if that person is telling the truth or not.

Kevin McLeod- How long has this tag system been in effect?

Nathan Owens- The orange seals have only gone into implementation this year. The blue seals have been implemented since the start of this program in 2007.

Bruce Sillitoe- You mentioned an alternative of decontamination, what is that form?

Nathan Owens- That would be the use of bleach. 3-5% bleach solution is effective against quagga mussel villagers or the lava form. This would probably have to be looked at each individual case by case basis. Another possibility would be ammonium or potassium chloride. The important thing is that we are trying to bring a lot of these companies and businesses on board to increase compliance. A lot are not physically capable of doing that. This are tools we can put in place to help with compliance and protecting our waters.

Kristin Purdy- I am interested in the alternative methods for the situation you described of whitewater outfitters. They may leave an infested water and arrive in an uninfested water on the same day. So, I am concerned about the vagueness of what is in the works. It is not included in this plan correct?

Nathan Owens- Correct.

Kristin Purdy- So, we are looking to propose an alternative means for those entities that cannot wait 30 days to let their boat dry. That alternative is not yet formed?

Nathan Owens- No.

Kristin Purdy- It has not yet been created. And yet, they need fairly quick action on this don't they?

Nathan Owens- Yes, I guess the point of all of this is we need this language in the rule before they can present us with something that we can review and determine whether that is going to be sufficient or not.

Kristin Purdy- What are they doing right now?

Nathan Owens- A lot of them are not decontaminating at all.

Kristin Purdy- There is no registration numbers necessarily on their boats. They are not registered vessels?

Nathan Owens- No.

Kristin Purdy- There is a possibility that they are contaminating uncontaminated waters and yet there is no rules for them to follow.

Nathan Owens- They are required to decontaminate. The problem is enforcing that down here in these canyons.

Kristin Purdy- There are rules to follow but they don't work for the nature of their business. That is the issue. That is why we are looking for an alternative. They need something in place quickly.

Nathan Owens- They do. These vessels provide minimal risk.

Kristin Purdy- Right.

Nathan Owens- They don't hold much water and are not going to have attached mussels on board.

Kristin Purdy- The issue is that they need to be dried. They cannot wait the amount of time. They should not be transporting any water.

Nathan Owens- Correct. They are good about that.

Public Comment

Robert Byrnes- In the rule, there needs to be an allowance for someone to detach the orange tag without penalty. It could be a requirement that they could not enter a water again before the drying time is

expired. I recommend some allowance in the rule that if the boat meets the decontamination requirements that the orange tag could be removed by the owner. Maybe they still need to present it with the paper slip when they go to another body of water, but they could remove it if that time is expired. If the time has not expired and they have removed it, they should be required to go through the decontamination process.

RAC Comment

Matt Klar- Is the standard practice to basically cable the boat to the trailer with the tag?

Nathan Owens- Yes.

Matt Klar- Would it be acceptable to put the tag on just the boat?

Nathan Owens- I guess it would be except we have had quite a bit of noncompliance with people removing these. A lot of times, we do our searching based on the number we see. It is an easy way for our technicians, when someone shows up, to know it is a high risk vessel. If they don't automatically see that attached, a lot of times if they are backed up, they will not search because it takes too long.

Matt Klar- How big of a problem is the vote vs. the trailer? You are tying the boat to the trailer and people might have issues with having to remove the boat from the trailer without putting it in the water again. If it is attached to the boat and not the trailer. Would that still meet the requirements?

Nathan Owens- Not necessarily because it could mean that boat could have launched several times before showing up at the next destination where it is checked by a technician. We have no way to verify the boat has stayed on that trailer in the meantime.

Kristin Purdy- Let's assume if you take a kayaking trip to Lake Powell, it may be a private trip not outfitted, with friends and/or family. You are still under the same rules because you are boating in infected waters and you could be transporting water or villagers out of that body of water?

Nathan Owens- Yes.

Kristin Purdy- No matter what, the contamination rules still apply. Even me and my 13 foot kayak. Other methods of decontamination, not just for commercial entities but everybody with boats, even without a trailer. We are in the learning phases of this decontamination and as the rules develop, we realize we have not yet set or described rules that accommodate all of the situations that might result in transporting infected waters away from those particular bodies of water.

Matt Klar- With kayaks that are not trailered, how are you attaching the seal to the boat?

Nathan Owens- Honestly, we do not encounter any kayaks coming out of Lake Powell. It really has not been applicable to anything we have been doing. At Deer Creek, if we encounter those, and that person indicates the intention of launching that kayak before the required dry time can be met, they do a quick hot water spray on that. In general, our focus is mostly on the bigger boats that hold water and transport water. Those are the main factors that mussels are going to be transported from one body of water to another.

Bryce Thurgood- You wouldn't have concern so much that if we were to make a rule saying that people with boats in general, can't take them off if they take the orange tag off after they have met their decontamination period. As long as they kept it because the bigger boats are not coming off the trailers. It is the smaller ones, the ones you are not as worried about?

Nathan Owens- Correct.

Motion

Motion- Bryce Thurgood- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept AIS Rule Amendments- R657-60 as presented with the exception boat owners may remove the tag after an acceptable dry time or other acceptable decontamination methods.

Second- John Wall

Kristin Purdy- You don't necessarily have to wait for that drying period. If you have it professionally decontaminated, tomorrow you are not going to be waiting any period of time. After the appropriate

decontamination, whether it is an active action or it is a pass to allow the time to expire, the tag should be removable. Then it has to be presented with the certificate right? Once you return to a new body of water. You have to maintain the seal. If you remove the seal, you have to maintain it and present it.

Nathan Owens- Correct.

Matt Klar- If you have to remove a seal for storage or get the boat off the trailer, you could say it had to remain at the storage facility during the drying period, you can't be out running around with that boat with the seal off until the drying period had expired or you had it decontaminated.

Mike Laughter- If we allow them to take the seal off, people lose things. Is there a penalty for not showing up with the seal. Fines or ticketing. Is that a law enforcement issue at that point?

Nathan Owens- Yes, it is a law enforcement issue. Sometimes we can look that record up and find out when the last date of contact was and where it was. A lot of times, we will not be able to look that up. In that case, based on this rule change, that would be a law enforcement issue. Currently, we would just decontaminate that boat.

Discussion on the Motion

Bruce Sillitoe- I can see law enforcement issues. I don't know how we can make that kind of recommendations without hearing from the enforcement side of things. I have more questions raised.

Brandon Baron- What is the clarification you would like from us?

Bruce Sillitoe- The proposal before us is to allow the tag to be removed after there is no more quagga mussels on the boat. What kind of implication is that for enforcement.

Brandon Baron- Most of this is based off of people being honest. They could dispose of that tag and the receipt. If the system is not working right or out of service, we are not going to know anyways. It is another tool for us to use if we do come across it. I don't see any issues with it.

Bruce Sillitoe- Will the database solve that problem?

Brandon Baron- It would help. We have had some issues.

Nathan Owens- We have had 2 cases already this year where the database has allowed us to verify that a boater has lied to us on entrance into a state park about coming from Lake Powell.

Brandon Baron- When you are dealing with self service issues, we are going to have problems. We have to use the tools the best we can.

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 9. Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments

- Rick Olson, Law Enforcement Captain

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Craig VanTassell- How did you determine age 16 or under?

Rick Olson- That was set by the legislature in the code. It was just changed this last session. It was 14 and they increased it to 16.

Craig VanTassell- It kind of seems like it ought to be under 18.

Rick Olson- We would have to talk to those people in the white building.

Craig VanTasell- You are an adult when you are 18 not 16.

Kristin Purdy- Let's say you are 17 and you are with a group. You are not a youth so you cannot be included in the permit. You can't be the leader so you have to have your own separate fishing license?

Rick Olson- Yes.

Kristin Purdy- Ok. Those poor 17 year olds.

RAC Comment

Mike Laughter- I really like this as a recruitment tool and an awesome way to get kids hooked on fishing and the outdoors.

Motion

Motion-Matt Klar- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Youth Fishing and Exemption Rule Amendments as presented.

Second- Bruce Sillitoe

Craig VanTassell- I would like to amend that to be 17 or younger and have that be a part of our recommendation. Maybe it cannot be amended but I think it should be looked at.

Rick Olson- It can't. This group would not have the authority to change that. That is set by the legislature in code.

John Cavitt- We need to talk to our representatives.

Discussion on the Motion

Bruce Sillitoe- The suggestion is that you send a message to the legislature? I am not sure that is part of this motion.

John Cavitt- It's not part of the motion. We can note that.

Russ Lawrence- We can pass it to the division and have their legislative liaison bring it out.

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 10. Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment

-Rick Olson, Law Enforcement Captain

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Kevin McLeod- I am not sure I like the word "severe". I can take legal action or shoot a person that is going to cause severe injury. The definition of severe injury is kind of ambiguous. Could it simply say "injury"? I don't want to wait for an animal to severely injury me. I want to be able to feel like I can take some action.

Rick Olson- I think the intent there was that you don't have to wait for it to cause the injury. The animal has to be capable of causing severe injury. It is an ambiguous term.

Kevin McLeod- I can see that is a good explanation for it where it says "perceive to be able to cause severe injury".

John Cavitt- A garter snake, no. But a rattlesnake, yes.

Rick Olson- Right.

Motion

Motion- Matt Klar- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment as presented.

Second- Bryce Thurgood

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 11. Possession of Firearms rule amendments – Waterfowl and Upland

-Rick Olson, Law Enforcement Captain

See RAC Packet

RAC Questions

Craig VanTassell- does this affect concealed weapon permits?

Rick Olson- This would apply to everybody. You could possess any weapon that you wanted to. You just could not discharge it unless it met those requirements. The concealed weapon portion of the law could come in if you are going to carry a pistol that is concealed on one of these properties, you would still have to have a concealed permit to carry that.

Motion

Motion-Kristin Purdy- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept Possession of Firearms rule and amendments- Waterfowl and Upland as presented.

Second- Craig VanTassell

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Item 12. Fee Schedule

- Justin Dolling, Regional Supervisor

See RAC Packet

Public Questions

Robert Byrnes- Is there no intention to establish a fee for multi-season deer tags?

Justin Dolling- Not at this time. We did the multi-season for combo and fishing and hunting. At this time, no.

Robert Byrnes- Those are just combination permits. For multiple years.

Justin Dolling- Right.

Robert Byrnes- It does not appear you adjusted the fee schedule changing elk premium to multi-season.

Wondering if elk resident and non-resident, is there premium limited entry bull?

Justin Dolling- There is elk resident archery that is \$50.

Robert Byrnes- Premium limited entry bull.

Justin Dolling-Your question is why it was not changed or dropped from the fee schedule?

Robert Byrnes- It does not appear to have been changed to multi-season limited entry bull.

Justin Dolling- Based on the new language. Good point. We probably missed that one. The title needs to be changed to reflect what we are calling that hunt.

Robert Byrnes- Ok.

Justin Dolling- I don't know if we can change the title without going through the legislature or not.

Public Comments

Robert Byrnes- Need to change multi-season on the premium limited entry bull. We did change that with the rule changes last November, I believe. The division did opt not to implement a increased fee for multi-season deer limited entry premium and regular limited entry last year. Again, they are opting not to change that this year. We have established that hunt last November. We will be having a multi-season deer hunt on limited entry and premium limited entry this year. Those people are paying the price of a regular limited entry and premium limited entry tag. For bulls, we did about 1.8 times what a regular tag

is. The division has not opted to do that. Probably the number of tags is fairly limited but we should probably ask the division to establish that permit price at a reasonable level compared to what we are doing with elk. I recommend you push that recommendation up to the Wildlife Board and maybe the Division will carry it to the legislature this year for changes to the 2016 permit prices.

RAC Comment

Bruce Sillitoe- It does not take the legislature to change the fee. Is that true?

Justin Dolling- The Division is required to take any change in fee through the public process, RAC and Board. Eventually present that to the legislature who ultimately approves that new fee structure.

Bruce Sillitoe- That is a normal process to go to the board with that recommendation?

Justin Dolling- Correct. I am not crystal clear to your recommendation. We now have a multi-season hunt which we use to call a premium limited entry hunt.

Robert Byrnes- There are two components. There is the elk that is called premium limited entry we changed to multi-season limited entry. Then, there was a deer component where we have not established an increased fee for the multi-season limited entry premium that we have now created.

Justin Dolling- But we never had a premium limited entry deer hunt.

Robert Byrnes- The confusion was that we called multi-season elk limited entry hunts premium. Then, we had limited entry deer units and we had premium limited entry deer units. We could not call the new multi-season deer a premium tag. It was just confusing. The mule deer committee and the division and their recommendation in the changes we made last November, the elk is no longer called premium limited entry. It is multi-season. In deer we have limited entry and premium limited entry units. We have multi-season tags on both of those.

Justin Dolling- I think I am following now.

Motion

Motion-Matt Klar- Recommend the Wildlife Board accept the Fee Schedule as presented with the exception of considering establishing multi season permit fees for elk and deer.

Second-Craig VanTassell

Discussion on the Motion

Bruce Sillitoe- Do we actually charge more for multi-season elk right now?

Bryce Thurgood- We do, just like the premium. 1.8 times like what Robert said.

Bruce Sillitoe- That is the correct motion then? It is really only the deer multi-season that is not adjusted.

Bryce Thurgood- The deer needs to reflect what we have done on the elk.

Justin Dolling- But in addition, we don't call that a multi-season elk. There needs to be a title change there. It is currently premium limited entry.

John Cavitt- Is that a typo?

Justin Dolling- It is not a typo because we use to call it a premium limited entry elk and now we are calling it a multi-season limited entry elk. It is not reflected in the heading of that particular fee.

Bruce Sillitoe- There could be a request that an amendment to the motion to add the language to clarify the elk multi-season tag. I make that recommendation to amend that motion.

Kevin McLeod- I think the name change or title change is an administrative process. It is not part of the motion. It has nothing to do with the fee. We are looking at the fee schedule, not the name of or the title of the permit. I think that they can make the change to the permit administratively. I don't think it should be part of the motion.

Justin Dolling- I am not sure on the answer to that. To be on the safe side, I would recommend the motion includes that. If it is an administrative thing, we can deal with that as it moves forward.

Motion Passes- Unanimous

Motion to adjourn-

Meeting Ends: 9:16 p.m.

DRAFT

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S Main Street, Springville
July 29, 2015 @ 6:30 p.m.

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Cougar Management Plan

MOTION: To accept cougar management plan as presented
Passed unanimously

Cougar Recommendation and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016

MOTION: To keep Nebo and Nebo West Face as split units (not change to limited entry)
Passed unanimously

MOTION: The permits on Fillmore Pahvant be increased from eight tags to ten tags
Passed 10 to 1

MOTION: To reduce the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek tags from 38 tags to 30 tags
Failed 4 to 7

MOTION: To accept the balance of the recommendations as presented
Passed unanimously

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016

MOTION: To accept the Division's proposal with the exception of extending the bobcat, badger, grey fox, kit fox, skunk, weasel and marten for one week
Passed unanimously

AIS Rule Amendments –R657-60

MOTION: To accept the amendments to the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments

MOTION: To accept the amendments to the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment

MOTION: To accept the rule as presented
Passed unanimously

Possession of Firearms rule amendments – Waterfowl and Upland

MOTION: To accept the amendments to rules as presented
Passed unanimously

Fee Schedule

MOTION: To accept the fee schedule as proposed
Passed unanimously

5-day Falconry Meet Request

MOTION: To approve the request
Passed unanimously

Central Region Advisory Council
Springville Civic Center
110 S Main Street, Springville
July 29, 2015 ☞ 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Ron Camp, Sportsmen
Larry Fitzgerald, Agriculture
Sarah Flinders, Forest Service
Michael Gates, BLM
Richard Hansen, At large, RAC Chair
Karl Hirst, Sportsmen
Ben Lowder, At Large
Kristofer Marble, At large
Christine Schmitz, Non-consumptive
Jacob Steele, Native American
Ken Strong, Sportsman
Alan White, Agriculture

Members Absent

Matt Clark, Sportsmen
Greg McPhie, Elected
Danny Potts, Non-consumptive, excused

Others Present

Calvin Crandall, Wildlife Board Member

-
- 1) **Approval of the Agenda and Minutes (Action)**
- **Richard Hansen, RAC Chair**

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the agenda and minutes as written
Seconded by Karl Hirst
Motion passed unanimously**

- 2) **Wildlife Board Meeting Update (Information)**
- **Richard Hansen, RAC Chair**
- 3) **Regional Update (Information)**
- **John Fairchild, Central Regional Supervisor**

Aquatics

- Jordanelle fishery management planning effort kicks off October 6 in conjunction with gillnet survey
- Mill Creek Restoration Project Phase III to be initiated September 15-17, 2015
- “New” population of boreal toad found in Lake Creek drainage, Wasatch County
- Third phase of the Main Creek Restoration Project completed in June (partnership with Wasatch SCD highlighted in YouTube video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfYXqwVvdxw>)
- Third annual bowfishing tournament at Yuba State Park August 1

Wildlife

- Wasatch West Spring Bear Hunt - harvest objective of 30 animals reached prior to the end of the season

- Elk classification coming to a close. Classified over 800 on the Manti.
- West Desert pronghorn classification in early August
- Cities planning to take advantage of the Urban Deer Control Administrative Rule
- Statewide Elk Committee meeting August 11
- Rocky Mountain Goat aerial surveys August 6-7

Habitat

- Habitat Restoration Projects
 - 1000-acre treatment in Spanish Fork Canyon (bullhog treatment in Cheep Creek and lop and scatter in Mill Creek)
 - Dog Valley p-j chaining on private land
 - Chaining and bullhog treatment in the Vernon area (sage-grouse habitat improvement)
 - Fuels reduction project on the Santaquin WMA in partnership with USFS (bullhog)
- Record of Decision issued by the URMCC on the Provo River Delta project (out for public review)
- Five upland game guzzlers to be installed with help from the Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation on the West Hills Unit of the Santaquin WMA
- Vault toilet to be installed at Burraston Ponds

Conservation Outreach

- Three community fishing ponds added to the program this year (Springville, Santaquin and Deer Valley)
- Youth fishing clinic sign-ups were up and cities taught more classes (final numbers not in yet)
- Walk-In-Access
 - Re-signed Victory Ranch fishing access for another three-year lease\
 - Will partner with landowners to improve pheasant habitat on several WIA leases
- Dedicated Hunter Program busy lining participants up with projects (don't put it off!!)
- Check out DWR event information on the DWR-Central Facebook page

Law Enforcement

- Targeting Deer Creek and Daniel Port-Of-Entry with additional enforcement of AIS regulations
- Law enforcement checkpoint at Strawberry was successful in reminding anglers about slot regs
- Ray Loken promoted to sergeant of the north crew

4) Cougar Management Plan (Action)

- **Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator**

Questions from the RAC

Kristofer Marble – Thanks for that Leslie. It looks like you have been busy this year. What criteria do you use to determine the hunt strategy?

Leslie McFarlane – A lot of it is based on the biologist's knowledge of the unit. In the previous plan harvest objective was only allowed on units under predator management. With this version of the plan we changed that because there are some units that we aren't getting the harvest that we need through limited entry and maybe a year or two of harvest

objective would help us achieve that and then we could go back to limited entry. For example there are some units in northern Utah that are primarily private land and harvest objective really wouldn't work there because what happens is you get increased trespass calls due to people trying to get in. So it depends on the needs of the unit and we rely on the biologist to try and pick the best strategy they feel will work.

Kristofer Marble – So it is a mix of social and biological needs. What is the purpose of a split strategy?

Leslie McFarlane – It tries to give limited entry hunting opportunity and if it fills up under limited entry it never transitions to split but if transitions to split it gives other people more opportunity to go into that unit where otherwise they couldn't go there.

Kristofer Marble – So from a social aspect if it is a split unit and somebody draws a limited entry tag do they really have a limited entry experience on those units?

Leslie McFarlane – They do at the first because it is only a limited number of hunters.

Kristofer Marble – But the harvest from previous years would be greater.

Leslie McFarlane – It depends on the population itself. Some of them do have better toms, some do have less pressure. It just depends on the unit itself and the accessibility to the unit.

Kristofer Marble – It sounds like the committee put a lot of thought into the female portion of the harvest, etc. and then tying that to the ungulate species which is good, especially deer. I am wondering why the fawn counts weren't considered. It seems like that would trickle down but would take a couple years before it hit the other metric.

Leslie McFarlane – Fawn counts are part of the survival so they are accounted for in your 84 percent, 80 percent.

Kristofer Marble – I thought that was only adult deer.

Leslie McFarlane – This is what we are looking at. These are the actual tables. Is the survival only adult deer, Tom? I thought it accounted for fawn doe ratios.

Tom Becker – It is off the radio collar data that we have.

Leslie McFarlane – It is considered in there.

Kristofer Marble – So it is total survival, not adult.

Ken Strong – On the Pahvant we are taking the time to transplant deer and yet you lowered the cougar permits. What is the reasoning on that?

Leslie McFarlane – We can get into that when we do recommendations. The recommendations were given to me by the regions and I went with what the regions requested. We will get into each individual unit later.

Christine Schmitz – How do you evaluate the effectiveness of the education piece of this?

Leslie McFarlane – Good question. There were some objectives in the previous plan that said increase knowledge by 80 percent but there is no way to do that so I took that out. The only thing we can do is work with our outreach section. We try to do media things when we release cougars that are in urban areas. We try to use that as an educational opportunity because I'll tell you the cougar that the central region released a couple months ago created nationwide media attention for Utah. We try to use all those types of things but there is not really an effective way to measure how many people you reach and I don't know how to evaluate our effectiveness.

Kristofer Marble – I pulled this up and just to clarify in the draft I have here it does say adult deer survival. It doesn't account for fawn survival.

John Fairchild – That would be a more consistent measure. Your fawns can go up and down. In a bad winter you can lose them all.

Tom Becker – Coyotes work on fawns more.

Leslie McFarlane – I am trying to remember our discussion. That was our discussion is cougars will target the adults more. When you do that it is adult survival right.

Tom Becker – It comes from the radio collar data.

Kristofer Marble – I just wanted to know why. So you wouldn't have a concern if you have a low fawn producing year or bad winter. You don't need to adjust for cougar numbers?

Tom Becker – We have all the data of what we have been harvesting, females versus males. If we started seeing low fawn survival I would suspect weather related or coyote.

Kristofer Marble – I'm not suggesting that the cougars would be the reason for the low fawn numbers but rather they could be an inhibiting factor in increasing deer numbers.

Leslie McFarlane – I'll give you an example of how we use the data. These are the numbers that were given to me by our big game section on mule deer abundance, mule deer percent of objective and adult doe survival. I'll use Oquirrh-Stansburry. The population objective for deer is 11,600. In 2014 it was 11,200 so the percent of objective is 97 percent. Because it is greater than 90 percent it doesn't qualify for predator control. If you look at Central Mountain-Nebo it is at 62 percent so it qualifies because it is less than 65 percent. That is one of the five units this year that would qualify for predator management for cougars. If you look at Central Mountains-Manti it is less than 90 percent but greater than 65. The next step in this process would be to say it is less than 90 percent of its objective at 66 percent. It is too high to qualify for less than 65 but then you have to look at adult doe survival for the previous three years. It is less than 84 percent for all three years and less than 84 percent the previous year. So it would qualify predator management except for there is the caveat in there that it has to be a decreasing population and right now all of our deer populations through all of our model data show we are increasing so it kicks it out of predator management. Does that make sense?

Kristofer Marble – That makes sense. You answered my question.

Karl Hirst – I believe you are required to take the bear orientation to get a harvest objective permit for bear. I think you mentioned it would be a voluntary test for cougars?

Leslie McFarlane – Cougars it is only a voluntary thing. The reason being is bear harvest objective is newly implemented. There were concerns about female bears in the harvest. We are doing so few harvest objective permits on bears that we made it a requirement.

Karl Hirst – You don't see any benefit of making it required for cougars?

Leslie McFarlane – At this point probably not. Most people harvest a cougar using hounds. I haven't gotten into that part of it yet. I don't have an opinion. I know when I made it mandatory for bear hunters I got a lot of hate mail.

Richard Hansen – I know there are some fawn survival studies going on right now. I pass those Division kids that are camped up there all the time on Monroe and I'm sure they're chasing those implants and that sort of thing. When will that data be available?

Leslie McFarlane – I believe we are in the final year of that and so they should have a report within the next year.

Richard Hansen – That will be interesting.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Aaron Johnson – Utah Houndsmen Association – You have heard Leslie thank the members of the cougar advisory committee and I think it is really important to realize how much time Leslie put into it. She mentioned that these guys probably put in 50 hours. She probably put in over 1,000. Leslie, we really appreciate what you have done. The Utah Houndsmen Association supports the cougar management plan as it is written and we ask you to vote and accept it as it is.

Jason Walker – You talked a lot about the females and the 40 percent. I do see a couple units here that aren't predator management plans but the take on females is above that mark and the permits are staying the same.

Leslie McFarlane – We can go into that when we do the unit by unit recommendations. If they are in the northern region it's because they were very small sample sizes.

Jason Walker – These are mostly down south.

Leslie McFarlane – There is Mt. Dutton that has 60 percent and we are going to make an amendment here on our recommended changes. The reason for that is because of big game transplants.

RAC Discussion

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the cougar management plan as presented
Seconded by Karl Hirst**

In Favor: all

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

5) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 (Action)

- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Larry Fitzgerald – Concerning the Vernon. You stated there wasn't much interest or harvest on the Vernon.

Tom Becker – If you look at the data we haven't harvested any the last three years with four permits each year.

Larry Fitzgerald – I must have misread it then. I thought there had been some harvest there.

Tom Becker – Not with the data we have here. We used to have the Vernon as limited entry just because it is close to the Wasatch and my thought was that it was always going to be a race and it would fill up right away within the first week or two and it would be over. That generally doesn't keep us in control of any depredation issues that may go on. We would have nowhere to go but with a government trapper. If we stretched it out with limited entry where guys are out we could always call a limited entry hunter out and take care of a problem if we ever had it but we haven't had the harvest in last few years. We are trying to generate a few more people out there with the harvest objective and hopefully we will get some harvest.

Larry Fitzgerald – It is going into harvest objective?

Tom Becker – Yes it is a split on the Vernon and the Tinitic is harvest objective. The Tinitic is another one we have harvested five over the last three years. Actually it is five

on the Vernon-Tintic over the last five years. It is combined. With four permits a year that is low. They are going years without harvesting a cat.

Larry Fitzgerald – That is hard for me to understand. I talk to guides out there with cameras out and they are taking a lot of pictures of lions.

Tom Becker – It doesn't appear that they are catching the cats out there and that is a surprise to me too.

Larry Fitzgerald – I can understand last year because there was not much snow.

Tom Becker – We didn't have much snow but there was a time where the Vernon was separated from the Tintic and we have put those together again. There is a total of four permits and it is a pretty good sized unit. We are trying to get more people out there. We did the same thing out on the Deep Creeks. That unit has been harvest objective and we have had as many as eight tags out there and we have never come close to eight harvested in one year except once when they killed them off the cedar mountain range not the deep creeks. We are trying to generate some people to go out west and hope that they will start taking some cats. There are a lot of cats on the deep creeks but it seems to scare people. It is terrain and accessibility. If you can make it snow and make it so they can get into the wilderness a little easier it might help. It is one of those places that is just hard.

Ken Strong – You are raising the Book Cliffs from 20 to 38. How fast did they fill up last year?

Leslie McFarlane – On the Book Cliffs last year it closed January 22nd and in 2013 it closed February 8th.

Ken Strong – So it filled up pretty fast.

Karl Hirst – Can you go over that recommendation again? That is half of the total increase in harvest objective on that unit alone so can you go over why that is again?

Leslie McFarlane – Let me pull up the deer data so you can see. The deer objective on the Book Cliffs right now is set at 15,000 this past year their estimate is 8,600. The percent of objective for the past four years has been between 41 and 57 percent. One of the triggers is anything less than 65 percent qualifies for predator management. The adult doe survival is less than 90 percent. For two of the three years it's not less than 84 so overall it doesn't qualify there but the whole percent of objective is not meeting the population objective they have set for the unit.

Kristofer Marble – It looks like the houndsmen had some concerns about missing data. I take it you have the data for the Book Cliffs harvest data.

Leslie McFarlane – What do they think is missing?

Kristofer Marble – The letter here says 2014 and 2015. I guess there would be no data for 2015 yet.

Leslie McFarlane – This does include 2015 data. When we first ran this through and we had our first meeting with them probably the first part of July I didn't have all of the age data in here and it changed very little so the recommendations pretty much stand the same as when I met with all of the groups the first of July.

Kristofer Marble – I asked you earlier about the hunt strategies. Is there a reason why the Monroe was not chosen to be a limited entry unit?

Leslie McFarlane – It has had some studies and research projects going on.

Kristofer Marble – So that is due to the deer studies and the relocations.

Leslie McFarlane – Yes.

Richard Hansen – Why did you put Nebo and Nebo-West Face into limited entry?

Dennis Southerland – To give opportunity for a quality hunt for cougar hunters.

Richard Hansen – Has the number of animals taken ever met the harvest objective?

Dennis Southerland – No it never has.

Richard Hansen – John had a good point, maybe we ought to have a column on there to show what the harvest objective is and harvest success.

Leslie McFarlane – They yelled at me for having too busy of a table already.

John Fairchild – Knowing how many animals were taken based on the permit numbers would maybe justify or give some rationale for the last column of what the strategy was.

Leslie McFarlane – I've let the regions pick for strategy they need. Primarily up until this year harvest objective has been used specifically for predator management. This will be the first time we have allowed them to use it for regular cougar management. Up until then it was because it was under predator management for deer more than likely or big horn sheep.

Richard Hansen – Do we have any data to see if it is in limited entry versus a split if the harvest success is less or more?

Leslie McFarlane – On limited entry and split the harvest success was 40 something percent. For harvest objective it was 68 percent.

Richard Hansen – What about just limited entry versus split?

Leslie McFarlane – We roll it all into one and count the harvest success for the unit as a limited entry. I'm sure I could get our biometrician to split that out. But it is easier to roll it into one so that is the way it is given to me.

Richard Hansen – It will be interesting if the plan passes if down the road a couple years whether moving units to limited entry increases or decreases the actual harvest.

Leslie McFarlane – Split does increase harvest because you get increased pressure but I can't tell you what part of the success on that limited entry unit split was because it transitioned to split or because it was limited entry. I would have to have them go back and pull all of the harvest by date in order to get a difference in success.

Ben Lowder – So Central Mountains-Nebo and Nebo-West Face are being recommended as limited entry and prior they were harvest objective?

Leslie McFarlane – They were split.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Aaron Johnson – Utah Houndsmen Association – I passed out a letter that we prepared and I apologize that it wasn't emailed to you prior. First of all I want to address the Book Cliffs. I spend a lot of time on the Book Cliffs and I know that this area is not in the central region but think it's important that we realize we can go all over the state and enjoy the wildlife and I hope that you will pay attention and consider our recommended changes. We feel that a 90 percent increase on the harvest objective for that unit is overkill. It does fit within the parameters of the plan. We just feel like that could be a real overkill of the lions and it would take them a long time to recover. Leslie touched on and I think you asked a question about how fast it fills up. The Book Cliffs is really unique in the sense that in the middle of January after it snows two feet you can drive a

two wheel drive car out there because they plow all the roads out there for the oil and gas workers. One of the reasons that area fills up so quick and does fill up every year is the access. You can drive a two wheel drive truck all winter long out there because the roads are plowed therefore you get a lot of outfitters and other people that will flock to that area because it is easier to get clients closer to the tree so to speak. Using that aspect as reason to increase it is kind of unfair. That is probably the easiest place in the state to hunt. If you go up north and you don't have a snowmobile you can't hunt. It filled up quick but consider the reason it filled up quick. It has really good access. The deer numbers are below the target objective. We don't feel like it is the lions fault. We are not opposing an increase because the plan does call for it we are just asking that it be increase 25 percent. I spend 45 days on the Book Cliffs a year and I think one of the main reasons deer numbers are down is there is so much other wildlife out there. The Division just increased wildlife numbers out there by putting a lot of buffalo out there which is a good thing but that is going to take away from some of the feed. I know SFW and a lot of other groups have done chaining projects out there to help the deer feed but the wild horse population is out of control out there. One spring I walked around with the state public school trust lands guy showing him the springs because they were going to try to rebuild all the springs that the wild horses had stomped down. When the wild horses get in there and stomp down the springs they don't come back up again. There are different wildlife issues out there that are changing the Book Cliffs and are having an effect on the deer population. On the Monroe in southern Utah, that is a good source area for some of the other lion units. Our members down there asked us to ask that it go to limited entry. We would like that to be a more quality hunt for some of the guys down in southern region to give them experience. I hope you will consider these changes and I would be happy to address any questions.

RAC Discussion

Kristofer Marble – I would like to give my thoughts on the houndsmen's recommendations. Looking at the numbers, the houndsmen supported the plan we just talked about and it seems like the sideboards that are set up the increase on the Book Cliffs seems reasonable considering the very high cougar numbers based on the parameters and the low deer numbers based on the parameters. With the Monroe study it makes complete sense. I can see why you would want to see it a different way but with the study going on there I think that is within the plan as well.

Ben Lowder – First of all I would agree with Kris on both those statements. Especially on the Book Cliffs with the deer populations and the low percent of female harvest on the cougars and the high percent of older class cougars. What I would like to discuss is Nebo and Nebo-West Face. Both these units are in the predator management plan for deer and sheep and I struggle with the fact that we have taken them to limited entry and reduced the pressure there where they both fall under that predator management plan for both deer and sheep not just one. I would like to look at the possibility of keeping that as a split as opposed to a limited entry.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to keep Nebo and Nebo West Face as split units (not change to limited entry).

Kristofer Marble – I think that is what you were getting at earlier Richard and I was left with the same question. The quota last year was 19 for those two units and it is staying at 19 but what I was left wondering was what impact in actual harvest is it going to have on

those two units? We don't know what has been harvest. Say it is 15, is it going to go down to five under a limited entry strategy?

Leslie McFarlane – On Nebo there were nine permits and total sport harvest was seven. It was a 56 percent success rate in 2015. In 2014 for Nebo it was at 16 and 13 were harvested which was 81 percent success. It is broken down by permits and quota. In 2013 on Central Mountains-Nebo it was at 15 and a total of nine were harvested for 60 percent success.

Kristofer Marble – I think you quoted earlier that the limited entry success is around 40 percent.

Leslie McFarlane – 43 percent statewide. And it is about 68 percent for harvest objective.

Kristofer Marble – So with 19 you could expect to maybe go down to nine cats harvested between those two units roughly speaking.

Leslie McFarlane – If you figured 43 percent success.

Kristofer Marble – So you could leave roughly five cats on the mountain by changing strategy.

Ben Lowder – Again, my thoughts there are that both those units are on predator management for both deer and sheep and with the split season you get that limited entry experience for a period of time and then it is opened up and I think that is appropriate for a unit that is under predator management plan.

Seconded by Ron Camp

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

Ken Strong – There are two things that concern me on this. The Fillmore Pahvant we have lowered to eight and I would like to see that go to 10 tags. The other is Mt. Dutton since we are doing the goats there. They raised it to 14 last night, is that what you said Leslie?

Leslie McFarlane – When the region made the recommendation they weren't considering the transplant for Mt. Dutton so after the RAC meeting last night I spoke with the region today and they agreed because they were basing it on the 60 percent female which is really high, we know we are impacting the population. They agreed to maintain because we are going above 40 percent on the female take. It is under predator management at the current level it is at because we are taking 60 percent females.

Ken Strong – I am still concerned about the Fillmore Oak Creek because of the deer we have been putting in there both from Antelope Island and from the southern part of the state. I would like to see that go to at least to 10 permits.

Leslie McFarlane – On which unit, Fillmore, Pahvant?

Ken Strong – Fillmore Oak Creek.

Leslie McFarlane – Fillmore Oak Creek is under predator management at 12 for big horn sheep.

Ken Strong – I mean Pahvant. I would like to see that go from eight to ten.

Motion was made by Ken Strong to change permits from 8 to 10 on the Fillmore, Pahvant

Sarah Flinders – Can I ask why?

Ken Strong – We have been spending a lot of money to put deer down there and we are losing quite a few of them to cougars and I hate to see it drop when it has been nine. I think we ought to raise it to ten instead of lower it.

Sarah Flinders – Have we seen an effect on the deer population by putting a lot of deer out there?

Ken Strong – According to the study we are losing about 50 percent of the deer translocated and most of those are due to cougar. That is from Utah State who are the ones doing the study.

Leslie McFarlane – Can I comment on that? On Fillmore Pahvant that could increase instead of decrease. It is at 39 percent female. I think they were just trying to keep it from going to 40 percent and they have a high number that are above five so it could take an increase.

Karl Hirst – You are saying it could fit under the plan to go to ten.

Leslie McFarlane – Yes.

Ken Strong – And I would like to propose it does go to ten.

Karl Hirst – And you have backed off the Oak Creek?

Ken Strong – Yes. And the Dutton has gone to 14 and we would leave that.

Richard Hansen – Are we clear on the motion or do we need to restate it?

Larry Fitzgerald – So you are saying it could be increased?

Leslie McFarlane – The percent of females in the harvest is below 40 percent and the age objective is supposed to be between 15 to 20 and it is at 30 percent.

Larry Fitzgerald – What would you recommend it be increase to?

Leslie McFarlane – It is the region that made this recommendation. I don't think 10 would significantly hurt it other than it may bump it to into the 40 percent objective but because they are doing translocations it would fit under the plan.

Larry Fitzgerald – I was wondering if it should be more?

Leslie McFarlane – It's possible that if you add more it would bump it into the 40 percent. I don't think 10 in unreasonable.

MOTION RESTATED

Motion was made by Ken Strong for the permits on Fillmore Pahvant be increased from eight tags to ten tags.

Seconded by Alan White

In Favor: Ron Camp, Sarah Flinders, Larry Fitzgerald, Alan White, Kristofer Marble, Jacob Steele, Karl Hirst, Ken Strong, Ben Lowder, Michael Gates

Opposed: Christine Schmitz

Motion passed 10 to 1

Motion was made by Karl Hirst to accept the rest of the recommendation but with a reduction in the tags on the Book Cliffs-Bitter Creek unit from 38 to 30.

Seconded by Ben Lowder

Kristofer Marble – Is there any chance we could split that motion?

Karl Hirst – If you have another unit to address we could do Book Cliffs separate.

Kristofer Marble – I'm with you on some of it but not all of it.

Karl Hirst – Let's just do the Book Cliffs.

Motion Amended

Motion made by Karl Hirst to reduce the Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek tags from 38 tags to 30 tags

Seconded by Ben Lowder

In Favor: Christine Schmitz, Alan White, Karl Hirst, Ben Lowder

Opposed: Ron Camp, Sarah Flinders, Larry Fitzgerald, Kristofer Marble, Jacob Steele, Ken Strong, Michael Gates

Motion failed 4 to 7

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the balance of the recommendations as presented

Seconded by Ken Strong

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

6) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016 (Action)

- Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Karl Hirst – A question on the bid process, is there an appeal process? Somebody who doesn't get picked is always going to be upset. Is there some way they can say you always just pick your buddy? Is there an appeals process in that rule?

Leslie McFarlane – We are working with the attorney general and it will probably be set up similar to how we do coyote contracts. They have to make an application then we sit down with panel and everybody will rate the answers to the application or the bid proposal and they are given a scale usually the one with the highest score would be the one that is selected and we have to document all that. That is typically how we do those things. We are still working through some of that with the attorney.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

Kent Fowden – Utah trapper association – Mr. Chair and members of the RAC I thank you for your time. We support the recommendations by the fish and game as proposed with one caveat. I would ask this board to consider the week extension for one more year. Next year the management plan comes up for review and season lengths and things will be reviewed at that time. However for this year we would request that you extend that one more week.

Ken Strong – What is your reasoning for extending it?

Kent Fowden – We prefer to harvest bigger toms, more mature cats. We believe it will take the pressure off to a point the juveniles to go later in the season. The big toms start move later and are more accessible. We believe there is a benefit to harvesting more toms.

Karl Hirst – Did the dates you recommended include that extra week?

Leslie McFarlane – We are required to stay within our bobcat management plan and it requires that we stop that first weekend of February. I do have one request though. That is if you consider the week long extension there was something that was overlooked last year when that was approved and that is that badger, grey fox, kit fox, skunk, weasel and marten all end February 7th. What happened last year is we had a little bit of a law enforcement issue because those all ended a week earlier but bobcat went later and we

had incidental take in that time and it made it illegal for them to harvest those other species during that week. If you entertain that motion I would ask that you include those species except for beaver and mink to end the same day as bobcat.

Ben Lowder – From your perspective is there a reason not to recommend that extension for both bobcat and those other species you mentioned?

Leslie McFarlane – No.

RAC Discussion

VOTING

**Motion was made by Ken Strong to accept the Division’s proposal with the exception of extending the bobcat, badger, grey fox, kit fox, skunk, weasel and marten for one week
Seconded by Ron Camp**

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

7) AIS Rule Amendments –R657-60 (Action)

- Candace Hutchinson, Central Region AIS biologist

Questions from the RAC

Ken Strong – If you go to Deer Creek you do not need to decontaminate your boat if you are going right back to Deer Creek, am I correct?

Candace Hutchison – You do not but they will issue an orange tag and they will want to check and make sure you did not go into Lake Powell. You will still need to have that tag attached to the boat and verified before you launch.

Ken Strong – But if you go to Lake Powell and then go to Deer Creek do you need to decontaminate your boat before you put it on the water?

Candace Hutchison – Yes. Deer Creek is currently suspect, we have not been able to find adult mussels in the water body and we have only had one sample come back positive. We have had four other samples come back negative. Because we cannot identify adult mussels it is just suspect so we are trying to keep out all boats that have been in a positive water.

Richard Hansen – You mentioned something about the river rafters and you wanted to be able to issue a COR to them. How would they decontaminate their boats?

Candace Hutchison – Right now since heat would ruin many of their rafts and the dry time is not appropriate for what their business is there are a couple options. One is a diluted solution of chlorine or bleach and there are other scientifically usually chemically based processes out there that might be found appropriate.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

**Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the amendments to the rule as presented
Seconded by Ken Strong**

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

- 8) **Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments (Action)**
- **Rick Olsen, Law Enforcement**

Questions from the RAC

Ben Lowder – What classifies a group as a nonprofit group that would be eligible for this?

Rick Olsen – It is basically a 501(3)c group.

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer to accept the amendments to the rule as presented

Seconded by Ron Camp

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

- 9) **Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment (Action)**
- **Rick Olsen, Law Enforcement**

Questions from the RAC

Kristofer Marble – In one part of the rule it includes domestic animals. If I read that right it says something along the lines of....

Rick Olsen – If they are attacking a domestic animal.

Kristofer Marble – Right. So in another section it says notwithstanding a person lawfully pursuing a cougar or bear with dogs may kill that cougar or bear when they reasonably believe that such action is necessary to protect themselves or another person. Is that inclusive of their dogs?

Rick Olsen – Yes it would be. Central region is really our test region for cases on self defense of moose. We've had a couple in this region this last year. One of them the moose did stomp the dog and the owner shot the moose and ended up killing it and the county attorney ruled that he had that right based on our rule to do that.

Kristofer Marble – I just thought it was interesting. This was specifically called out but there was no mention of the dogs in there. I am wondering if we shouldn't clean that up a little bit just to make that clear.

Rick Olsen – Those attorneys write these things for us and they aren't always that smart.

Alan White – The term avoid that could mean you shouldn't have been there in the first place. I would like you to address that and explain because that is pretty broad.

Rick Olsen - It is. Laws are written in black and white and enforcement is done in shades of gray. Our officers use a lot of discretion in how they enforce some of these laws. Some of this verbiage came because of certain legislators that wanted us to write a rule that said you didn't have to move at all, that you could just stand your ground and say come get me, I'm going to shoot you. The word avoid was a compromise with these legislators.

Ron Camp – I would assume you can't legislate stupid. You had a picture on the background of a slide of people standing around a moose and I wonder how many cases you have had where people have stopped and got too close to animals and the animals feel intimidated and come after them. Then if they think they are threatened and kill that animal at that point aren't they part of that problem in the first place?

Rick Olsen – They kind of are but we don't have very many cases across the state every year where this occurs.

John Fairchild – You get the selfies in Yellowstone.

Rick Olsen – I was just there this spring. Some of them deserve to be gored.

Ron Camp – That is my point. I would hope they wouldn't be covered under self defense when stupidity plays a factor in it.

Rick Olsen – That is why the avoid is there at least. In this picture they can walk off the trail but if they just keep walking toward that moose and he goes after them that is going to be up to a county attorney whether that is prosecuted or not because they could have backed up or gone around or done something to avoid it.

Questions from the Public **Comments from the Public**

RAC Discussion

Kristofer marble – I think we should add something about the dogs with the cougar and bear hunters. I don't know if make a motion to address it or if we propose specific language as far as making a motion to add that language.

Richard Hansen – I thought of that too as you brought it up. If they are out with a pursuit permit and I assume they are legally able to carry a weapon with them even with a pursuit permit if a cougar or a bear turns on their dogs can they kill that animal.

Kristofer Marble – He said yes.

Sarah Flinders – If they are hunting already they have a permit.

Richard Hansen – But if it is just a pursuit permit...

Sarah Flinders – Okay.

Kristofer Marble – They could be just pursuing and training dogs.

Sarah Flinders – But are they asking for that? They are pursuing an animal.

Kristofer Marble – That is why I am asking for consistency because in one part of the rule it says you can protect domestic animals.

Sarah Flinders – But what circumstance are they talking about though.

Kristofer Marble – It is not specific.

Sarah Flinders – If you are actively pursuing the animal it may happen so you are taking that risk. If you are out recreating with your dog or another pet you are not pursuing.

Kristofer Marble – I don't know that I would agree even if you are out even with pursuit that if a cougar starts knocking your dogs off a cliff you should just watch them all go over the cliff either. I don't know that I would agree with that. You should be able to stop that cougar. It is an unfortunate situation but I think you ought to be able to.

Sarah Flinders – In a reasonable circumstance knowing that something like that could get taken advantage of.

Kristofer Marble – Right. I don't know what your thoughts are on that Rick.

Rick Olsen – The way I read this again I don't think they could kill the cougar or bear if it is not a threat to them and only their dogs.

Karl Hirst – I think under the other section it sounds like they could be.

Kristofer Marble – Right, it seems like it is inconsistent to me.

Rick Olsen – I see your point.

Karl Hirst – So Kris you are talking about section one where it talks about the domestic animals. Then are you under section five where you wanted to address it?

Kristofer Marble – It is section 4(b). It just talks about people essentially. It seems unclear. Maybe just have the lawyers look at it and readdress it. That might be the right motion.

Larry Fitzgerald – It is already stated that they are not avoiding the situation.

Kristofer Marble – But they are engaged in a legal activity too. They are not engaging in exceptional danger. They are doing something completely legal like walking down a trail and you happen to run into a moose. Pursuit is just as legal.

John Fairchild – Out of curiosity Rick have you ever come across that situation?

Rick Olsen – No. Most of the houndmen would probably tell you that if their dog let that lion come out and kill them they deserved to die. That is not a very good dog.

Kristofer Marble – That is fair enough. The only reason I even thought of it is we don't have wolves currently in Utah but I know a couple houndsmen out of state that have lost a lot of dogs to wolves to the point that they have quit being houndsmen. That is the only reason I thought of that when I read this section and wondered if it was appropriate to add it and I wanted to bring it up for discussion.

Rick Olsen – What would you propose?

Kristofer Marble – I would simply add or their dogs.

Rick Olsen – I think when they wrote this the intent of the first one was a domestic dog not a hound chasing an animal. It's your foofoo dog that is with you while you are hiking.

Kristofer Marble – That is why I asked initially. If a houndsmen felt like his dogs were in danger would it be legal based on your understanding to do that and you had said yes and that is why I said if that is the case then we should add it.

Rick Olsen – Ultimately these are determined by a county attorney. In my carrer I have had quite a few self defense cases but never one like that.

Kristofer Marble – Maybe we are trying to solve a problem that doesn't exist.

John Fairchild – Houndsmen lose their dogs every now and then. That is part of the deal.

Ron Camp – I was going to say isn't that the liability of running a dog is that you are eventually going to lose a dog or one may get attacked.

Kristofer Marble – I think there is a difference between one dog getting hurt and a cat knocking your dogs off a cliff and there are six of them there and they are going one by one and you can stop it... those stories exist, that is a real scenario.

Ron Camp – I understand that but I think he is right. It's going to be up to a county attorney. If you are walking your lab and a bear comes out and starts mauling your dog and you shot that bear it is going to be a lot easier for that county attorney to look the other way than it is if you are running pursuit dogs and one gets killed. I think it is going to be a tough circumstance to be in and the county attorney is going to be making that decision whether it was justified or not and I think to try to write a law against that you are going to have people take advantage of that and shoot animals just because they say they thought their dog was at risk.

John Fairchild – They are going to get a ticket if they have a pursuit permit and they killed a cougar and then it's going to go to the county attorney.

Rick Olsen – They are going to have to really justify somehow how their life was in danger.

Kristofer Marble – That is why I go back to the original question. If that is not the case then I think it is fine the way it is. If you are telling me from a law enforcement perspective that the concept is if that scenario were to happen you would write a ticket then I think it should be in there. It is all dependant on that basic question to me. If you are saying that is a liability that the houndsmen take then I think the language is fine.

Rick Olsen – That is how I would initially look at it and they would have to convince us if it was something different.

Kristofer Marble – In that case then I think the language is fine.

Alan White – I am still a little confused between retreat and avoid. I think retreat is more specific and avoid is pretty broad. What benefit would we have to change it from retreat to avoid?

Rick Olsen – You are exactly right. Avoid is more broad and that was the point that was brought up by certain people that retreat means if you get out of your car and you start walking up the trail and you see a moose you have to go back to your car and get out of there. They said you shouldn't have to do that. If you go out of your way to avoid it and it still comes after you, you have met that requirement and you could kill it if it was attacking you at that point.

Kristofer Marble – In this amendment you can also stand your ground as opposed to being required to retreat.

Alan White – You can stand your ground?

Rick Olsen – Yes to a degree within reason. If we were there on that trail and you said you were going to stand your ground they moose probably isn't going to let you do that. He is probably going to go after you and if you shot it we would probably be taking it to the county attorney saying you did nothing to try to avoid this at all.

Kristofer Marble – But if something is charging you you are not required to run away.

Rick Olsen – No you are not.

Ben Lowder – To me it comes down to if a bear approaches you you can shoot it in self defense without having to retreat but if you sneak up on a bear and poke it with a stick you probably can't claim self defense.

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to accept the rule as presented

Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

Ben Lowder – I wanted to mention that I am glad we put the clause in there that basically says a human life is worth more than an animal. I think that is a great addition so thank you.

10) Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments – Waterfowl and Upland (Action)

- Rick Olsen, Law Enforcement

Questions from the RAC

Kristofer Marble – Sounds like it is in response to being able to have something with you.

Rick Olsen – Yes.

Ken Strong – If a person was down there and saw a fox on a WMA could he discharge a rifle to shoot that?

Rick Olsen – Probably, that is our issue but the attorneys couldn't find a way write it to preclude that. A coyote or a raccoon is a better example. Because they are not protected wildlife we have no control how those are taken. We don't want to advertise that. Really it comes down to it is not safe to discharge rifles on some of these areas with hunters out in the field. There is that little loophole there that we hope a lot of people don't take advantage of. In my career I have caught two guys that had rifles out on a duck marsh but they were actually hunting geese with them. Other hunters called them in because bullets were whizzing over their heads. They weren't trying to be secret about it. They were a different nationality that weren't familiar with our laws. They were wearing orange vests and they were pretty shocked when I said you can't hunt geese with these. They said why not, they are really good. I don't think we are going to have an onslaught of people out there hunting pheasants or ducks with a shotgun in one hand and an AR15 in another. More than likely a guy is going to have a pistol for self defense. It just lets

him be legal. Right now the way the rule is written on these WMAs for waterfowl the only weapon you can possess is a shotgun unless you have a concealed permit.

Questions from the Public

Carter Wilford – Wouldn't that be favorable if someone has pistol and they see a fox or coyote and the opportunity presents itself to shoot it wouldn't that benefit the WMA in that way?

Rick Olsen – We are not concerned about the take of those species we are concerned about the safety.

Carter Wilford – But it would give the ability in the sense that he could discharge the firearm for that species.

Rick Olsen – It would be legal to do that right now if this passes because a coyotes there is no season. It would be an open season and lawful to take all year long. There is no restriction on what kind of a weapon you can shoot them with. Fox would be a little bit greyer because they are considered protected wildlife but we have a provision in the rule that they can be taken year-round as long as the pelt is not sold.

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

Alan White

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the amendments to rules as presented

Seconded by Ben Lowder

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

11) Fee Schedule (Action)

- Administrative Services Section Personnel

Questions from the RAC

Questions from the Public

Comments from the Public

RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Kristofer Marble to accept the fee schedule as proposed

Seconded by Ron Camp

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

12) 5-day Falconry Meet Request (Action)

- Carter Wilford, Director of Events, IEEA

Questions from the RAC

Larry Fitzgerald – What property are you using?

Carter Wilford – Most of it will be public land. There is some potential land in Saratoga Springs. I don't know who owns it but we have hunted there before. There is a development and I was considering getting permission there. Right now it is land locked so you can't fire a gun whereas falconry that wouldn't be an issue and there are a lot of

jackrabbits in that area. Other than that most is public land that we would hunt. There is some potential private land in Alpine that I have access to that we would hunt.

John Fairchild – How much area do you need?

Carter Wilford – It varies in the sense that we will have 20 to 30 participants maybe a little more and they would go out in groups to hunt those areas. It will depend on the species. With jackrabbits three acres. It depends on your density of game. When it comes to hunting grouse you just start walking and go from there. I don't know if you are all familiar with the sport of falconry.

Kristofer Marble – I was just going to ask you if you knew that was the second weekend of the deer hunt.

Ben Lowder – The dates you mentioned are different than the ones in your letter.

Carter Wilford – Sorry, it is the 23rd to the 25th.

Richard Hansen – Is there going to be a place on the Wasatch Mountains you are going to want to hunt?

Carter Wilford – When I say I mean the Pleasant Grove front just basically above the houses we do hunt for cottontails which I don't think we will have that many deer hunters right there because we hunt about 100 yards above the houses and with falconry that is not an issue.

Richard Hansen – Do you ever have an issue with fawns and golden eagles?

Carter Wilford – That shouldn't be an issue. Generally we hunt the eagles out on the open range in the Lehi area. When it comes to eagles we will probably have three or four eagles.

Larry Fitzgerald - So if you do hunt public ground do you have all the permits you need for that?

Carter Wilford – That was this is approving. They approve a permit for nonresidents to come and hunt protected species which would include pheasants and the potential of fox. Fox gets a little grey because red fox are not protected but kit fox is. There is also the stipulation within the falconry rule that if we are pursuing a red fox and a kit fox runs out and that eagle does take that fox we can eat off of that fox and then we just leave the remains of that fox there. In theory after that bird is released I can't dictate and that is the same reason why we can hunt male and female pheasants. There is a natural gray area when we are pursuing game that way.

Sarah Flinders – Do people pay to do this?

Carter Wilford – No it is just for falconers to get together.

Sarah Flinders – How many animals do you normally take?

Carter Wilford – I would say your take is 30 to 40 percent one to two animals per day hunting four to five hours. Maybe 15 to 20 rabbits per day or less and when it comes to fox about 25 percent. It will not be a meet where you will harvest a ton of game like if you were a gun hunter.

Michael Gates – With an organized event I would encourage you to check with the BLM if you are going on the property west of Lehi you many want to check with the Salt Lake office. They may have a permit you have to get.

Carter Wilford – We do a meet every year in February that I know is on BLM land and we have not had to get a permit for that. I will check on that.

Larry Fitzgerald – So you are they guys that keep leaving my gate open out there.

Carter Wilford – I will make a point to let them know on that.

Sarah Flinders – You will check with the Forest Service as well because that is Forest Service land on the Wasatch.

Carter Wilford – And do we need a permit for that? For a meet?

Sarah Flinders – Any public organized event you do.

Ben Lowder – What are the falconry season dates for pheasants?

Carter Wilford – It is either September 1st or September 30th. Our seasons are longer than the gun season so I think it goes September 1st to February or March but we would be within that legal parameter of what falconry has already been approved for.

Karl Hirst – You are talking to use so an out of state bird can be brought in?

Carter Wilford – Not brought in. There is an allowance so the five day permit can be given to the people coming in from out of state.

Karl Hirst – And do they buy that?

Carter Wilford – Yes.

Larry Fitzgerald – Is this open to the public and can the public come watch. I have watched the falconry guys and it is neat to watch. I have actually seen eagles take rabbits and it's really cool.

Carter Wilford – Yes it's open.

Ken Strong – I have watched the falconry guys in Fairfield areas a few years ago do pigeons and it is quite a sight.

Larry Fitzgerald – That is who is leaving my gates open.

Carter Wilford – You are more than welcome to come out to these meets.

Ben Lowder – What is the difference between this five day nonresident meet license as opposed to them just buying a nonresident hunting license.

Carter Wilford – I don't know. I just know to have a meet and for a nonresident to purchase that we have to come before you.

Questions from the Public
Comments from the Public
RAC Discussion

VOTING

Motion was made by Ben Lowder to approve the request

Seconded by Larry Fitzgerald

In Favor: All

Opposed:

Motion passed unanimously

40 in attendance

Next board meeting August 27, 2015 at the DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

Next RAC meeting September 9, 2015 at DNR boardroom, Salt Lake

**SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver High School, Beaver, UT
August 4, 2015 7:00 p.m.**

1. REVIEW & ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES AND AGENDA

MOTION: To accept the minutes and agenda as written.

VOTE: Unanimous.

2. COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: To accept the Cougar Management Plan as presented with the exception to change the language to “When Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer or **Goat** transplants or reintroductions will occur in the next year or **have happened in the previous three years**, then see attachment C Predator Management Bighorn Sheep and Transplants”.

VOTE: Unanimous

3. COUGAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS 2015-2016

MOTION: To accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments 2015-2016 as presented with the exceptions to increase the Pahvant permits to 10 and change the strategies on the Paunsaugunt, Pine Valley North & South, Cache and Southwest Desert units to Harvest Objective.

VOTE: Motion carries 10:1

4. FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS 2015-2016

MOTION: To accept Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations 2015-2016 as presented with the exception to add a week to the season dates (ending February 14th) for Bobcat, Badger, Gray Fox, Kit Fox, Ringtail, Spotted Skunk, Weasel and Marten.

VOTE: Unanimous.

5. AIS RULE AMENDMENTS R657-60

MOTION: To accept AIS Rule Amendments R657-60 as presented.

VOTE: Unanimous

6. YOUTH FISHING EXEMPTIONS RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION: To accept Youth Fishing Exemptions Rule Amendments as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

7. SELF DEFENSE AGAINST ANIMALS RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION: To accept Self Defense Against Animals Rule Amendments as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

8. POSSESSION OF FIREARMS RULE AMENDMENTS – WATERFOWL & UPLAND

MOTION: To accept Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments – Waterfowl & Upland as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

9. FEE SCHEDULE

MOTION: To accept the Fee Schedule as presented

VOTE: Unanimous

SOUTHERN REGION RAC MEETING
Beaver High School, Beaver, UT
August 4, 2015 7:00 p.m.

RAC Members Present	DWR Personnel Present	Wildlife Board Present	RAC Members Not Present
Layne Torgerson Dale Bagley Rusty Aiken Wade Heaton Mike Worthen Dave Black (chairman) Craig Laub Brayden Richmond Mack Morrell Brian Johnson Gene Boardman Nick Jorgensen	Stephanie Rainey Lynn Chamberlain Kevin Bunnell Clint Mecham Teresa Griffin Riley Peck Leslie McFarlane Greg Sheehan Jason Nicholes Kody Jones Eric Bond Rick Olsen Vance Mumford Jim Lamb	Donnie Hunter	Cordell Pearson Harry Barber Sean Kelly

Dave Black called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. There were approximately 9 interested parties in attendance in addition to RAC members, members of the Wildlife Board, and Division employees. Dave Black introduced himself and asked RAC members to introduce themselves. Dave Black explained RAC meeting procedures.

Dave Black: It is time to get started. We'd like to welcome you out this evening to our Southern Region RAC meeting. In our audience tonight we'd like to recognize Director Sheehan that's with us. And then we also have one of our newest Wildlife Board members, Donnie Hunter, is with us as well. We have five new RAC members that are with us tonight. We lost four and picked up five so we've got a pretty good crew up here tonight. We're actually short two of the members so we're going to need a bigger table next time. But what I'd like to do is maybe start down on my far left with Nick and have him introduce himself. Nick, tell them your name, where you live and which group you represent, and then we'll just go down the list from there.

Nick Jorgensen: My name's Nick Jorgensen, I come out of St. George. I'll be representing the non-consumptive group. I do a lot of hiking. I spend a lot of time out in the woods. So, it's a pleasure to be here and to be a part of this.

Gene Boardman: Gene Boardman, I'm at-large, and I'm from Hinkley.

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

Mack Morrell: Mack Morrell representing agriculture, from Bicknell.

Brayden Richmond: Brayden Richmond representing the sportsman, and from Beaver.

Craig Laub: Craig Laub from uh, representing agriculture and I farm in Iron county.

Kevin Bunnell: I have to comment; I noticed how the two agriculture guys just surrounded your Brayden. My name's Kevin Bunnell, I'm the regional supervisor for the Division in Cedar City, and act as an executive secretary to this group.

Dave Black: My name's Dave Black. I'm the chairman of the Southern Region RAC. I live in St. George and I represent the public at large.

Mike Worthen: Mike Worthen in Cedar City. I represent the public at-large.

Wade Heaton: Wade Heaton from Alton. And I am at-large as well.

Rusty Aiken: Rusty Aiken, Cedar City, at-large.

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

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

Kevin Bunnell: Let me just explain. Rusty gave me a look wondering if he was introducing himself correctly there, and he did. In the past Rusty had just started a new term, his second of two terms on the RAC. In the past Rusty was filling a seat representing agriculture but when Craig applied to be on the RAC because he has such a strong agricultural background I asked the Farm Bureau if they would endorse Craig's application and endorse him as an agricultural rep; they were glad to do so and so we've switched, put Rusty in an at-large seat and Craig will be filling the agricultural seat that Rusty was. And I think it's a better fit for both of them. A more natural fit for each of them in terms of what they do and the groups that they'll be representing.

Review and Acceptance of Agenda and Minutes (action)

Dave Black: Our first action tonight is to accept the minutes and the agenda this evening; if we had a motion. Okay, we have a motion from Mike. Do we have a second? And a second from Rusty. Are you all in favor? Any opposed? That's unanimous.

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

Dave Black: We'll move to item number 3 then which will be a Wildlife Board update from Kevin and then he'll also give us a regional update as well.

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

Kevin Bunnell: Why am I giving the Board update? I'll be honest, I don't remember the last board meeting, and it's been a while. Why don't you take that one?

Dave Black: Uh, it's been a while since we met together but the last Wildlife Board meeting was June 4th. At that time we looked at the waterfowl recommendations. And that was actually put on an action item list with some ideas of having the open houses mainly for the northern region. And so there wasn't a vote on the . . . Okay, and so everything else passed? So everything else passed except the goose zones in the northern region. And then there was the urban deer control rule amendments and that passed unanimous. And then the one that had quite a bit of conversation on was the Southern Region Deer Management plans. And specifically the Oak Creek boundary change was the one that had the biggest discussion and that one eventually passed 3 to 1. And the rest of the Southern Region Deer Management plan passed unanimous. There was the Utah Prairie Dog Rule and that passed unanimous. And I think that was the main ones there.

Kevin Bunnell: I guess you'd like me to do the regional update now? Well we've got a long agenda so I'll be relatively brief and hit some highlights. Our outreach section beginning Thursday will be having the goat watch up on Beaver Mountain right here. Thursday and Friday they'll be set up all day long because the Piute, one of the Piute Trail jamborees is going so there's a lot of ATV riders that come by and they'll have spotting scopes set up and be in a position where they can show people goats. And did I hear that you've got the guy, a guy here from Beaver that will be doing, have some phone scopes up there to mount onto the scopes?

Lynn Chamberlain: We know he's going to be there Friday for sure, we're not sure about Thursday and Saturday but possible. So that can be a lot of fun.

Kevin Bunnell. Okay, and then Saturday um, Lynn will be leading a caravan up here. They meet at the gas station here on the south end, at the Shell station at 8 o'clock. And he takes a big group up there; there are usually a couple of hundred people that attend that. So that will be kind of a 3-day event. From our habitat section probably the biggest thing going on right now is there is a fire burning on the backside of the Pahvant. It's been labeled the Solitude Fire. The Forest Service let it burn for several days because it was in a really good location. It's burning primarily aspen and mixed conifer habitat. It will be a great fire for aspen regeneration. Two or three days ago it started growing quite a bit. It's now up to about 2000 acres but it's still in a good location but they have started containing it now. Riley, do you want to add anything in terms of just where that fire is and what benefits it might have to wildlife?

Riley Peck: Yeah, so right now it's kind of right between Fillmore and Richfield. They updated it to what it's burning about, I think they said 1900 acres, 2175 is what they said. Right now it's basically just dead fuels that are on the ground. It's going through a conifer area where there's just a lot of dead fuel on the ground, a lot of stuff they're wanting to clear out and so they're actually helping the fire along in some areas with some drip torch and different things just to clear that out and make room for more aspen growth in that area. So when you go up there and the reports that they're giving that it's 25 percent

contained or whatever, it's a little deceiving because they are kind of nudging that along to support the area and help promote wildlife.

Kevin Bunnell: Thanks, any questions on that from Riley? From our aquatics section, they just completed, or they're still in the process of a treatment here on the, and I always get this wrong, the South Fork of North Creek. Did I get that right Teresa? Um, a stream coming out of the Tushers here in an effort to restore Bonneville Cutthroat trout. And that will be completed later tonight; they started about 3 o'clock this morning and will be done by tomorrow morning. And so there will be some tired folks but they're getting a lot of good work done there. Wildlife section, obviously the archery hunt will be opening here in the next week or so. And probably from what everybody is seeing and the reports, and you have probably all seen the same, that animals are just in fantastic shape this year; um, just almost ideal conditions for deer and elk and other wildlife. It should be a really a successful hunt this fall and I think a lot of people are looking forward to it. And then lastly from our law enforcement section Scott Dalebout, who many of you know has taken a temporary assignment in Salt Lake for the next year helping coordinate activities between our aquatics section and our law enforcement section on aquatic invasive species and the road blocks that they do inspecting boats. And so Scott will be doing that so I've appointed Paul Washburn who was our Cedar City sergeant; he'll be acting as lieutenant for the next 12 months and we're in the process of back filling behind him as well as the sergeant out of Cedar City. Um, that's all I have as an update unless anybody has any questions.

Dave Black: Thank you Kevin. Before we go to our first presentation I just want to review briefly the procedures that will be followed after each presentation. There will be an opportunity for questions. First we'll entertain questions from the RAC and then we'll entertain any questions that will be from the public. And at this point of the, we just ask that you limit those to specific questions and not comments. If you do have a comment or you're representing a group with a comment then fill out a comment card, we'll give those to a DWR representative and they'll bring them up here. And then following the question portion we'll go to the comment portion and if you do have a comment and a card up front we'll call on you and we'll allow you three minutes per individual and five minutes per organized group for your comments. And then we'll close that to the public and we'll entertain comments from the RAC and then following those comments we would have a RAC motion and a discussion and a vote. So with that we'll move to our next agenda item, which is number 5, which is the Cougar Management Plan and Leslie will be presenting that for us.

12:25 to 35: 37:20 of 3:05:24

Cougar Management Plan (action)
-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you Leslie that was a very good presentation. Do we have any question from the

RAC? Dale.

Dale Bagley: In the plan it says that adult females are basically I guess the most sensitive thing to keep in a healthy population. Then later on in the plan it says explore ways to reward hunters for a selective harvest. So was there any discussion on ways to reward hunters to?

Leslie McFarlane: Um, we didn't develop anything during this portion of the plan. Um, but if you have some great ideas we're always looking forward to those kind of things. So in the plan itself we didn't go into that part, that level of detail there.

Dale Bagley: One thought that came to my mind, and maybe it should be in the comments, but if you've got a limited entry hunt and then it rolls over into harvest objective, um, if a guy selected during his limited entry hunt and then all of those harvest objective tags usually end up shooting a lot of those that maybe the selective guy turned down. I guess my thought would be to waive the waiting period on those limited entry guys if they uh, were selective and didn't harvest. Or and I guess if the unit's not in a predator management program, I mean you wouldn't want them to be selective on a predator management unit but if it's in a regular limited entry unit, I don't know, that's just an idea, waive the waiting period.

Leslie McFarlane: Oh no, that's a great idea. We can talk more about it too.

Craig Laub: I was looking here at the harvest recommendations and harvest report over. Uh, is there, what I was looking at is some of these units the harvest percentage is really low. Is there anything you can do about helping increase that? Changing dates or something? The reason I ask, I was talking to some of the houndsman down in our area and they thought you know what on those split units starting, if they could start a little earlier on the warmer climate would help their success rate a little bit. But that's .

..

Leslie McFarlane: Kevin do you know the history on that?

Kevin Bunnell: Do you want me to comment on that? So that has been a long debated issue Craig on when, and it's changed several times on when to make the transition from harvest objective, or from limited entry to harvest objective. Um, and there's, it depends on who you're talking to. The guys, the limited entry hunters want it to go as long as they can because they want as much of the snow as possible and the guys that are out just pursuing and hunting unharvested, so it's one of those you know, which side of the fence you're on. March seems to be a reasonable compromise. It's a little bit, maybe a little bit late down here in the Southern part of the state but it's where we've landed.

Leslie McFarlane: And just to add to what Kevin's saying, I mean when you consider limited entry versus harvest objective, limited entry they used their points, they're looking for limited number of people to be out there and so you want to give them the best opportunity. And then harvest objective is just over the counter and so anybody can go in. And so it is kind of you want to make the limited entry a little more valuable?

Craig Laub: I was just trying to get the success rate up.

Leslie McFarlane: Oh yea.

Brayden Richmond: I had 2 questions. The first one is, is there any reason on the predator management plan that we're looking at the deer objective versus the carrying capacity? Our objectives used to be quite a bit higher just a few years ago and I'm wondering why we're not looking at actual carrying capacity.

Leslie McFarlane: Because carrying capacity is where you are trying to get but your objective is based, so everything that's done in the big game section is based on its current objective. If we try and, it's more defensible and it also addresses what your deer population is currently doing at the time, which is what we are trying to do with cougar management. We want it to be responsive to your deer population but not punishing cougars all the time because the deer can't get there. So objective is something that changes every year where your abundance is relative to your objective.

Kevin Bunnell: Just the opposite carrying capacity changes every year, objectives stay constant.

Leslie McFarlane: Oh yeah, sorry.

Brayden Richmond: And then the 2nd question, and this may not be the right place to ask this question, but what I'm wondering... I read the plan twice and then skimmed through it more than that, and it was difficult, these notes, this presentation you did cleared up several questions and actually misunderstandings I had. After reading through it twice I had misunderstood several things. Is there any way that we could get this presentation when we get the RAC?

Kevin Bunnell: Do you get the RAC packets?

Leslie McFarlane: It's in the RAC packet isn't it?

Brayden Richmond: This would have helped me understand.

Leslie McFarlane: Oh, it's on the online thing.

Brayden Richmond: Oh it is?

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah.

Brayden Richmond: Okay. And that's what I was wondering if there was a place to view it. I guess I'll just have to look better next time because this was great; this helped me.

Dave Black: Any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black: Okay, one thing I failed to mention, if you come up to the microphone from the public please state your name and we'll use this microphone right here in front. Do we have any questions from the audience?

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. You showed us that this plan will review, will be

reviewed in 5 years, will that include a reconvene of the committee?

Leslie McFarlane: No, it's just an internal review by the Division to make sure that it is meeting what we want it to meet. The advisory committee was a one-time thing and after their input and their review they've been disbanded.

Dave Black: Okay, if there's no further questions we'll go to the comment section.

Kevin Bunnell: We've got several comment cards that just say cougar. I'm assuming Jarod, McClain and Paul, did you guys want to comment on the plan or on the recommendations that's coming next? I'm assuming recommendations. So we just had one on the plan and that's Lee.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: Lee, it's your turn.

Lee Tracy: We were getting regular reports, oh, Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. We were getting regular reports from Chad about how things were going, and like Leslie I think they work really hard. There were some differences of opinion, which we of course expected, and stuff like that, but United Wildlife Cooperative approves the plan as presented. And I would like to just say that we especially appreciate the integration of the mule deer committee into the cougar committee and it is my understanding that that will be visa versa as well the next time the mule deer committee meets together, we'll invite some of the cougar folks with us. We also especially appreciate the fact that this plan will be reviewed on a regular basis and adjustments will be made. Cougars are a difficult animal to manage and a difficult species to determine that we're not even sure of the population. So those reviews will be especially appreciated, thanks.

Dave Black: We do have one more comment card, which is Jason Aiken.

Jason Aiken: I am Jason Aiken with Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife. Thanks for all your time on this, this is great. Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife is going to, they like the recommendations on this cougar management plan. The one thing that we would like to see adjusted is on the bighorn sheep, or on the transplant verbiage itself, we would like to add goats to that transplant list. And then also uh, it says, um, all right, to I'll read the verbiage itself and then I'll add in what we recommend. (Read from attachment 2). When bighorn sheep or mule deer transplant or reintroductions will occur in the next year then see attachment C, and that's the predator management that it is talking about. We ask that we add the goat transplant to that and then also if there's been a transplant on that unit in a pervious 3 years so that we can protect those animals that we have transplanted into that unit for a couple of years to give them the head start. So we would change the verbiage to read when the bighorn sheep, mule deer or goat transplants or reintroductions will occur in the next year or have happened in the previous 3 years then see attachment C. And that's just going to give those animals that we've, you know, gone through, spent the money to move them into that unit to give them a little bit better chance those first couple of years to get to know the unit. I believe the Fillmore, the deer that we moved from Parowan up to the Pahvant that was one of the big problems that they had that first year was cougars and that that were taking down some of those ungulates or the deer that were transplanted on there. So thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Jason. That's our last comment card for this item. Do we have any comments from the RAC?

RAC discussion and vote:

None

Dave Black: Okay, before we entertain a motion just let me summarize real quick then, we had one comment card that was in favor of the plan as presented, and that was from Lee. And then we also had one from SFW and there was a handout provided that we all have, and uh, they'd indicated that they'd like to change some verbiage that would include when bighorn sheep, mule deer and goat transplants or reintroductions will occur in the next year or have happened in the previous 3 years then see attachment C. So that's a summary of our comment cards.

Jared Higgins: (Handout to RAC members - attachment 3). I'm Jared Higgins and I represent the Utah Houndsman Association. We want to support the recommend Cougar Management Plan that the Division has written up with the exception of two things. On the Bookcliffs Bitter Creek, we feel that a 90 percent increase is . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Jared let me just coach you a little bit since I think you're probably new here. So the first part of your comment here relates to this agenda item. The increases on the Bookcliffs and on the Monroe will be relative to the recommendations that Leslie will present in just a minute. So I think just the first sentence there on your thing is in relation to this agenda item.

Jared Higgins: Yeah that pretty much sums that up. The Houndsman Association likes the plan.

Kevin Bunnell: And we will call you up when we do that for the other comments. Thanks.

Jared Higgins: Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay. Thank you. If we don't have any further comments from the RAC I'll entertain a motion.

Dale Bagley: I'll make a motion that we accept the plan as presented with the exception of the SFW recommendation, the verbiage that when bighorn sheep, mule deer and goat transplant or reintroductions will occur in the next year or have happened in the previous 3 years then to see the attachment C, predator management bighorn sheep transplants.

Dave Black: Okay. Do we have a second on that motion? Okay, we have a second from Rusty. Do we have any discussion on this motion? Okay, go ahead.

Wade Heaton: I like the change. I like the plan. I think it is well thought out and it's got a lot of good options but I do like that change in the motion. Just because there's so much expense that goes into the transplants and relocations, I just think we need to safeguard those animals just a little bit. So I think it's a good change.

Dave Black: Okay. Leslie, can I ask you another question real quick? You had mentioned that you felt that goats were covered already, is that the case or do we need to specifically mention goats?

Leslie McFarlane: Um, let me double check. I thought it said susceptible species but let me just double check.

Dave Black: Okay. Kevin says it probably doesn't . . .

Kevin Bunnell: It will just be a clarification of where it says susceptible species and (unintelligible).

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah, I can clarify that. That's not a big deal.

Dave Black: Okay. We'll leave the motion as it stands then. Any further discussion? All those in favor? Raise your hand high. Is that everybody? Any opposed? Okay, motion carries unanimously.

Dale Bagley made the motion to accept the Cougar Management Plan as presented with the exception that verbiage be added that when bighorn sheep, mule deer and goat transplant or reintroductions will occur in the next year or have happened in the previous 3 years then to see the attachment C, predator management bighorn sheep transplants. **Motion seconded by Rusty Aiken. Motion carries unanimously.**

Dave Black: The next agenda item then will be the Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments. This will be presented by Leslie McFarlane as well.

Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments 2015-2016 (action) 54:00 to 1:11:18 of 3:05:24

-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Do I have any question from the RAC? Brayden?

Brayden Richmond: Two questions again. First question, um, the Bookcliffs and the Fillmore Oak Creek, as I'm looking at the numbers and the Bookcliffs seem very defensible to me, I know that we're increasing tags there, but when I look at the Fillmore Oak Creek the numbers are actually even better. We only have a 13% female, we have 40% or greater than 5 years but we aren't increasing tags and we have sheep there. I'm just, I guess I do not understand why we're being aggressive in the Bookcliffs, which you defended, but we aren't doing that in the Fillmore.

Leslie McFarlane: I will let Riley answer that one.

Riley Peck: On the Fillmore Oak Creek, those numbers are actually being pretty aggressive. We haven't come anywhere close, it's been a split unit and we average killing two or three cougars over the last five years. This was the first year because of sheep that it went to a fully harvest objective season and I think we only killed five. So we're at the point where we could increase tags and get aggressive with the

numbers and it being a sheep unit but we're not, were not killing them anyways.

Brayden Richmond: We're not killing them anyways.

Riley Peck: And so we just . . .

Brayden Richmond: And it's already harvest objective.

Riley Peck: And it's already harvest objective so anybody can come and grab the tag but we're just not killing the cougars there.

Brayden Richmond: The second question I have is on your boundary change, I'm just curious. On the San Juan unit, the Elk Ridge portion of that unit we have the sheep on it, the deer are struggling, and we have transplants, but the Abajo portion, I'm just wondering if you've considered boundary changes there and if not why?

Leslie McFarlane: Um, that's completely up to the Southeastern region and I would defer to them on why they would or would not. I can't comment on why they haven't.

Dave Black: Okay, Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I just have a question. The way that the motion passed on the management plan, the verbiage that was added, will that, if that verbiage goes into the plan would that kick some of these other units into a predator management program?

Leslie McFarlane: Um, the only one that it would probably it could kick some of the ones in the Southeastern region in. Um, like where they just took antelope, (unintelligible) and deer and released them onto the San Juan, um . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Leslie is would also put the Mt Dutton into that and we did already adjust that by increasing the permit, putting the permits back up to (unintelligible).

Leslie McFarlane: The only other one would be the Fillmore Pahvant.

Layne Torgerson: That was the two that I, Fillmore Pahvant and the Dutton where they've been transplanted, I mean the deer transplants and the goat transplants.

Leslie McFarlane: And that's up the region if they chose to do that.

Dave Black: Okay, Mack.

Mack Morrell: You said you are going to transplant some more goats on the Dutton, what's the process of that?

Teresa Griffin: Would you clarify process? What do you mean?

Mack Morrell: I mean do you have to advertise or do anything or just transplant?

Teresa Griffin: I believe that was approved in a statewide mountain goat plan that was passed by the Wildlife Board several years ago. So uh, it is approved I believe already. Uh, so we would be getting those ones from the Ogden area for Mt. Dutton.

Kevin Bunnell: That's correct Mack. And we actually at the Board meeting had the support of the major grazer on that unit to do it.

Dave Black: Wade.

Wade Heaton: I guess this is a question for Leslie, I'm not sure. I'm just curious, I guess to categorize this question to even make it answerable, but uh, I'm just curious let's say Southern region, what percentage of Southern region units actually reach the objective regardless of what their hunt strategy was? Is that, maybe I'm asking for something, maybe that's a hard question to answer, I don't know.

Leslie McFarlane: You mean the harvest objective quota?

Wade Heaton: Yeah.

Leslie McFarlane: Um, 68 percent success rate on the . . .

Kevin Bunnell: How many, did we close any of our units? Any of the harvest objective units this? I think that's really the question is how many of them closed? Is that right Wade?

Leslie McFarlane: Hold on I've got that right here.

Wade Heaton: Yeah.

Leslie McFarlane: Can you hear him? The Beaver, Panguitch, Boulder and Fishlake. Sorry I don't have it memorized.

Wade Heaton: Okay. So then, another question, how close did most of the other units come? I know it's unit-by-unit, but.

Leslie McFarlane: Um, let me get my cards.

Kevin Bunnell: Do you want me to read you the units Les and then you can find them?

Leslie McFarlane: Yep, that would help.

Kevin Bunnell: So we know that the Beaver closed, the Fillmore Oak Creek, Riley already commented on, we harvested 5 of the 12. Fillmore Pahvant . . .

Leslie McFarlane: Actually it was 8, oh that's 3 year. Eight is . . . 12, sorry. Three-year average. So we're going on 3-year averages. Let me . . . hold on let me do something else here.

Clint Meacham: (off mic)

Kevin Bunnell: Let's let Leslie, I'm sure she has a spreadsheet here with all that and she can pull up and that way we have everything on the record instead of just . . . Is there a particular one you're concerned about Wade or do you want to just do all of them.

Wade Heaton: I'm just curious as to uh, I mean we're looking at numbers for harvest objectives but if a lot of the units are similar they're not even meeting, they're not even getting close to the quota now it doesn't make a lot of sense whether to raise it or lower it; and so that's what I'm curious about. If they're close or if some of them aren't even getting close.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, and really the plan addresses that, and they look at that percentage of females and the percent of animals that are 5 years or older and then they make an adjustment based on that. And then the biologist will take into consideration if, you know if the plan, like Riley, the plan says to increase technically but he's not getting anywhere close to what his, you know, then why do it. And so that's where the biologist where they are . . .

Wade Heaton: All right, so they take in the percent of the quota; I mean is that factored in?

Leslie McFarlane: So are you wanting the Fillmore Oak Creek, is that what you want to?

Wade Heaton: Well I'm just curious if there are some of them that are 50% of quota, or if the majority of them are fairly close. It sounds like the majority of them are fairly close.

Leslie McFarlane: So like Fillmore Oak Creek, the 3-year average is 12. And it's at 50% success over the 3 years. And I can go year by year on individually and it's if you want that information too.

Wade Heaton: No that's fine, Teresa actually handed most of this to me, a few of the units, Zion, Paunsagaunt, a few of them I had questions about.

Kevin Bunnell: And it's highly variable by year based on snow conditions.

Wade Heaton: Yeah, okay thanks.

Dave Black: Okay, if there's no further questions from the RAC are there any questions from the audience?

Questions from the Public:

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative, in the introductory meeting we held in Salt Lake I asked this question, maybe a little bit differently, but uh, since there is so much emphasis put on the number of females harvested is there any way, any better way to regulate that? Per uh, you know, male, female permits or any of those kinds of things?

Leslie McFarlane: We could try; I mean we try to do educational efforts to educate people so that before they pull the trigger or harvest the animal they really considered it. Um, I am worried that if we started doing male, female permits we'd actually get harvested the wrong things and leaving it lay because they'd be afraid to report it. And so I'd rather them have the ability to accidentally take a female and not

be punished for it, and actually turn that harvest in and not have over harvest because they left they lay.

Dave Black: Okay, we do have some comment cards. It looks like I have four. First we will hear from Jared Higgins and then Paul Neimeyer.

Comments from the Public:

Jared Higgins: I apologize for my confusion there. Uh, the Houndsman Association supports the cougar harvest recommendations with the exception of two things. We think a 90% increase on the Bookcliffs Bitter Creek is excessive. The data, it's not available to us, the 2014-2015 data to support that they need to up it that much. We would ask that it be no more than 25% increase. And then the other item of business was the Monroe. We'd like to suggest that they put it to just a straight limited entry. We don't have any units in the southern end of the state that are, there's harvest objective of split units. We'd like to have one that might have a slight chance of a trophy animal living on it and that's why we suggest that. So, any questions or? Thanks you. (Read attachment 3)

Dave Black: Looks like we are good. Thank you. Paul, followed by Mclain.

Paul Neimeyer: I'm Paul Neimeyer representing the Sevier Wayne chapter of Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife. You've seen, I think all of you got the recommendation from SFW. We had our board meeting; we had people from all over the state of Utah, every chapter I think was represented and these are the recommendations we came up with. I can read them but some of these we ask for harvest objective instead of splits, you can see that. Uh, then the tags that concerned us probably the most were on some of these units where we've spent the money to transplant deer, sheep, goats that kind of stuff, and yet it seems like we're backing off of the tags when we ought to be probably backing into the tags if we're going to give these animals a chance. But uh, do you want me to read those or are you guys all good?

Dave Black: Paul, we need to get them into the minutes but we have those, a letter . . .

Kevin Bunnell: Why don't you read down through them.

Paul Neimeyer: Okay, SFW accepts the changes or the plan with these changes: Pine Valley south and north we want it moved to a harvest objective year round. Cache County year round harvest objective, before it was split. Southeast Manti increased from 10 tags to 15, which is a 5 tag increase, we would also like to see that unit enter the predator management plan as a result of its current population and association to the population objective. Southwest Desert go from a split to hunter objective year round. Pahvant go to 10 tags, and there again that was a deer transplant, and it was split before. I'll tell you a little history on the Pahvant that everybody seems to have already forgot about. But when the first year that the RAC and Board it was changed to RAC and the Board process that we use now, our RAC asked for 40 permits on the Pahvant. Uh, and it was kind of a heated meeting. They said that there wasn't 40, one of the DWR biologists that isn't here anymore, but he said there wasn't 40 cougars on that unit. The Board did go with it. The first year we averaged, we harvested them I think in the right at 30 days and the second year it was about the same. And then the Division got wondering just how many cougars we have there. So they went along with it for a 3rd year and we filled that again. And we actually went over it because of some road kills on the freeway and stuff. So it's hard to know what you really got on these predators but um, you know we're trying to get these deer to recover and I think they need some help.

But uh, Southwest Manti from 6 to 8 tags. Mt. Dutton increased to 15 tags and changed to year round harvest objective; and that's you got your goat transplant that we're trying to get to take there. So that's our recommendations from Sportsman for Fish and Wildlife Sevier and Wayne county chapter.

Dave Black: Thank you. We have a question Paul.

Dale Bagley: What's your reasoning on switching to the year round harvest objective on Pine Valley and Cache County? Why do you want to go to year round harvest objective on those two?

Paul Neimeyer: Mostly I think and, we'll have some more comments on that in a minute, but these year round, if you do the year round it seems to me like that then people actually go out and hunt them a little harder. And if they don't fill they can hunt whenever they need to. But a lot of times on these split units you see these guys that do draw those tags and if they're, you know, looking about for a really big tom then they won't fill those necessarily. And so I don't know if you get a true picture of what's actually out there. But if you go to the year round harvest objective you'll get a probably better feel for what's there and I think it will press some of these people that would hang back once they draw a tag and maybe not even take a lion. And one these units I think you're always a little bit suspect to whoever draws a tag, especially on bears, because just because they have a tag doesn't mean they can necessarily get a bear or a lion, but if you have a year where you get some guys that are really after it and really got good dogs then they get quite a few of them in a short period of time. So that's a hard thing to monitor for me at least. There is a definite difference depending on who draws tags.

Dave Black: Thank you. Mclain followed by Jason.

Mclain Mecham: Mclain Mecham, I am an outfitter. I support the Division's recommendations other than the Mt. Dutton and the Paunsagaunt. The Mt. Dutton I think I probably spend as much time as anybody hunting this unit and there's not the lions there used to be there. As far as quality, uh, I haven't caught an adult male and maybe one or two adult females. And I don't think that the lions should have to pay for us transporting deer and goats on this mountain. It's taking away from my livelihood. The Paunsagaunt I think it should stay as it is. I don't think an increase in tags is going to help anything. We haven't filled the quota there anyway. And also on the harvest objective I think we should go to a 24-hour check in. A lot of these guys hold their lions; don't check them in until the last minute so some of these units are getting over harvested. That's all I have, thanks.

Dave Black: Thank you. Jason

Jason Aiken: Jason Aiken, I am going to represent SFW here real quick. One thing I wanted to add, on that Pine Valley unit, one of the reasons they wanted to go to the harvest objective on that was just to allow them to hunt year round because with it being a split it ends in May. They're not currently filling that quota on that unit. Same with the Cache, they're not filling that quota. And so those were kind of the main reasons they thought that moving to a harvest objective and allowing them to hunt throughout the summer as well might, you might get a few more, a few more lions harvested off of those specific units. Um, and then there was one thing that Paul missed that SFW recommended was the San Juan Elk Ridge unit be broken out into a separate unit and added to the unlimited quota list. Um, and the reason for that is they've done two deer transplants and two sheep transplants on the unit. It's, again it's a low level dry ground and there were several national parks in the area. Those are constant, you know, feeding grounds for those lions to move onto that unit and fill the spots, once a lion has been harvested another

one comes in off of the park pretty quick. So we thought that the San Juan Elk Ridge should be also included in that unlimited quota. So that was for SFW. Now I'm Jason Aiken representing Friends of the Paunsagaunt. Friends of the Paunsagaunt also support the Division's recommendations with the recommendation that they move the Paunsagaunt to a harvest objective. Again, that one is not meeting the objectives and so by moving it to a harvest objective from a split may allow for a little bit longer season and may allow for some more harvest during the summer months. Thank you.

Dave Black: Okay, that's all I have from comment cards. Do we have any comments from the RAC?

RAC discussion and vote:

Mike Worthen: Well maybe not, and maybe this should be in the questions. One the uh, Houndsman Association, on your recommendation for limited entry hunt in the Southern region where there's not one, the Division, is there a suitable area that would meet the criteria of a limited harvest that these guys could hunt and expect a trophy animal?

Leslie McFarlane: It's up to the region, the biologist for each unit to select the strategy that works best for them. So . . .it's . . .it's up to the biologist for each region so I couldn't tell them what to do that way.

Mike Worthen: Okay, and I know what their suggestion is contrary to what the sportsman's groups are suggesting too, where on the Monroe that they move it to a leave it as a split and not as a limited.

Vance Mumford: For years Monroe had a really conservative cougar harvest due to the studies there. And uh, and so there got to be a fair amount of larger toms on that, but to grow large toms on Monroe, correct me if I'm wrong Clint, but you have to be, you have to really cut tags a lot. For the same reasons it's hard to keep mature deer and mature elk on Monroe, you know, it's a long narrow unit and easy to hunt. And so if we're looking to make a unit into a trophy tom unit, I don't know if Monroe is the best choice. In order to have a lot of mature toms there you would have to cut tags significantly. But we could do that. I think you end up with a higher female segment of the population, you know when you cut tags, and you only have trophy hunters on the unit. But uh, that's kind of my, that's why I recommended or have kept Monroe as a split unit rather than a limited entry.

Dave Black: Let me just ask a quick question along those lines. Would it be feasible then instead of trying to vote on a limited entry unit this year to maybe put that on an action item to identify a potential limited entry area in the Southern region?

Teresa Griffin: Yeah, we can do that, maybe not in the form of an action item but to ask the Southern region to look at that for next year.

Kevin Bunnell: And Dave it's looked at every year. The biologists have that option on each one of their units and to this point they've opted not to, and I think largely with the support of most of the public, but if there's a group out there that's, I guess we can ask them to evaluate their units again next year and if they feel that there's one that justifies going there they can. But that's an evaluation process that they go through each time they do recommendations anyway.

Leslie McFarlane: Right, and that goes back to the plan. That's one of the options that they have to, and they can pick any of those three.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Do we have any additional comments? Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: I just have a comment, and this comment pertains almost exclusively to the predator management areas. I think we have a pretty good plan in place for the other areas, the cougar management areas. On the predator management area I guess I'm just concerned, and I have been for years, that we aren't being aggressive enough. 2012 legislature passed two bills, one is the mule deer protection act which was primarily targeting coyotes or predators of mule deer, the second one, and we know that cougars are the other main predator of deer; the other one is the predator control funding and targets all predators. And those are passed by the legislature. Um, so in these predator management areas there's drivers that we have those, and the drivers are we want to increase our populations of game animals. In last year, if my numbers are correct and correct me if I'm wrong but they're going to be close I believe, last year we had 115,000 people roughly apply for general season deer tags and only 62,000 drew. So there's a real demand to increase our deer, particularly on these units. Um, so I guess my general comment is I would just like to see us be more aggressive in our predator management plan.

Leslie McFarlane: So now you have just reiterated one of the most emotional discussions that we had in the cougar advisory group. And I'm going to tell you that this was the most emotional topic. Where we landed with our current plan was the middle of the road where everybody, the houndsman group, the non-consumptive groups, and the deer group and the sheep group where we could all live with the targets and things that were established. Um, and I'll show you kind of how it works. Okay I've got some deer data here . . .

Brayden Richmond: Can I just clarify? I'm not disputing the plan. I think the plan allows the parameters to increase a little bit. What I'm saying is I'd just like to see our on the predator specific ones to stay within the sideboards but increase our numbers.

Leslie McFarlane: And I think though the thing that you heard from Riley is part of the issue there though. You can increase tags but you can't increase harvest if the conditions aren't right.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, so Brayden, I can add to that comment. The two units in the Southern region that are currently under predator management and neither one of them met their quotas last year. The Oak Creek and the Pine Valley South. One harvested 7 out of 10 and the other one harvested, whatever was on the Oak Creek.

Brayden Richmond: But if we look at the recommendation that we made with the transplants we'd also put Pahvant and Dutton into that. And then, like I said, that's just mine. I'm offering my comment and with feedback of others that I've got comments from.

Kevin Bunnell: I guess my question is how do you be more aggressive? I mean we're already, we're not reaching what we're allowing already. It just becomes an increase in terms of making a statement that we need to be more aggressive but with no actual changes in what's happening on the ground.

Leslie McFarlane: And can I just add to this too? We've also got several non-consumptive groups that are watching closely what we recommend in the reasons that we recommend them for. Doubling, I mean there were several regions that could have doubled permits on units but they don't meet those objectives; so just doubling it doesn't really do it . . .and some of those are the Southwest, these desert units. We

can't even get people to go out there. And so they're trying to switch to harvest objective, they're trying to switch to split, just trying to make it more incentivized to go there, but we don't know how to get more harvest other than recommending what we're doing; and always just doubling permits won't do it.

Dave Black: Thank you. Brian, did you have a comment?

Brian Johnson: I have always found it funny that at these meetings that the houndsman come or a certain group of houndsman come and they say we can't, we don't have enough big lions out there and another group says I want to kill more lions. And at the end of the day we could hand out as many permits as we want and make some money for the Division, which I'm all for, and at the end of the day the houndsman are going to decide how many lions we kill. Because I've spent a lot of hours in the woods and I've seen five lions in my life and three of them were all together; a mom and two kittens. So let's print licenses, let's sell them; let's make some money. It doesn't do any good; we ain't going to kill any more lions. You know, make the Southwest Desert open, buy any permits you want and you can kill a lion if you see it and you're still going to kill six or four or whatever you're killing. I mean I sit up here and I listen to this and I think does it make a difference? You know because you're going to decide what your client kills. I mean you might get a couple of guys that go out and buy a new dog but other than that I. And from a non-consumptive point of view nobody drives up in the hills and sees a mountain lion but everybody wants to drive up there and see a deer. So I mean there's a lot of things here to think about. I don't know how to get more aggressive with lions or even if it matters if we do.

Dave Black: Okay, any other comments? Mike? And then Dale.

Mike Worthen: Kind of along the same line that Brian was talking about on you know, how to increase the harvest in some of these areas. And I know that there are recommendations being made for year round harvest and I'm wondering if, and I'm sure the group discussed that, is there any merit to that? I know the quality of dogs plays a big factor and there's probably only a handful of guys that have good dry land dogs anyway that could take them. Uh, in areas where it is important to reduce that lion number, you know, can we shift those guys that like to hunt dry land versus snow and do something on that line rather than just say, hey March, the season has ended and no more hunting in that area, where you could, if you guys could take make a difference in there? Just a thought.

Dave Black: Dale.

Dale Bagley: What was the percentage of adult female that you said were killed in the harvest objective versus the limited entry?

Leslie McFarlane: On which unit?

Dale Bagley: Just across the board basically.

Leslie McFarlane: So limited entry, just success rates, I didn't say female versus male. But limited entry is about 48 % or 43% success rate and harvest objective has a 68% success rate.

Dale Bagley: But we don't have a percentage of adult female in that mix?

Leslie McFarlane: We do by unit. You'd have to tell me which unit you want the information for.

Dale Bagley: I'm just wondering, on these two harvest objective units that they want to go year round harvest objective if there's a high percentage of females is that going to shut those units down early anyway? It should according to the plan.

Leslie McFarlane: So which unit?

Dale Bagley: On the two, Pine Valley North and South.

Leslie McFarlane: So Pine Valley North had 8 permits and 50 %, there were only 2 lions that were harvested, one was male, one was female; so that has a 50% female. That's what I'm saying, when it's a small sample size one animal makes a big difference. So the biologist there chose to keep it the same as the previous year. Um, the Pine Valley South had 10 quota and 29 percent of those were female.

Kevin Bunnell: And 7 were harvested, 7 of 10.

Leslie McFarlane: And 7 were harvested.

Dale Bagley: So I guess my question is we're not harvesting enough females anyway so that unit's going to stay open pretty much all year round. My question was if it went to harvest objective would that up the percent of adult females and shut it down earlier? Anyway so you're not going to get the full year, but obviously it will stay open all year pretty much.

Leslie McFarlane: Well the Pine Valley South is already under predator management because of the bighorn sheep transplant that was slated to happen. And it has happened. So it's already, the Pine Valley South and the North used to be one unit and when they were going to do the bighorn sheep transplant the region opted to split the two to keep the North um, as a split and to make the South harvest objective to protect the bighorn sheep. Um, but the request is to combine them again and make it all harvest objective.

Wade Heaton: So, I, I mean I agree with Brian. I think there are very few individuals that have got the skills to get these cats killed. And so there is a point there that absolutely is, is uh, has got some merit but clearly there is an increased harvest through harvest objective, we're killing 20%, or at least 20% more of the harvest toward the quota. And so there is an advantage to go to harvest objective. While I am sensitive to the houndsman and what they're trying to do for every 50 people, and I represent the public, for every 50 of them I talk to only 1 of them is hunting cats. The other 49, actually probably all 50 of them are also hunting deer, and so even though we're talking about cats and those recommendations I don't think we can do that without factoring a little bit of the deer into it. Uh, and so it does, I mean it, I understand the passionate debate that was in the committee. Um, I have two concerns with the recommendations; one of them is with these areas where we've transplanted. As I mentioned before we've got a lot of expense into each one of these units, in each one of these animals; we're trying to accomplish a goal and if it's being undermined by cat populations to me it makes sense that we'd get a little more aggressive if possible. I mean we've talked about it in some places we can't get any more aggressive because we're not meeting the quota anyway. Uh, and so I think we should look at that. Uh, the second one is, and to bring up what Jason talked about, I was in that Friends of the Paunsagaunt meeting and unanimously Friends of the Paunsagaunt voted to change the Paunsagaunt from split strategy to a harvest objective strategy for the reason that Mclain brought up, we're not

meeting objective and we haven't for a long time. And the Division's increase in, I mean their recommendation is to increase permits but we haven't reached it and the only way we're going to increase harvest is to give us some other tools and if that tool is a harvest objective tool then I think we need to look seriously at it.

Dave Black: Okay. Any additional comments? All right, Gene?

Gene Boardman: I think that sounds to me like the houndsman are pretty much the ones that decide what the kill rate is going to be. If you have a tag I'm pretty sure you pay attention to the houndsman if you don't have your own hounds. And uh, I think that probably they regulate it more than anything and if they're not getting the kind of cats that their clients want, or their friends want, they're just not going to kill cats. They'll run them but they probably won't kill them. I may be wrong about this. The only other thing I can say about these houndsman is never buy a used pickup from them.

Dave Black: Good advice. Um, all right. There are a lot of modifications to this recommendation that were presented. Some of those are summarized on the sheets that you have in front of you. SFW has 8 or 9 modifications that they've proposed. The houndsman have 2 modifications they proposed. But also what's not on these 2 sheets we've heard from the Friends of the Paunsagaunt, they'd like to go to year round harvest objective. And I believe there was one more on the San Juan. Was there a San Juan? SFW had a recommendation from San Juan that's not on the sheet.

Leslie McFarlane: Can I ask for a clarification on the one SFW or there was a request to make it unlimited quota for deer? Is that what you said?

Jason Aiken: So move it to the unlimited quota for the lions. So what you have the Kaiparowits, the San Rafael those . . .

Leslie McFarlane: So the only things that are allowed to be unlimited take are those bighorn sheep units that do not have deer populations. It's not a strategy for deer populations at all.

Dave Black: Okay, so this new sheet that he gave me let me just go through that real quick to see if we have it. Pine Valley South and North to harvest objective year round. Cache County year round harvest objective. Southeast Manti increase the tags from 10 to 13. Southwest Desert from split to year round harvest objective. Pahvant increase to 10 tags. Southwest Manti increase from 6 to 8 tags. Mt. Dutton increase from 14 to 15 tags. And then at the bottom here it says the San Juan Elk Ridge unit broken out into an unlimited quota. Okay. And then to summarize on the Utah Houndsman Association, Bookcliffs, Bitter Creek, they feel that a 90 % increase is excessive and they'd recommend not to increase more than 25%. And they had recommended that the Monroe unit go to limited entry in order to try to create a quality trophy hunt. And so that's quite a bit. And I challenge anybody to make a motion.

Brian Johnson: I just want a little clarification cause I may not know the answer. That's what I learned from Sam, he told me not to say that I'm stupid to say that I might not know the answer. So I might not know the answer. The San Juan Elk Ridge that you're talking about splitting was the area that had the sheep on it, correct? But you're talking about changing it to unlimited restricted because of the sheep and not the deer, or does it matter since there's deer on it? Since there's a deer there we can't use that management tool?

Leslie McFarlane: No, you can't use that tool. That tool, unlimited take units are specifically for bighorn sheep who are in populations where cougars can only subsist on bighorn sheep, there are no deer for them to live on. Those are the only places in accordance with the cougar management plan that those are allowed.

Brian Johnson: So, okay.

Dave Black: So I would suggest in your motion that you eliminate the San Juan so we don't violate the plan that we just voted on.

Leslie McFarlane: The only other unit that I'll let you know that would be going against the plan would be the Central Mountain Southwest Manti; if that unit increases from 6 to 8 that's against the plan. That unit currently has a 42 % female objective and that unit needs to decrease.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you.

Brian Johnson: I don't know how many times I have seen our RAC vote against a plan. I just wanted to, it just kind of made me smile. I just thought it was kind of funny.

Dave Black: You can make a motion and we can vote on it.

Brian Johnson: No, we absolutely can, we absolutely can make a motion that goes against the plan and then the Wildlife Board will have to deal with it.

Dave Black: Okay. Wade, are you formulating a motion?

Wade Heaton: Oh yeah, throw it to the new guy. I'll tear this up and we can spend the next hour on some amendments how's that? All right, I move that we approve the Division's plan with the following exceptions, starting off with my own that we change the Paunsagaunt strategy to harvest objective instead of split and then I am going to cherry pick some of the rest of these. Uh, Pahvant to 10 tags, and the reasoning is because of the transplant. Pine Valley South and North to harvest objective. What was the reasoning on Cache? I can't remember. Oh that's right, yes and on the Cache, year round. I'm having a hard time with changing Monroe to limited entry. And the big change to the Bitter Creek, I mean they're at 100% and they're well within where they ought to be so I want to leave that alone as well. And the Southwest Desert from split to a harvest objective as well.

Dave Black: All right, we have a second. (Seconded by Craig) Okay, let me go over the motion again. We have a motion and a second to accept the recommendations as presented with 5 exceptions:
Paunsagaunt to harvest objective.
Increase the Pahvant to 10.
The Pine Valley North and South to harvest objective.
Cache to harvest objective.
Southwest Desert to harvest objective.

Dave Black: Do we have any comments?

Brian Johnson: I have a question, and I may not know the answer to this, that's my new favorite line,

thanks Sam. Um, harvest objective and year round, is there a difference there? I just know that this sheet says harvest objective and you're saying, do you want? I mean the Pine Valley harvest objective year round is the same thing.

Leslie McFarlane: All right, harvest objective goes November 11th to November 6th, so there's a five day.

Brian Johnson: There's five days that they're off?

Leslie McFarlane: Yeah.

Craig Laub: I would just like to comment on the motion. I think we need to look at the split units, you only get, and uh, uh, limited entry they're only getting 40% of the harvest objective (unintelligible) are getting 60%. We need to harvest more cats. So that's why I'm in favor of the motion.

Brayden Richmond: Wade, can I ask a question? The two things you didn't address were the Manti recommendations, just curious why.

Wade Heaton: And the Dutton. Well I'm looking on the, all right, and the Manti, hold on. It just didn't seem like, as I looked through it that it met the same criteria, at least the same level of criteria as the others. But if you feel like making an amendment.

Brayden Richmond: Can I ask Leslie a question? Leslie on the Manti my understanding the reason this recommendation was made was because the deer were below objective?

Leslie McFarlane: They don't qualify, they're above objective right now and they're an increasing population so they don't qualify in accordance with the plan.

Brayden Richmond: The deer are above objective on Manti?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes by about 1%. And so if they have a bad year it will drop down and then it will be back in predator management. But we have to have a cutoff.

Brayden Richmond: Yeah that makes sense. So they're currently above objective by 1%, above the management objective by 1%.

Leslie McFarlane: They're at 66, sorry I should clarify. So they're at 66% so they fall above the 65.

Brayden Richmond: I knew what you were saying and I knew what I meant to say. Thank you.

Leslie McFarlane: I am glad you get me.

Dave Black: Okay, lets' vote. All those in favor of the motion as presented show by the raise of hands, high. All those opposed. Okay, does that add up? Motion carries. (Gene Boardman opposed) motion carries (10 for 1 opposed)

Wade Heaton made the motion to accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 as presented with the following exceptions: Increase the Fillmore Pahvant permits to 10 and change the strategies on the Paunsaugunt, Pine Valley North & South, Cache and Southwest Desert units to Harvest Objective. Craig Laub seconded. Motion carried 10:1 (Gene Boardman opposed).

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Let's move on. We're on item number 7, which is the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations.

**Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations 2015-2016 (action) 2:01:57 to 2:09:40 of 3:05:24
-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator
(see attachment 1)**

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Any questions from the RAC?

Questions from the RAC:

None

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black: Okay, do we have questions from the audience?

None

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: We do have one comment card from Travis Seifers and we'll entertain that now.

Travis Seifers: My name is Travis Seifers, I represent the Utah Trappers Association, and we'd like to support the Division's recommendations with one extension. We would like a week extension on the end just like we had last year.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Are there any questions for Travis?

Leslie McFarlane: Well, according to the bobcat management plan we can only go to the second Sunday in February and they're requesting to go further past that date. We can't recommend that. Um, the one thing I ask though is that if you consider adding that week on that you also add that week to badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk, weasel and marten. For the reason that last year it created a problem for us law enforcement wise and that we had people still trying to trap for bobcats but they would incidentally take something that was closed and it created some conflicts for us. So if you go that way with the extra week we ask for that to be put on that as well.

Rusty Aiken: Could we also ask to amend the plan, so you don't have to do this every time?

Leslie McFarlane: The plan expires in 2016 so we'll be putting a group together to revise it.

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

Wade Heaton: This is just a question for Leslie; I'm a little slow. So the recommendation you're presenting right now is without the additional week we had last year.

Leslie McFarlane: Correct. So if it goes it would go until February 14th.

Dave Black: Any other comments?

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Well we're ready to entertain a motion.

Rusty Aiken: I will make a motion.

Dave Black: Okay, Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: I'll make the motion to accept the, where are you at the Bobcat and Furbearer Recommendations of the Division with the exception of adding a week to extend the season date one week.

Dave Black: That's for all the species.

Rusty Aiken: For all the species. Do you want me to list them?

Leslie McFarlane: Excluding beaver and mink, put it that way.

Rusty Aiken: Excluding what?

Leslie McFarlane: Excluding beaver and mink.

Rusty Aiken: Beaver and mink? Okay.

Leslie McFarlane: They have a different ending date.

Rusty Aiken: So we've got the badger, the gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk, weasel and the bobcats.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second on the motion? Brayden made the second. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Thank you.

Rusty Aiken made the motion to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations as presented with the exception to add a week to the season dates for Bobcat, badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk, weasel and marten. Brayden Richmond seconded. Motion carries

unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay, item number 8, this is going to be the AIS Rule Amendment, R657-60 and Matt Bartley will be presenting.

AIS Rule Amendments R657-60 (action) 2:14:01 to 2:20:05 of 3:05:24

-Matt Bartley, AIS Coordinator

(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Kevin Bunnell: Matt did you talk about the RFP portion?

Matt Bartley: That's not in this one.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Any questions from the RAC? Go ahead Mack.

Mack Morrell: What's the days in drying time?

Matt Bartley: Uh, in the summer time it's 7 days. The fall and spring is 18 and 30 in the winter, or three consecutive days of freezing temperatures.

Dale Bagley: What's your other decontamination process besides the high-pressure hot water?

Matt Bartley: So issuing the COR to these businesses would be as a, we'd handle it situation by situation, and it's mostly for those rafters. Um, generally I think we'd go the route of a bleach solution and using that and then we'd outline all the rules that they would have to follow to use that, there's other states that use, you know, different chemicals and we could look at what's best available, but I think it sounds like bleach is going to be the route. And really for the rafters, in the grand scheme of things we're not as concerned about the rafters transporting water because there's not a whole lot of locations that the water can collect and stay on those rafts.

Dave Black: Okay, any other questions?

Questions from the Public:

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

None

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: We don't have any comment card, I don't believe.

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: So any comments from the RAC? It looks like we are ready for a motion.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we accept AIS rule amendment R657-60 as proposed.

Dave Black: And okay. We have a motion to accept this rule and a second from Mack. All those in favor? Unanimous.

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the AIS Rule Amendments R657-60 as presented. Mack Morrell seconded. Motion carried unanimously

Dave Black: Well move on to item number 9, Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments.

Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments (action) 2:22:37 to 2:26:05 3:05:24
-Law Enforcement Personnel - Rick Olsen
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Any questions from the RAC? Dale.

Dale Bagley: Is this like just like a trip permit or is there like can you use it for the whole summer with the youth group?

Rick Olsen: No, you would have to fill one out for each time you went, not each day, but if you were taking a group of scouts out for like a week you would do it for that week. If you wanted to take them another week in the year you would have to do another one for that time period.

Dave Black: Rusty.

Rusty Aiken: The leader, why does the leader have to have a fishing license?

Rick Olsen: That's what, that's how the legislature wrote the law.

Dave Black: Okay, Gene.

Gene Boardman: Okay, if this rule, does it for like a scout group, they would have to originate with the troop 147 in Hinckley, it couldn't be at Scofield Scout Camp for the entire camp?

Rick Olsen: No, it could be, there's no limit on the number of kids that could.

Gene Boardman: What I'm saying is the Scofield Scout Camp could apply for the whole season?

Rick Olsen: Uh, that wasn't the intent to deal with something like that. But I'd have to kind of look at that. That wasn't the intent when they passed this law.

Gene Boardman: It would work nicely though.

Kevin Bunnell: I think it would have to be each troop would have to be, because it has to be approved by the sponsor. Each troop has a sponsoring group and it would have to be approved by that whether it's a ward or something else. So that brings it down to that level of the individual troop.

Brian Johnson: It sounds like they have been doing this for a while. And I don't want to be the guy that says I don't want kids fishing. I want to make sure we're clear that I don't I'm not for or against this. I just, I think it's worth a conversation. And don't, I mean I don't hate kids, this is not what I'm getting at. When we give something for nothing, I mean we do the mentor program and we make the kid buy a tag. We do this, and I'm all about fishing recruitment because numbers have been down for a long time, I just wonder as a society and maybe this isn't the place to talk about it or maybe it is, of what message we're sending when we give something for nothing. You know. I think that there's a lot, a valuable lesson there to be learned that when you roll in with your scout master and buy a \$6.00 fishing license or a \$13.00 fishing license to go fishing up in the Uintas for a week and that money goes to conservation, and there's an explanation of where that money goes, is that value there more than the value of recruiting a future fisherman. I don't know. I mean I think it's worth a discussion. Maybe it's not. I don't know.

Dale Bagley: I can give you an instance where it probably would have come in handy because I took some scouts fishing a couple of weeks ago. I had two of them that didn't go because they didn't have a fishing license. So had I known about this, I mean ten other kids had already bought them so these are two kids that didn't so we could have included everybody.

Brian Johnson: Absolutely, I mean, yeah it's tough. Was it financial that they didn't want to do it or they just don't fish or?

Dale Bagley: They don't fish, their family doesn't fish, so they didn't buy a license and never have. But had we could have included them they could have went anyway and we would have set them up with a pole, maybe they would have been a fisherman for life, I don't know. Maybe they never would have went again.

Brian Johnson: No that's great, and that's what I wanted to talk about. The only other thing that I wonder if we want to even get into is it says here that the leader must be 18 years or older, do we want to entertain the idea of saying not being on any sexual predators list? I'm just saying . . . I don't know that I really want to be a part of someone who passes a code here that we don't throw that out there. I meant, I don't know. What if he's on a list and we don't do something to prevent that? It's an awful thing that could happen to somebody.

Kevin Bunnell: I think that's covered by the, I mean there's a lot of vetting that goes on through scouts or whatever group that . . .

Brian Johnson: This is just any 501C leader.

Kevin Bunnell: Right, but the, I think the responsibility for that falls back on that sponsoring group.

Brian Johnson: Okay, I am fine with that.

Dave Black: Okay, any other questions?

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black: Do we have any questions from the audience? Lee.

Lee Tracy: Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative. How do we verify that the sponsoring organization has given permission to conduct this thing? I can see some situations where one of the leaders decides he's going to do something on his own and takes advantage of this. Is that included in the application or how does that work?

Rick Olsen: Yes, that would be included in the application. Now of course they lie about it. That would be up to our officers to investigate something when they checked them in the field and didn't feel like it was quite right.

Dave Black: Okay.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: Now we don't have any comment cards.

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Any comments from the RAC? Okay, are we ready to entertain a motion? Layne.

Layne Torgerson: I will make a motion that we accept Rule R657-45 as presented.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a second from Dale. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Thank you.

Layne Torgerson made the motion to accept Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments as presented. Dale Bagley seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay, we're on item number 10, which is Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendments.

Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendments (action) 2:33:11 to 2:36:26 of 3:05:24
-Law Enforcement Personnel – Rick Olsen
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Thank you. Any questions from the RAC?

Kevin Bunnell: Rick, just put this in perspective, how often does this law and rule get invoked?

Rick Olsen: Not very often. We've had this past year 2 cases, actually up north, involving moose. Both of them were taken to the county attorney but the county attorney agreed that they met the requirements in this rule and wouldn't prosecute them. Anytime something like a case like this would come along we are still going to investigate. And these moose, it was up in Park City, I mean it was a polarized, half the community wanted the guy lynched because he killed the moose and the other half well what was he supposed to do, he's not going to get killed by it?

Dave Black: Okay, Mack, did you have a question? Anybody? Okay.

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black: Any questions from the audience?

Lee Tracy: Maybe I missed something, how do we say that? No, I'm stupid. Lee Tracy, United Wildlife Cooperative, uh, maybe I missed this but you're talking about a wild animal entering an occupied building or an occupied residence or whatever, uh, if I meet a bear on the trail and it looks like it's going to charge I'm going to kill the thing.

Rick Olsen: And if you did that you'd be covered under this rule. The part about being in a structure it's just presumed that you've met all the statute requirements if it's in a structure or if it crawls in the camper with you or a tent. If you're out on the trail you have to use the ability to safely avoid the danger if you can, but if it charges right at you you can kill it and still be covered under this rule. We're just helping define the structure part so if it's in your cabin you don't have to wait until it charges ya. The fact that it's in the cabin is enough that you could actually take it under this rule.

Dave Black: Okay, thank you.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: We don't have any comment cards.

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Is there any comments from the RAC? Okay, are you ready to entertain a motion? Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: I'll make a motion that we accept the Self Defense Against Wild Animals as presented.

Dave Black: Okay, I have a second, Brian. Okay, any discussion? All those in favor? Unanimous. Thank you.

Brayden Richmond made the motion to accept Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendments as presented. Brian Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Okay, moving on. Item number 11, Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments, Waterfowl and Upland.

Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments – Waterfowl & Upland (action)
-Law Enforcement Personnel- Rick Olsen 2:40 to 2:42:58 of 3:05:24
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Dave Black: Okay, thank you. Any questions from the RAC? Okay, Brayden.

Brayden Richmond: The question I have is you referenced the uh, the legislative rule but I don't know what that is. Are they saying that is that law that we can't shoot in and we're aligning with it or what is their rule?

Rick Olsen: No basically the rule says that only certain entities can regulate possession of firearms. Like the legislature can limit, like you can't take your firearm to the airport. They have never relinquished that to the Division, for possession. We can restrict discharge but not possession. So most people may or may not realize but a guy could walk into this building right now with a deer rifle. Now everybody's probably going to kind of step back and those people with concealed carry permits are going to probably start feeling for it. But if he can legally walk into here with a rifle it probably should be legal to walk on one of our WMAs with a rifle.

Brian Johnson: If I have said deer/ coyote rifle on this WMA and I see a coyote in July I can't shoot it, right?

Rick Olsen: Well most of those WMAs listed are going to be closed to trespass at that time of year. But if you're during pheasant season or waterfowl season, yeah you could because we can't regulate coyotes. I mean that's a little bit of a loophole there. We don't care about the coyote or the predators being killed, it's really a safety issue. Some of these WMAs get heavily utilized; there are a lot of people out there. And it's pretty dangerous for somebody to be shooting a rifle. But we would not be able to stop that person the way the laws are currently written.

Dave Black: Brayden do you have a question?

Brayden Richmond: Yeah, I am just wanting to fill this out, so what, what could a person shoot and cause harm to another person or object that's not already illegal? Does that make sense? Did I say that?

Rick Olsen: I am not following ya.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, so you're saying this will help with safety and help, you know, regulate discharge. Currently, how could you discharge a weapon that would be unsafe legally? What I'm wondering is are we making a law to enforce a law that we already have a law for?

Rick Olsen: No, because currently our law says, at least for the waterfowl portion, I'll explain that first, the law says that no weapon can be possessed on our WMAs except a shotgun during waterfowl season. So we're actually relaxing the law to say you can carry any kind of weapon you want. I mean in reality what we're saying is when you're on them WMAs the only weapon you can really discharge is a shotgun.

Brayden Richmond: Thank you that was a clarification. Okay, so you're actually relaxing the current rule not restricting.

Rick Olsen: Correct.

Brayden Richmond: That makes me feel a lot happier. I don't like restrictions.

Mike Worthen: Why just the WMAs? Does this apply to public lands or private lands?

Rick Olsen: Well because we can control our WMAs on our rule, we can't control what the other public lands.

Mike Worthen: Well aren't there regulations that restrict like an archery season restricts you from carrying a firearm?

Rick Olsen: No, we no longer restrict the possession of that. Yeah, the way the laws are written we can't restrict possession of that firearm. You have the right to carry a gun.

Dave Black: Okay. Any further questions?

Questions from the Public:

Dave Black: Okay, question from the audience?

Paul Neimeyer: I'm Paul Neimeyer. I've showed this to about 100 people and I guess maybe we're not understanding it right. But if Layne Torgerson heads to Redmond to work and he goes by the Redmond WMA, or Mack Morrell heads down to his field which is adjacent to Bicknell Bottoms, and a skunk runs into there we can't get out and shoot him with a rifle? Or the way I guess I'm reading this is unless you got a hunting season going on you can't shoot with anything. Now is that? I guess that's my question, is that really where we're at on this deal?

Rick Olsen: Is that a WMA that's listed in the guidebooks? Both of those are? Okay, the way the law is written, um, the only time you can, you can carry that gun any time you want, but the only time you could discharge it is during an open hunting season for hunting purposes. So it would depend on the season for that particular animal. So like a coyote, there's, it's not protected so it's open year round. A fox, they are protected but you can take them year round. Same for a skunk. Yeah, the raccoon is not protected so they are open all year long. So you could get out and shoot the raccoon, or a skunk, or a coyote. But if a deer ran across you couldn't shoot that.

Layne Torgerson: That's good cause I have seen me do it.

Dave Black: Do you have another question Paul?

Paul Neimeyer: No I'd just like to, I didn't put that on a comment card but I would like to make a comment on it.

Comments from the Public:

Dave Black: Well go to the comment section now so if you would like to make a comment Paul.

Kevin Bunnell: Paul, I'll just add this agenda item to the comment card we have for you.

Paul Neimeyer: Okay. I think I would just ask that you put an addition into this and say, however you want to word it, but these non-protected wildlife can be taken any time of the year with any weapon so that we all know. Because I've showed this to many people and none of them could really understand it. And we have worked blood, sweat and tears planting these pheasants that we're raising, gathering up money, I mean I helped gather up a bunch of money to buy the WMA in Annabelle, and these are pretty near and dear, and predator control seems to be, you know, one of the things that I don't know how you can restrict people in that. But I think, you know, I kind of understand it now but I don't think anybody else is going to. Nobody has that I've showed it to. So I'd like to see a clause like that added to it just for clarification. Thank you.

Dave Black: Thank you Paul

RAC discussion and vote:

Dave Black: Any comments from the RAC?

Brian Johnson: I just wonder from the legal side if we put that in if we're going to muddy the water worse or if that would make it clearer because right now it's legal to do it. I guess my question is is law enforcement going to understand the law that they're trying to enforce?

Rick Olsen: Yeah, one thing I guess I probably should bring up, I don't think with the coyote and the raccoon any of them species that are not defined as protected wildlife, we really don't have any authority to pass a rule to limit take on those. They don't fall under our purview. Now the fox or a skunk, they are protected wildlife but currently you can take them year round without even a license unless you're going to sell the pelts.

Brayden Richmond: Just a question on that though. My understanding, these, and from what I heard you say, these are owned by the Division, therefore on private property you can restrict taking of coyotes.

Rick Olsen: You could restrict, well on your own property.

Brayden Richmond: So if you're making a rule on your property that you can't shoot them then wouldn't that make it so you couldn't shoot them?

Kevin Bunnell: No, because our lands are not considered private property, they're public lands.

Brayden Richmond: Okay, they're public lands; that is how they are listed. Great, that's clarification on it, thanks.

Dave Black: Okay, if there are no further comments we're ready to entertain a motion. Oh, a question down here.

Layne Torgerson: I just want to make one comment, I can understand how Paul, what Paul's saying about some confusion from the general public because I had some guys ask me about this particular thing also. But I think in clarification from the Division and with the majority of law enforcement people, I don't know that we need to add any verbiage really because it's already, I think it is clarified that we can do that. We can take non-protected game on a wildlife management area year round. I don't know that we need to clarify that any more than what's already been done from our law enforcement people.

Dave Black: Okay, Paul. Come up to the mic.

Paul Neimeyer: The way this is worded, it says a person may not discharge a firearm, crossbow, or archery tackle. So that's the part you've got to deal with is that discharge because the way that's worded basically if you shoot at anything in there besides a duck during the duck season you're in violation because it says discharge.

Kevin Bunnell: Right but it said unless there is an open season and on coyotes there is always an open season, on foxes there is always an open season, on raccoons there is always an open season, on skunks there is always an open season that would apply to those lands. So I think, I think it may not be real clear but the concern, it's not an issue but maybe it's not real clear in the way the rule is written.

Paul Neimeyer: Okay.

Dave Black: Okay, when you make a motion you have the option of adding the clarification if you'd like or let it stand. So I think we're ready to entertain a motion. Okay.

Mack Morrell: I make the motion to accept the Divisions amendments R657-6, the (unintelligible) rule R657-9 as presented.

Dave Black: Okay, we have a motion and a second by Wade. Any discussion on the motion? All those in favor? All those opposed? Okay it looks like that is unanimous as well.

Mack Morrell made the motion to accept Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments – Waterfowl & Upland as presented. Wade Heaton seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dave Black: Thank you. Okay, we've moved down to the last item number 12.

Fee Schedule (action) 2:57:16 to 2:57:41 of 3:05:24
-Kevin Bunnell, Southern Regional Supervisor
(see attachment 1)

Questions from the RAC:

Rusty Aiken: So, this is for hunting, fishing, or just hunting?

Kevin Bunnell: Everything. So every year we bring a, the process is fee changes have to go through the Wildlife Board and then to the legislature. And we have a deadline when we have to have things to the legislature so July is always the time that we bring fee changes out. I'm assuming and maybe Greg could clarify this if he'd like, but there's a reason we have to tell you that we don't have any fee changes is probably in state code somewhere. Sorry Greg.

Greg Sheehan: Hi, Greg Sheehan with Wildlife Resources. The fees that are charged by any state agency are approved and renewed annually, every year. So there aren't fees that just go on forever. And so the process for any agency to have a new fee for the next, so even if you're not changing it is you have to go to the governor's office and they recommend it to the legislature to include in their annual appropriations bill. So even though we're not proposing to change anything here it's still got to go to the governor and they've still got to recommend it to the legislature to include (unintelligible).

Kevin Bunnell: So essentially what we're asking this body to do is say you're okay with the current fees that we have, that we're not changing anything.

Greg Sheehan: That's it. It's kind of a formality but it has still got to happen.

Kevin Bunnell: But a necessary one.

Rusty Aiken: I've got a question on, and this is not particularly the fees but how the fees are charged. And I don't understand why we, and I've asked this a couple of times before, why we allow people to use the last year's tag to apply for this year's permits. It doesn't make sense to me. They will pay the fee. You're getting half the money for where you could double it. Does that make sense?

Kevin Bunnell: I know you have thought a lot about that and dealt with that a lot too Greg.

Greg Sheehan: Well we sell a 365 day hunting license, so technically from the day you buy it it's good for a year. So our requirement says the time you apply for a hunting permit for a particular hunt you've got to have a valid hunting license. So it's kind of hard to say even though you bought this last year it's not valid right now when you go to apply in the draw so that's why it works that way.

Rusty Aiken: Or you could simply say you have to have a current license for the year that you are applying for.

Kevin Bunnell: But it does, that's what the 365-day license, it's current for that year up until it expires.

Rusty Aiken: Okay, then you have to have a license, you're missing revenue source is what I'm saying. It's like me letting, if you come in and buy a steak you get the next year, the next time you come in you get it free. That's what you're doing.

Greg Sheehan: I'm stopping by. Well, there's one thing that we know pretty well is that our, you know most of our hunters apply annually over and over so they're not off and missing a year, people are applying in draws and things. You know when we went to this hunting license requirement we also

didn't want to over complicate it and make it some confusing people didn't know if they need their license when they're applying, or their hunting and all of that. And I think the simplest was as long as we know at some point in the year you had one of those things we're okay with it. So that was kind of the way we talked about this when we discussed this back in 2006.

Kevin Bunnell: And Rusty, we realize we are missing some revenue there but it would be too complicated to fix that hole and it would probably cause more problems than it's worth.

Greg Sheehan: But you're right, as Kevin said we probably do miss a little bit but we are also trying to not make things too complicated and scare people away because they can't figure out what they need in their pocket at any moment. So we figure if you apply for one and got a license at that point you fulfilled that requirement.

Dave Black: Okay, any other questions? We're trying to move this along as fast as we can. You can ask a question.

Questions from the Public:

None

Comments from the Public:

None

RAC discussion and vote:

Brian Johnson: I just want to make a motion.

Dave Black: Oh okay.

Brian Johnson: I was just waiting for you to go through public comment.

Dave Black: We don't have any comment cards. I'm ready for a motion.

Brian Johnson: I make a motion that we approve the fee schedule for 2016 as proposed.

Dave Black: Okay, do we have a second? Okay Brayden. Any discussion? All those in favor? Okay, it's unanimous.

Brian Johnson made the motion to accept the Fee Schedule as presented. Brayden Richmond seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Dave Black: Okay, item number 13, other business. I've asked Kevin if he'll just talk to us briefly about the upcoming RAC training.

Kevin Bunnell: Yeah, so for those of you that aren't new to the RAC we did have our new RAC members over in the Cedar City office last week and we held kind of a miniature version of the RAC training because we realized that they weren't going to have an opportunity to kind of be oriented before this meeting, and they all attended and it went well. However, um, there is the RAC training that is scheduled for the 26th of this month; I think you have all been made aware of that by Stacie. It will be held up at Scheels in Salt Lake. There is a Wildlife Board meeting the following day. Whether you're new to this body or you've been here for a while it's a good refresher course and I would recommend any of you that can get there do, although we do at the same time realize that it's a full day commitment to go up to Salt Lake and attend that and get back, but I would just put a plug in for that. It's worthwhile information and covered by people that really know what they're talking about. Marty Bushman, our AG rep, will be there and can answer questions on things like, you know, conflict of interest and accepting gifts and some of the legal side of things because essentially as members of the RAC in very real ways you are state employees or subject to all the same rules that state employees are and that training clarifies what those sideboards are. Other than that, our next meeting will be held September 15th, we will be in Richfield for that meeting in the same place we have been the last several times in Richfield there at the Snow College admin building which is a nice venue to hold a RAC meeting. So uh, I think that's all we have under the other business Dave.

Dave Black: Okay, and I'd just like to add to that, if you do go to the training the following day is the Wildlife Board meeting. If you haven't been to a Board meeting that's also very interesting and educational and I would encourage you to attend that if you could. And with no other business we'll call this meeting adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

SFW Recommendations for Cougar Permits

Change language in Cougar Management Statewide Plan to the following:

“When Bighorn Sheep, Mule Deer or **Goat** transplants or reintroductions will occur in the next year **or have happened in the previous three years**, then see attachment C Predator Management Bighorn Sheep and Transplants”. (Motion by Jason Aiken, seconded by Kelly Rollins (Motion passed.)

SFW accepts the division’s plan as presented with the following exceptions.

- Pine Valley South & North to Harvest Objective year round (HO)
 -
 -
- Cache County Year Round HO
 -
 -
- South East Manti increase from 10 tags to 13 (3 tag increase) as this unit is currently well below the mule deer population objective.
 -
 -
- Southwest Desert from split to Year Round HO
 -
 -
- Pahvant to 10 tags (reasoning; deer transplant)
 -
 -
- Southwest Manti from 6 to 8 tags
 -
 -
- Mount Dutton increase to 15 tags and change to Year Round HO (reasoning; Goat transplants)
 -
 -
- San Juan Elk Ridge unit broken out into unlimited quota.
 - The reason being two deer transplants and two sheep transplants. This unit is tough hunting with lots of dry ground and several national parks that are constant source of lions.



To: All RAC Members

Regarding: 2016 Cougar Recommendations

The Utah Houndsmens Association supports the recommended Cougar Management Plan and we ask you to vote to accept it as it is written.

The Utah Houndsmens Association supports the Divisions of Wildlife Resources 2015- 2016 Cougar Harvest Recommendations with the following exceptions;

1. Bookcliffs, Bitter Creek, we feel that a 90% increase is excessive. As the data for 2014 and 2015 is not available on the DWR website it is not possible to see what the last two years of Harvest Objective hunting has done to this unit. Based on the information available and information obtained from our members who hunt this unit we would ask you to vote to increase the harvest no more than 25%
2. Monroe this unit is not in predator management and has limited access, we would ask you to vote to have the hunt strategy for this unit changed to limited entry to allow those sportsman who draw this unit a better opportunity for taking a quality trophy animal.

Thank You for your time and effort in these important matters.

**Southeast Region Advisory Council
John Wesley Powell Museum
1765 E. Main
Green River, Utah
August 5, 2015**

Motion Summary

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

Cougar Management Plan

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

Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016

**MOTION: To accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 as presented, except that the increase in cougar tags on the Book Cliffs-Bitter Creek unit be increased by 5 rather than 18 cougars.
Passed unanimously**

Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016

**MOTION: To approve the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations, except that the bobcat and all furbearer seasons, except for beaver and mink, be extended by one week.
Passed unanimously**

AIS Rule Amendments R657-60

**MOTION: To accept the AIS Rule Amendments R657-60 as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments

**MOTION: To accept Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments as presented.
Passed unanimously**

Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendments

MOTION: To accept the Self Defense Against Animals Rule Amendment as presented.

Passed unanimously

Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments-Waterfowl and Upland

MOTION: To accept the Possession of Firearms Rule Amendments-Waterfowl and Upland as presented.

Passed unanimously

Fee Schedule

MOTION: To accept the Proposed Fee Schedule as presented

Passed unanimously

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

August 5, 2015 6:30 p.m.

Members Present

Members Absent

**Kevin Albrecht, USFS and Chairman
Brandon Behling, substituting for Chris Wood
Sue Bellagamba, Environmental
Keith Brady, Elected Official**

**Blair Eastman, Agriculture
Trisha Hedin, Sportsperson
Todd Huntington, At Large**

**Kent Johnson, At Large
Derris Jones, Sportsmen**

Karl Ivory, BLM representative

**Darrel Mecham, Sportsmen
Christine Micoz, At Large
Charlie Tracy, Agriculture**

**Gerrish Willis, Environmental
Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor**

Others Present

**Mike King
Steve Dalton**

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

Kevin Albrecht- We would like to welcome everyone out tonight. To start off we would like to welcome our new RAC member Kent Johnson. Kent Johnson is from Green River. We would also like to welcome not so new Keith Brady also here from Green River. We would like to welcome them to the RAC process. We would like to recognize two of our Wildlife Board members Mike King and Steve Dalton. They are also here with us tonight. We appreciate them being here with us and to hear what is said tonight. For those of you who may be new to the RAC, we have a process that gives the public their opportunity to be able to speak. At the front table when you come in there is a comment card. Take a RAC agenda and look at the item number that you would like to comment on. If you would fill out your name and the item number that you would like to speak to, and if you would give it to a Division employee we will call your name at that time, so you can come to the mic and state your mind. Here in the front, a Division employee will be this microphone to answer your questions. With that I would like to entertain a motion to approve the agenda and the minutes.

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

Derris Jones – I would like to make a motion that we change the agenda order and that we move items five, six and seven back to be 10,11 and 12, and move everything up to list.

Keith Brady – I will second that.

Kevin Albrecht – Any questions on the motion?

Kevin Albrecht – Motion made by Derris Jones and seconded by Keith Brady.

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any further discussion for the agenda or minutes?

Derris Jones – Did I say five, six, and seven? What I would like to do is move all of the big items to the very end. That way we can get through the small issues, so we know much time we have left for the bigger ones that will take more time. I believe everything after seven will go by very fast.

Keith Brady – I will second the change on the motion.

Kevin Albrecht – Brent, did you get that motion?

Brent Stettler – I believe so.

Kevin Albrecht – So we have a new motion by Derris Jones that we change the agenda items so that items five, six, seven will be in place of 10,11 and 12. They will be the last three items on the agenda and that is seconded by Keith Brady.

Derris Jones – I said accept the minutes as they were written

Darrel Mecham – I second that

Kevin Albrecht – The motion was made by Derris Jones to approve the minutes from the past meeting and the revised order of tonight's agenda as previously. The motion was seconded by Darrel Mecham

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to approve the minutes of the May 15 meeting and the agenda revision, which would move all of the big discussion items to the end of the meeting as described in the text.

Seconded by Darrel Mecham

Motion passed unanimously

3) Wildlife Board Meeting Update -by Kevin Albrecht, Chairman

Kevin Albrecht – There wasn't a lot of discussion at the Wildlife Board meeting as far as controversy is concerned. There was some discussion about changing hunting season dates for geese in the northern region, which took some time, but there wasn't much for our region. Unless you have any specific questions, that is it.

Questions from the RAC

No questions

Questions from the Public

No questions

Comments from the Public

No comments

RAC Discussion

No comments

4) Regional Update -Brandon Behling, substituting for Chris Wood, Regional Supervisor

Brandon Behling, Support Services Coordinator from the Southeastern Region. During the past few months our aquatics section has been working pretty hard. They have been harvesting a bunch of cutthroat eggs out of Duck Fork Reservoir. They were able to harvest a little more than 200,000 eggs. One hundred thousand of those eggs were fertile. The fish trap worked out pretty well for them. This is the second year that they have used it and we're seeing really good results from it. In the month of May our aquatics biologists were gill netting Scofield, Joe's Valley, Electric Lake and Huntington North. Gill netting provided a lot of good information and we saw things that we really wanted to see. The regional waters are being stocked and there will be repeat stockings at a lot of

bodies of water's throughout our region all the way to Labor Day.

Our sensitive species team they have been busy building artificial beaver dams along the lower portion of the San Rafael to kind of hold back sediment and raise that water level. The outreach section held its bighorn sheep watch out in Sunnyside and we had a lot of public participate but unfortunately the bighorn sheep didn't get the memo and failed to attend the event. But it was still good opportunity to get outside. We had to reschedule the bat watch for 5 September due to some storms that were impacting Ferron Canyon. There was a threat of a flash flood with biologists in the river and we really did not want to tempt a safety hazard and for that reason, the event was rescheduled. In June, we had a free fishing day which was a family fishing event held out at the Wellington city pond, called the Knight-Ideal pond. Fishing was good with a good public turnout. On 27 June the outreach section partnered with MDF and held a youth archery event down at the old Spanish Trail arena and it was pretty exciting to see the youth engaged and really having a lot of fun.

The habitat section has been finally able to get Cold Springs to burn. It has been a partnership that we have been working on, and from the 17th through the 19th they were able to get 250 acres to burn. That was quite an achievement. They have been working to try to get that to go for the past few years and the conditions were just right this year. They also have been working to get their projects going. All of the 2016 fiscal year projects have been approved so biologists have been working on getting the grants and the contracts and everything in order so that those projects can move forward. They have also held a UPC D field tour down by Brushy basin and Johnson Creek there in the San Juan County just looking at the habitat efforts that have been done in those areas.

The law enforcement section has been checking anglers, and has written quite a few tickets dealing with fishing violations. There has been a lot "no license" tickets written, over-limits, and slot violations especially up at Scofield Reservoir. The law-enforcement section has also been working closely with our A I S or our Aquatics Invasive Species group. They have been holding some checkpoints in and around Lake Powell just making sure that boaters coming off the water are aware of the rules and the guidelines that are set forth to try and contain quagga muscles. Our officers have been trying to use up a lot of their vacation time before the hunt season starts. A lot of them have been taking time off which is a well-deserved break. They are basically all back in force now and are ready for the hunts to start next weekend. The wildlife section has been busy as well. They have been out monitoring elk and checking collars. They have been classifying elk and goats. They also have been doing bison and the mountain goat work. Also the wildlife section has been holding open houses to get input from the public about the mule deer management plans. We have held to down in the San Juan area along with Moab and Monticello. We will be having to coming to Price on August 11 and then in Castle Dale on the 12th. We encourage the public to come out and share their opinions and recommendations that they would like to see for mule deer management on the Manti. With that, does anybody have any questions?

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- I would like this make a comment about fishing in this area. As you went through the aquatic section, I realize I've had my blinders on and have failed to see how good we have it here. We have a world-class fisheries and a world-class staff here in

our region. Kudos to those who work in the aquatic section. They work really hard and we really do have some of incredible fishing. So thank you.

Brandon Behling – I would have to agree. Justin Hart is our program manager for aquatics and he has a stellar crew that deserves the credit.

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

No Comments

5) Cougar Management Plan (Action)

-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the RAC?

Darrel Mecham-How about your age data from the last two or three years? Do you have that? What is the trend and where we going?

Leslie McFarlane-I will get into the recommendations part I have summarized. Are you asking about a certain unit, because they are pretty much unit by unit?

Darrel Mecham-How many units have the older age structure?

Leslie McFarlane-Almost all of our units are within the range. Most of them. If you look at the handout by the front door, it has all of the age information on it by unit.

Darrel Mecham-The other day I was coming up from Colorado and I was listening to a program where they had one of their biologists speaking. They were talking about their elk populations and their deer herds and the relationship between them isn't so benign. Utah has elk everywhere but our deer just don't seem to be doing as well. Is there anything to that?

Leslie McFarlane-I am sure that there is but I cannot give you any direct evidence. I mean there are so many places with mouths to feed.

Darrel Mecham-When you talk about the units and that exclusively bighorn unit like Rattlesnake, do you know how many people hunt shed horns and dropped antlers in Rattlesnake unit? Some of them died in a helicopter crash.

Brad Crompton-In Rattlesnake Canyon we ran into about 200 elk and about the same number of deer as well, but compared to the rest of the unit, it's low density and primarily a winter range for the rest of the animals.

Darrel Mecham-The big question I have for you is why you have almost doubled Book Cliffs lion tags.

Leslie McFarlane-We will get into recommendations in a minute

Derris Jones-Leslie, on the harvest objective units, would the division be comfortable with harvesting the number of tags recommended?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes

Derris Jones- Ok.

Derris Jones- Did your management plan committee discuss trapping as a legal method of taking cougars?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, as a group and a committee we decided that would not be an appropriate method. Right now we are trying to avoid any negative attention to trapping right now, and we as a committee did not feel it was the right time to go there. There were concerns on how the trapping of cougars would be perceived. We are getting a lot of pressure from southern Utah to ban trapping in the state of Utah so we are trying to be very conservative and protect what we have.

Derris Jones- And were there any trappers on the committee, or was it primarily hounds men?

Leslie McFarlane- Primarily Houndsmen, but I've had this discussion with the Utah Trapper's Association too.

Derris Jones- And they are supportive?

Kent – Yes, but we are all very conservative with regard to the politics that may be involved.

Derris Jones- The last question I have is what a Bell Weather unit is?

Leslie McFarlane- It is similar to deer survival units, where we pick units that represent cougars for an area within the region and look at survival over each area, so different parts of each region would have collared cougars that would represent the region.

Darrel Mecham- Your units like the La Sal's have 15 and the Henry's have 15, now all of those are PMP right? So they are never managed and the quota is never met and I guess that is intentional.

Leslie McFarlane- No, it's not intentional but the quota is there because it's what the region would like to see harvested.

Darrel Mecham- So they believe the population sustains that, I mean that if it's 50%, they're saying that there are 30 lions on the La Sals. Well, where I am going with this is last year, I was called by the Division that wanted to know where we had harvested a pretty big male lion because you had outfitters that had been there two weeks with clients and couldn't find anything on the entire mountain range with four or five vehicles in operation so that kind of tells you that I don't think there are 30 lions there. That's what I'm wondering. So what is that number based on?

Leslie McFarlane- So honestly in the entire state of Utah, I cannot tell you how many cougars there are in any part of the state, anywhere. It's based on the knowledge of the region and the knowledge of the biologists that's over the area. The permits that are recommended there, that's what we are trying to look at is the percent females that are in the harvest, because we cannot tell you how many cougars are in an area, we are trying to manage for specific percentages to use that as a metric to measure how well the population is doing. So if you are harvesting over 40% females and research has shown that when you consistently go over 40% females year after year, you affect reproduction and that's the case on the Monroe and on the Oquirrh, so we're trying to maintain 40%. The number picked was based on the desires of the Houndsmen Association and other members on the committee. Previously, we were only looking at adult females, so now they want to look at all females, and consider all females in our harvest. And the other thing that we look at is structure. If you have older aged animals in the population then you know you've got breeding animals that are doing well. If all of your population ends

up being juveniles then you have got something wrong

Derris Jones-Leslie, to help me understand how the management plan is used in the recommendation, can we pick a predator management unit and a non-predator management unit and just go through it? I assume do it during the management plan phase versus the recommendation phase.

Leslie McFarlane-Let's take the Book Cliffs first, since I know that is going to be

Derris Jones-Are you thinking Bitter Creek or Rattlesnake?

Leslie McFarlane-well for this purpose it is the deer population so we're looking at the entire population it's not the Rattlesnake it's the Book Cliffs deer management unit. Okay so all of this data is for deer. So we take the Book Cliffs unit the objective there for deer is 15,000. This past year the estimate is 8600 for abundance which means it is at 57% of its objective. So using the predator management plan part of the cougar plan it's less than 65% in the previous year so it would qualify for predator management because it is way below that percentage objective. The other thing that we would also look at is what the adult survival for the unit is. If it's less than 90% of its objective the previous year, which the Book Cliffs is the also take a look at the deer survival on that unit. If it is less than 84% for two of the three previous years, then it qualifies for predator management. In this case it was 79, 89, and 88 percent so it would not qualify for predator management under that target. But the 65%, being less than 65% of objective, qualifies it. So that is when we look at the population model and the trend from the population model. All of our deer herds are showing an increase in trend, which kicks them out, except those that are less than 65. Do you have a specific unit that you want to look at?

Derris Jones-Let's stay with the Book Cliffs now.

Leslie McFarlane-Okay

Derris Jones-It's kicked it into predator management because it's below 65%

Leslie McFarlane-Yes

Darrel Mecham-Okay so if it is under predator management, you don't have to worry about the percent females in the harvest?

Leslie McFarlane-No because you are trying to decrease the population and so you want to have a higher female harvest. So the primary target on the predator management is to have the females be greater than 40% in the harvest.

Darrel Mecham-Skipping back to your La Sal unit, the one cougar that I know of because I was involved, came from Montrose Colorado and your harvest over there occurs on the east side of the Colorado border, which would say to me that you have a population coming to Utah. Do you take that into account?

Leslie McFarlane-Absolutely and we understand that. We know that our populations in Utah and Colorado are connected through genetics. We know that we have cougars that move all over. We've seen it with GPS collars. When we talk about unit by unit management, We're talking about managing people and where people hunt and harvest cougars. When we were trying to do the eco-region concept that was trying to get at the larger scale dynamics of cougar populations, people were not happy with it.

Darrel Mecham – This to me is probably the best plan to come out of the nest. The only thing that I think bothers me is when you have days upon days and days of people in an entire unit that cannot find any lions. It tells me that they're not there. They are over harvested, and what we are counting on is the influx from another state because we are mismanaging our lions. Does that make sense?

Leslie McFarlane – Yeah, I get it

Kevin Albrecht – I've got a question, Leslie. Can you talk a little more about the age objective in the performance targets and how that will be used in the management plan?

Leslie McFarlane – So would you like an example?

Kevin Albrecht- Sure

Leslie McFarlane – Okay, pick a unit.

Kevin Albrecht – Just one that you familiar with, it don't matter.

Leslie McFarlane – No pick one that you wan.

Derris Jones- Northeast Manti.

Leslie McFarlane-Ok, on the Northeast Manti last year, they had a 3-year average of seven, so it's a 60% success rate. The percent females for that unit was 57% averaged over three years.

Derris Jones-Those are different numbers that you have in(inaudible).

Leslie McFarlane-So let's just go off of this table, because I'm not sure if that is the right version. Last year they had 10 permits. The three-year average was seven. Oh I know the reason why that is different, we have some age data that came in right before the age data was figured into this, so the percent females was 35%. The percent greater than five years old was 39%. The region can choose to increase those permits if they want to. In this case the region chose not to and they left it at 10, and left it as a split strategy. That's how it's meant to be.

Derris Jones-Okay, if there had been 40% females in the harvest instead of 35%, then they have to reduce the number, is that correct?

Leslie McFarlane-If it's over 40, they have to decrease.

Charlie Tracy – Now when you keep saying region, do you mean it like a biologist person or ...?

Leslie McFarlane-I'm not the one that makes the recommendations statewide. The biologists and the regional personnel make the recommendation. Ultimately it's what these guys want.

Charlie Tracy-Okay I was just making sure.

Leslie McFarlane – Yes. In the previous plan, what we were measuring recommendations were the numbers of cougars treed per day as reported through the pursuit survey. Houndsmen felt that it was extremely biased and that people lied. If everyone is lying, then we are looking for a trend I guess. In the absence of that, I went back to the 1999 plan that gets at the age structure of the population that we are looking for. Obviously, what we are trying to do is to make sure that we keep breeding age animals in the population. Obviously if we take over 50% that are five years and older we are taking too much of the older age and we need to really be considering what are we taking out of the population with the harvest.

Kevin Albrecht-So you're looking for a 3-year average?

Leslie McFarlane-Yes. The objective is a three-year average. The percentage of females is a three-year average, not a single year because any year can skew the whole thing. So it is better to use the trend.

Derris Jones-Just looking through the material, I'm trying to see how all this fits, and I know I should probably save it for recommendations but, the Mount Dutton and the Morgan South units are both over the 40% female harvest..

Leslie McFarlane-On the sheet is an amended recommendation on Mount Dutton that came out of the southern region. The reason for the amended recommendation is that when the region made the recommendation they were not counting on a mountain goat

transplant that would take place besides the one that occurred in the past three years. Besides, they also put mule deer out there. The sportsmen's groups pushed really hard and they say if you're going to put all the money into these transplants then you should be protecting them. So on that sheet there, it should have transplants listed in that yellow column. The original recommendation was a decrease in three permits because of the 60% female on mount Dutton. Morgan South is a different exception. It's 95% private land. The landowners up there have complete control over the harvest, it's a very small number of permits and the landowners are required that the females be harvested even though we know that there are more mature males in the population.

Derris Jones- Ok

Kent Johnson-I have a question. With the San Rafael, you're at 71% females right now and does that mean that we have to reduce the take?

Leslie McFarlane-On the unlimited take units, they are under a different kind of predator management. They are year-round all the time for protection bighorn sheep. On those units the sport harvest is minimal to none. Which one did you just bring up?

Kent Johnson-On the San Rafael, there are very few lions out there as it is.

Leslie McFarlane-On that unit, two males and five females were harvested for total of seven over the past three years. And three of those were 5 years and older so that's the 50% objective. That unit is being managed strictly for bighorn sheep. Lions are not, it is not being managed for cougars.

Kent Johnson- ok

Kevin Albrecht-Okay. Any other questions from the RAC? If not, we'll go to questions from the public. Questions from the audience? When you come u, please this microphone and please state your name and where you're from.

Questions from the Public

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the Audience

Guy Webster of the Utah Houndsman Association-First of all, in the last 10 years, there's no data anywhere. Why do we not have access to that data?

Leslie McFarlane-On which unit?

Guy Webster UHA-On every unit in the state.

Leslie McFarlane-Oh, the online stuff hasn't been updated, because we just barely got it in. We are in the process of writing the report for the online deal. We just barely got it in before we started the Northern region RAC.

Guy Webster UHA-Can you please put up the Book Cliffs\Bitter Creek and let's see what the age data has been for three years? I'm just kind of curious on that. Do you have those individualized per year?

Leslie McFarlane-In 2013, it was 14% females. In 2014, females went to 31%. In 2015, I just barely got the data and it isn't figured in.

Guy Webster UHA-Do you know off the top of your head what that is?

Leslie McFarlane-No. The region may have it.

Guy Webster UHA-Second, we talked about mule deer transplants. Are there mule deer that would have to be transplanted to places in predator management?

Leslie McFarlane-No

Guy Webster UHA-So, essentially if a sportsmen's group transplanted five mule deer, they can take that unit and place it under predator management?

Leslie McFarlane-No, the region would be reasonable about that.

Guy Webster UHA-And third, going off your data for the Plateau/ Thousand lakes, females are 50% and the quota is at 4...(inaudible)

Leslie McFarlane-Do you want to do this under recommendations instead of the plan?

Guy Webster UHA-Either one. I just know that they brought this up, so it's just a question.

Leslie McFarlane-On the Plateau/Thousand lakes, only two cougars have been harvested and one was female, so obviously the percent of females is 50%. It's a small sample size.

Guy Webster UHA-This shows three and three.

Leslie McFarlane – The Plateau/Thousand lakes total harvest over the past three years has been six. That's a total of three males and three females. So it's 50% and I know last year it was one and one.

Guy Webster UHA-So we are going to a three-year data?

Leslie McFarlane-Right.

Kevin Albrecht – Any other questions from the audience?

Shayne Thompson- One question that I have. The cougars on the Manti are in four different regions. But we are going off the whole Manti with our objective for mule deer. Is there a possibility of getting portions of the Manti under a predator management plan?

Leslie McFarlane-Right now, based on the current plan, it would not qualify because it is right at 66%. This is why the plan is meant to be looked at every single year. So if we have a bad winter or something happens that drops below 66%, it goes right into the predator management. Unfortunately, 1% of those 65% is what we have, and we have to stick with this plan. I think it is important for everyone to understand that this plan is going to come under a lot of scrutiny here pretty quick. We are trying as best as we can to stick with the plan. I can tell you that last night in the Southern Region it kind of went all over the place. People have a lot of interest in their individual units and we're trying the best that we can to make everything fit.

Shayne Thompson-It is hard. I just wanted to ask that question and where we are so close on mule deer.

Leslie McFarlane-If it is a need and we need to start going outside of the plan, that's one thing. If it comes from this RAC and the Board and chooses to go outside of the plan that's another thing.

Shayne Thompson-And another question I have, I know that you have other regions propose what we are going to propose. Do you want to hear all of them, or do you want me to just propose what we want in the southeastern region?

Leslie McFarlane-During recommendations part, we will go through all of that individually and you can do it then.

Kevin Albrecht – We will do that in just a few minutes. Thanks, Shayne.

Harvey Howard-Why haven't we discussed kitten mortality or kitten numbers. An example would be like the 9-mile Range Creek unit. This is where mule deer populations have been more successful than in some other areas. In our trapping and hunting there, we have seen more kittens that have been successfully raised to an older age. Is that taken into consideration?

Leslie McFarlane-That is what we look at in the age objective.

Harvey Howard-If we've seen lions or female lions raising two or three kittens instead of 1 to 2 kittens, over a three-year period, which is quite an increase in the lion population.

Leslie McFarlane-We actually look at the animals treed per day data, which is where we

get the information on kittens. One of the things I mentioned earlier was that we want to have cougars collared in different parts of the state and look at survival on long-term trends, and that will hopefully put some of that into population models and help us estimate populations better.

Harvey Howard-I would just say that the 9-mile unit is a rarity in Utah—where we see a kitten increase. If there's a way to watch kitten production, that would be my recommendation.

Leslie McFarlane-Thank you.

Kevin Albrecht – Any other questions?

Cody Webster-We are managing our cougar tags to help with the deer, but why are we not adjusting deer tags on those same units?

Leslie McFarlane-I cannot answer that one. I will let Guy Wallace try.

Guy Wallace-Deer tags are based on different criteria. It is based on buck: doe ratios and the management objectives for that unit. So if we see buck: doe ratios decrease or even the population objective is lower, we can adjust permit numbers. Right now the criterion is based on the buck: doe ratios.

Cody Webster-For the Book Cliffs for example (inaudible, away from the mic.)

Kevin Albrecht-Cody, that is a good comment, so please restate that at the mic. Thank you.

Cody Webster –The Book Cliffs is my example just because that is what I am most familiar with. We are recommending a huge increase in tags are but we are not trying to cut down on the tag numbers for the deer in the elk there when if the deer are so bad and then we probably have to start looking at deer tag numbers to and obviously the Division does not feel that they are so bad that we need to look at deer tag numbers so where we is going to through the lions under the bus and not manage the deer for the deer also?

Kevin Albrecht – Is I will take a stab at that being on the Mule deer committee, the tough part is determining the population by buck: doe ratio and when that buck: doe ratio is meeting the requirements even though you are under the tag numbers on the buck harvest that is not going to change the population.

Guy Wallace-The only thing that I would add, is with the radio telemetry studies that we are doing now with deer survival is also an important part because we use that into the model and that gives us the population. So that gives us an indication of trend in the population. So the survival to get from the telemetry is probably and other criteria that we use to manage deer populations.

Kevin Albrecht-Thanks Guy.

Kevin Albrecht – Any other questions?

Comments from the Public

Kevin Albrecht- Any comments from the audience?

Garrick Hall Utah Farm Bureau-I just wanted to stand up and voice our support for this cougar plan. I actually sat on the committee and help to go through this data. It was a lot of time put into that. And in times did get a little heated a couple of times. There is one time I thought is standing between a couple of committee members and pull them apart. So there is definitely strong feelings on that. Now we can sit here and we can nitpick different areas and there always be disagreements about this area versus that area and tag numbers but I think the overall plan gives us a good base line to work with. This will give the Division a good starting point and it has the flexibility and the adaptability

to respond to different issues as they arise. At the Farm Bureau we support this plan and encouraged to pass it. Thank you.

Guy Webster UHA-We were part of this committee in making the plan. Although it's not perfect I think it is better than what we've had previously. We just want to go on record to say that we do support this plan.

Kevin Albrecht- Any other comment for this portion of the plan?

Shayne Thompson SFW-I do appreciate everything that everyone has put into it. I am not here to go against any cougar hunters. I am a cougar hunter and I love cougar hunting, but we have made laws to bring our deer herds back and it is very sensitive. I know it's hard to please everybody but our deer herd is increasing in some areas and not in others. I'm not blaming the lion totally but their main prey is deer. I don't know but I have heard that they reproduce based on food resources. We have to find a balance that works for both species. Thank you.

Kevin Albrecht- With that, we will go with comments from the RAC

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht- Any comments from the RAC?

Darrel Meham-I have said before that this is the best plan that has been put out. I do have something to say about the lion increase in one unit. I think the dynamics of this is huge and if you watch the news they say that the population of the state is going to double in the next 15 years. I don't know if any of you have caught that. That is going to have a huge effect on our mule deer, elk and everything else. There is an entire section of the Books up here now that's bison. When you talk to the DWR guys, they look the other way, because I don't think they realize how many there are. Deer Point and Renegade Ridge used to be full of deer. Now all you see is buffalo or bison. I mean there is bison and a lot of bison. And now you do not see any deer. So there are a lot of effects on deer and I do not think you can have all of the bison and all of the elk and have all of the deer you want. I think we just need to be careful and make sure this plan is defensible because I think we're going to have to defend here pretty quick.

Kevin Albrecht-Thanks Darrel.

Kevin Albrecht – I would like to make a comment. I can see that there has been a lot of time and effort that has gone into this plan. The one comment that I have is on the age objectives. I can see that it can be a really good tool. But, the fear I have is down the road that age objectives could be used to mismanage a unit. I think that the indicators using that tool right now are good and I guess my suggestion is that the Wildlife Board members here be careful on how those age objectives are looked at.

Derris Jones- I make the motion to accept the Division's Cougar Management Plan as presented.

Chris Micoz – I second that.

Kevin Albrecht – We have a motion by Derris Jones to accept the Cougar Management Plan and seconded by Chris Micoz. All in favor? Unanimous

VOTING

Motion was made by Derris Jones to accept the Cougar Management Plan as presented.

Seconded by Chris Micoz
Motion passed Unanimous

6) Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 (Action)
-Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the RAC?

Darrel Mecham- Can you put the new 9-mile south boundary back up? In there, you said the numbers are primarily because of bighorn sheep.

Brad Crompton- Yes, that was the strategy behind the Range Creek boundary description.

Darrel Mecham- That goes up to 9-mile and around?

Brad Crompton- It's just south of that little line. That is Range Creek, so from Green River you go west and up to Range Creek and over Turtle Canyon and then over to Lila Canyon then over to Horse Canyon. So it is the country south of there.

Leslie McFarlane- I was just trying to show the whole 9 mile unit and a dark line in the middle there is the separation between 9-mile North and 9-mile south.

Darrel Mecham – I thought you meant the whole thing.

Brad Crompton- It is just because we do not get a cougar harvest down there. There are primarily bighorn sheep that live there.

Derris Jones- If that boundary occurs at 9-mile north, will the 9-mile north come out of the P&P?

Brad Crompton- There is still the Jack Creek portion, where there are about 100 sheep on the North up there.

Derris Jones- Do you get any lion harvest out of Jack Creek?

Brad Crompton- No, with those road closures it is pretty tough to get down in there.

Darrel Mecham- The only other question I have is the justification for 18 more tags on the Book Cliffs unit. I mean that is a huge increase. Is the biologist who made that recommendation here tonight?

Leslie McFarlane – No, he is from our Northeastern Region. Hi name is Clint Sampson.

Darrel Mecham – I mean, that is pretty drastic.

Leslie McFarlane – The reason that they chose that is in the past couple of years, the units have closed down fairly quickly. I can't remember the exact date but the first date it closed in January was really early and the second date was by February 8.

Darrel Mecham- So it is moving back a little bit?

Leslie McFarlane- It is moving back a little bit.

Chris Micoz- Is that because of snowfall?

Leslie McFarlane- I am sure that plays a role in it. I mean the access on the Book Cliffs is really good. When it gets snow it gets a heavy harvest. But the percent female is low. It is not above 40% so they are taking mostly males and the age objective is still fairly high and we want to see the harvest be between 15 and 20%, The region felt that because of the low deer numbers, the unit qualifies for predator management and that is the reason that they recommended the increase.

Darrel Mecham-So, they went to the maximum number on the increase?

Leslie McFarlane-No, they could have gone higher.

Darrel Mecham – How much higher?

Leslie McFarlane – They could have gone to 40.

Derris Jones-Can someone from the region give their justification on the northeast and southeast Manti? They are within the management plan, when it says you may increase, but it does not say that you have to increase. I am curious about the rationale you're using to not increase the tags on the Northeast and the Southeast Manti when you could have.

Brad Crompton-I looked at the last three years when it was a split unit and we have never filled the quota after split. That was part of it. We are maintaining that criteria but we certainly could've increased and still can and we chose just to keep it the same and something that played into this was that we have not filled the quota on the Northeast part. That has been the case in the last three consecutive years.

Derris Jones-You are not in predator management but still the numbers justify an increase.

Brad Crompton-Yes it does justify an increase but quite frankly keeping things the same tends to work to . We are flexible.

Derris Jones-What percent of the harvest comes from limited entry and what percent comes from harvest objective?

Brad Crompton-Do you have that, Leslie?

Leslie McFarlane-I do have that. All of it is wrapped into one-- 60% for three years. That is total harvest. I forgot about this. It's really hard to split units especially if you're only going with one permit to do percent success because then it would be 100% success. So Heather, when she does this she just combines limited entry and split as one percent success and that is the reason it is not split up.

Derris Jones – With the 9-mile unit and the boundary change, the majority of the sheep are going to be outside of where most of the cougar harvest occurs. You are right there on the edge of 40% of female harvest with a unit between the private land and the inaccessible public land along Desolation Canyon, which is a pretty small piece that you can get something. Are you guys thinking that there might be some time to back off just a little bit on cougar harvest there, because it is all in 9- mile?

Brad Crompton – Yes, the public land is fairly limited and almost the opposite where you have an unending supply of private habitat that will always be restocked. Desolation Canyon and hundreds of thousands of lakes are on private land, so you could probably produce triplets and stay pretty much the same The very accessible part will always get hunted and there will always be lions coming in.

Derris Jones – That unit as a harvest objective always fills up right?

Brad Crompton – I believe so. The 9-mile filled in March this year.

Leslie McFarlane-What unit number is that, Brad?

Brad Crompton – Unit 11

Leslie McFarlane – It did fill.

Derris Jones-The 9-mile south will now become unlimited and also part of Rattlesnake?

Brad Crompton-We still have documented harvests over the last five or six years down there. I do remember checking one in, in the last 10 years. It probably will not get that much harvest but it may get more interest.

Darrel Mecham –That is driven by more money. Outfitters will not take the time.

Kevin Albrecht – Are there any other questions from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the audience?

Lloyd Nelson Sunrise Outfitters- You stated that there was a unit, and I do not know unit names and I don't know the units up there, but it was mainly private property where the landowner insisted that they kill females and yet you were having more and more problems so the population is still growing. Is that correct?

Leslie McFarlane- Yes it is.

Lloyd Nielson- In your recommendations, you show all of the seasons this next year, ending on May 31. Is there no more year-round hunting, especially for those units that are still open? Because right now you can still hunt on the La Sal's, Henry's and any unit that is still open.

Leslie McFarlane- Harvest objective goes from November 11 to November 6.

Lloyd Nielson- You just read and you did say that and I didn't read all of that what you said.

Kevin Albrecht – Any other questions?

Comments from the Public

Kevin Albrecht- Any comments from the audience?

Shayne Thompson SFW- After we reviewed your plan and these numbers we would like to make some amendments. I know that you have done some already as far as the Dutton and I don't want to waste your time and I know that everybody here is in a hurry. There are a couple that we are concerned with. On the Manti there is room for increases. The deer are so close to management, and we could get a little bit more liberal. We would like to see more tags on the southeast portion of the Manti, and as far as the southwest, I have spoken to several people that hunt lions down there and they say they can tree a lion any time they would like. I know that is kind of a sensitive issue with you guys and I know that we harvest 42% female but there is still plenty of lions and deer herds are in pretty rough shape. This is not set in stone but I have been working with individuals to get a transplant there on the south part of the Manti. It seems a split in the unit is going to happen. As a group I would hope we are looking to increase the tags from 10 to 13 on the southeast and 10 to 12 on the northeast and go to a split on the northeast and southwest. You got those on the limited entry and would like to see them stand a split and not go strictly to limited entry.

Kevin Albrecht – And what would that increase be if your recommendation were 10?

Shayne Thompson – Due to the deer transplants there and on the San Juan, they would like to see the year-round harvest objective go a limited entry, because it is so restricted

Leslie McFarlane- Let me just clarify that, unlimited take is only allowed on bighorn sheep units.

Shayne Thompson – In the Cache unit, those guys would like to see that go to harvest objective instead of split. That's all I've got.

Lloyd Nelson Sunrise Outfitters- I've been following dogs for over 35 years. That shows you my IQ. You know there are a few things that I have come to believe. Lions are very mobile. They can move over hundred miles in just a few days over some of the most remote country in the woods. They are also very efficient killers. They don't starve to death. They move on and move on and move on. I've never seen a skinny three or four

year-old lion. So the lion population goes up and down with the deer herd. The prime example is that all over the state of Utah. Places where there are no deer, there are very few lions. I think the deer population has a greater effect on the lion population than the lion population has on the deer population. You've got to have the deer population or the lions are going to leave. The more deer we have, the more lions we have, but I've seen and watched that the more deer we have, the more lions we have, and the happier the lion hunters are, the happier the deer hunters are, the happier this RAC meeting is, the happier the division is. We've already shown that watching a female quota doesn't really do a lot of good. The lions are very efficient, so my only recommendation is that if you're not sure how to vote, vote in favor of the deer.

Kevin Albrecht-And that's the last comment card I have. If you have a comment, bring a card up. I would just like to say, I think the cougar management plan is a good plan. The plan leaves the actual number up to the local biologists and I would just encourage when we adjust those numbers up or down according to the indicators that we be conservative on both ends of the spectrum so conservative when we adjust them and conservative when we adjust them down. Many of the units that we're concerned about aren't in the predator management plan. What was the increase for the Book Cliffs again?

Leslie McFarlane-It's like 90%.

Brett Guymon-That doesn't seem too terribly conservative to me. And granted, it's under a predator management plan but.

Leslie McFarlane – But honestly out of all the units, that's the only one that drastic, everybody else did one or two here or there. The most besides the Book Cliffs was 30.

Brett Guymon-Yeah I read that. Just going forward I just encourage both up and down moderation. I mean we tend to make these huge fluctuations and it's biting us in the rear end in the long run. Thanks.

Leslie McFarlane – Thanks Brett.

Kevin Albrecht – Cody Webster you're next.

Cody Webster-My only comment is you've got to cut back on the Book Cliffs. That is a huge change. There are a lot of other factors affecting the deer. We have talked about the buffalo, wild horses, and a lot more elk. Let's try and change some of the other stuff.

Kevin Albrecht – Guy Webster, you are up.

Guy Webster UHA-We go with the recommendations with the exception of the Book Cliffs/Bitter Creek. That is absolutely irresponsible. Like Cody had said, we have a whole lot of other species out there and we also have a lot of other factors out there. We have not increased deer permits. And I understand the buck:doe ratios, but we also manage it that way. We are going on three-years of data. Three years ago that was a limited entry unit. It was a trophy unit and probably Utah's last cougar trophy unit. Another thing that comes up is that we have to be a little cautious with the Humane Society that has pretty well put the DWR on notice that there are some problems that they see. We may be looking at a lawsuit and this Book Cliffs decision can be what will take us to the table.. What is going to happen is that a judge will be deciding, not the Board. And that is not going to favor the cougar hunters and it definitely is not going to favor the deer hunters. Because you get this with the judge and they will drastically decrease the amount of cougars taken and harvested. So I believe that we need to be more cautious on this. We just don't know what was in that three-page letter sent to the Fish and Game from the Humane Society of the United States of America. It is basically the front runner of a lawsuit if you guys are not going to be more conservative. I know the members of the

RAC and I appreciate them. This spring when we talked about deer numbers and there was the increase of 500 tags that the Fish and Game recommended and we as a RAC voted for that, let's not do that on the Manti. Unfortunately the Wildlife Board didn't agree with you that we don't need to be increasing cougar permits, if we are also increasing deer permits. If the deer are doing that good, then let's not say that we need to take more cougars. One other thing that I want to ask for is that we look at the Monroe for limited entry status, where we can have a little bit of quality. We looked at the Monroe but if Leslie sees there's another unit that would better, we'll go with that.

Kevin Albrecht-Guy, what was your recommendation for the Book Cliffs/Bitter Creek. I didn't catch that?

Guy Webster UHA-What we would like to see is a zero increase at this point but a very maximum of 25% increase.

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht- Any comments from the RAC?

Derris Jones-Can I ask a quick question of Leslie, the harvest objective unit on the Book Cliffs/Bitter Creek, didn't we fill that this last year?

Leslie McFarlane-Yes, it filled by February 8.

Derris Jones- February 8? Okay.

Leslie McFarlane-And prior to that, it was January 25 or something like that.

Derris Jones -We don't have the harvest figures for last year?

Leslie McFarlane - We do, but I don't have them handy.

Guy Wallace -Which figures are you looking for, Derris?

Derris Jones - Age and percent female.

Guy Wallace -Females were 30%, so that would be 14 males and six females.

Derris Jones-What is the trend in percent females on the Book Cliffs? Is it going up? Is it stable? Is it going down?

Leslie McFarlane-In 2014, it was 11. In 2015, there were six; and then in 2013, it was limited entry correct? So it was 2.

Derris Jones-Is that the number of females or percent?

Leslie McFarlane-The percent females was 14% in 2013 and 31% in 2014. In 2015, it was 30%.

Derris Jones - So under harvest objective, it has increased?

Leslie McFarlane - Yes, but the table that you have is incorrect. Some changes were made at the last minute.

Kent Johnson - I would like to express my concern over increase on the Book Cliffs. I think that it has already been stated from the audience and that it cannot be overstated. I have read the entire letter from the Humane Society, and basically that was a shot across the bow. That's how I took it when I read it. If we are not happy with what you do, we are going to sue you. I agree with Guy Webster that the Book Cliffs could be the trigger for it. By the Division's own admission, we really don't know exactly how many lions there are. It is an impossible figure to come up with because of the nature of the animal. We know that there are quite a few in the Book Cliffs but we do not know how many. So we say we can increase the take, but you effectively double that number of clients that you take in one year. There is no way of knowing exactly what you're going to do to that population and this will be the argument that the Humane Society will use. They would say that you are using unsound science in that way and I personally would not necessarily

disagree with them on that point. Because it is such a dramatic increase. I personally would disagree with increasing up there but at the most and maybe one or two extra permits. If we are going to go to harvest objective like we've done the last two years of the limited entry. Now limited entry is a limited entry which is basically trophy hunting and that means that you are after older males and that's it. A lot of guys are going to opt out when they see that young female. They are going to walk away and they will wait for a bigger Tom. So I believe we are going to harvest objective because we've been there for two years. I think one or two extra permits is okay. Then let's watch that data going forward

Kevin Albrecht-Thanks Kent.

Derris Jones – I think if we are trying to please the Humane Society we might as well go home, because I don't think they can be happy with anything short of no hunting of any kind.

Charlie Tracy – And we cannot live our lives like that anyway.

Leslie McFarlane – Concerning the Humane Society letter, I just want you guys to know they are questioning our science and how we put together our management plan. In developing the cougar management plan, we start out with the science every time. We brought in Dave Stoner from Utah State. We went over the biology of the lions. We went over everything before we ever went into discussions about age and all of that. I want you guys to understand that when we used science. What they are questioning is that there is a paper out of Washington State that the natural rate of growth for a lion population is 12 to 14%, and what they're questioning is that they think we are harvesting way too many by allowing a 40% female take. I want you guys to know that we are used a lot of information from the Cougar Management book of North America. Most states allow up to 40% and that is kind of where everybody sits. So I want everybody to know we use literature, we use science, and we use everything available to be able to defend our positions.

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any further discussion?

Derris Jones – The northeast region has not met yet have they?

Leslie McFarlane – That is tomorrow night.

Keith Brady – I am curious on the science that underlies increasing the Book Cliffs/Bitter Creek by 90%. That's a huge increase. And that is the only area on here that is increased that much. Most of them are five cats at the most. But The Book Cliffs/Bitter Creek has gone up by 18 cats.

Leslie McFarlane – I can't speak directly for the northeast region, but I know in the past the unit had a harvest objective of 30 several years ago. In our discussion on predator prey relationship, it was found that cougar populations cycle with deer. It takes about eight years to cycle from a decrease in deer to a decrease in cougars. The idea behind predator management is to encourage that drop to occur sooner instead of across eight years. We hope that the deer will recover quicker. That is the idea behind the predator management on these deer units. Whether or not we can prove scientifically is a good question. Most research indicates that using predator management in this way is effective--to encourage the drop in a lion population sooner, help them cycle sooner, help the deer recover and then let the lions come back. This goes back to why we have a female sub quota that we look at every single year. If female numbers are too high, we have to drop it. There is no question, it has to be dropped. The failsafe is the performance target of 40%.

Keith Brady – So you're saying increasing the number of permits will hopefully increase the number of males in the harvest?

Leslie McFarland – That is that they're hoping to do.

Keith Brady – Isn't that just increasing the number of females too?

Charlie Tracy – What I suggest is that we just make a recommendation and let the Board decide how high to go. I mean we can sit here and worry about this all night, but let's wait and see where the chips fall. We all know that we don't have the final word on the numbers.

Kevin Albrecht – Let's entertain a motion.

Darrel Mecham – I will make a motion that we accept the Division's recommendations. I favor a five tag increase instead of 18. I feel that if we opt for 18, we could be making a mistake. Five is more than houndsmen want, but it is an increase. Five lions is five lions and let's go from there, instead of jumping off the cliff. That is my recommendation. I say we take the Division's recommendations and increase the Book Cliffs by five lions.

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any discussion on the motion?

Kevin Albrecht – Will we have a second?

Kent Johnson – I will second that

Kevin Albrecht – We have a second by Kent Johnson.

Kevin Albrecht – Is there any other discussion?

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous

VOTING

Motion was made by Darrel Mecham to accept Cougar Recommendations and Rule Amendments for 2015-2016 as presented with an increase of five cougar permits rather than 18 as was recommended by the division.

Seconded by

Motion passed Kent Johnson

7) Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016 (Action) -Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the RAC?

Derris Jones-Explain the target bobcat days and why did we went from 171 to 220 as a target?

Leslie McFarlane-I have no idea. It was before my time and I have no idea why they picked that date.

Derris Jones-It looks like since 2012, we haven't even been close.

Leslie McFarlane-Right, and that's why the plan is due to expire in 2016. That will be the next one that I will be working on, and that metric will be one I eliminate.

Derris Jones-How is the percent survival calculated?

Leslie McFarlane-Your killing me, the bio-nutritionist does all of this.

Derris Jones-Is that from the jaw at harvest?

Leslie McFarlane-It is from our age at harvest data.

Derris Jones – What was the harvest this year? Is that a reflection an increase?

Leslie McFarlane – Production was good last year. There was an increase in juvenile harvest which indicated a growing population.

Charlie Tracy-Do you do a survey of people who actually go hunting?

Leslie McFarlane-Yes, those are those numbers I gave you and those are the actual participants.

Questions from the Public

Kevin Albrecht- Any questions from the audience?

Harvey Howard-My question is on percent survival. Would you say that we know how many bobcats there are, but we don't know how many lions there are?

Leslie McFarlane-No, we do not know how many bobcats there are. And what he was asking is based on tooth-age data and honestly I've only been in this job one year I don't know exactly how that is calculated.

Harvey Howard- Is there an average of two kittens per female? Do you know the formula that they use on that at all?

Leslie McFarlane-I can get the actual information, but I just don't have it right now.

Harvey Howard – Okay.

Leslie McFarlane – Do you know, Dustin Mitchell?

Dustin Mitchell- Two.

Leslie McFarlane-Do any of you is know the percent? I will have to get with the bio-nutritionist because she does that for me.

Kent Fowden Utah Trappers Association-We support the recommendations made by the Division with the exception that the division reinstate the additional week extension on the season. Thank you.

Derris Jones – The additional week on what?

Leslie McFarlane-On the bobcat season. I can only recommend going to the second Sunday in February. They are requesting an extension to go to February 14. If the RAC considers that, you would have to consider one more thing.

Kevin Albrecht – Please speak to why the Division position didn't want that.

Leslie McFarlane – I'm not opposed to that because the harvest data shows the increase in the male harvest the longer the season. That is actually better for the bobcat population since fewer females are harvested. The plan dictates that I can only recommend extending the season to the second Sunday of February. The thing that I would ask is that if you entertain that additional week, we had a law enforcement snafu last year, because when it was approved by the Board, these other seasons were also increased by the week. So we had people out trapping bobcats that incidentally took things that were closed. And so, if you do that, I ask that you increase the season length for badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, skunk and weasel at well as marten.

Kevin Albrecht – That make sense.

Derris Jones-Is there any negative effect to the other furbearers with the week extension?

Leslie McFarlane-No.

Kevin Albrecht – That was my last comment card. Is there any other comment?

Comments from the Public

Kevin Albrecht- Any comments from the audience?

Robert Howard- If he is recommending that the season be extended by a week, I want to recommend that they move the fur auction back a week. That way we have at least a week for those last bobcats to dry and to be able to get them to the auction. I think I read in some of the minutes that the temporary tags will now be \$15 this year instead of the five dollars that they were last year. I wasn't too sure about that.

Leslie McFarlane- Yes, and so last year, the recommended fee schedule was that bobcat tags be increased. It will not go into effect until this year. Because after we got it approved through the RAC's and through the Wildlife Board, we had to take it to the legislature in order to be able to charge that. So this fall each tag will be \$15. As far as the fur sale goes, we actually have nothing to do with that, since it's actually run by the Utah Trappers Association. They have some reason why they cannot move it along with this. We're making a rule change to allow the last date for bobcat tagging to be the first Friday in March.

Harvey Howard- I am sorry about that. It's the question period and not the comment period. My question is about the kittens and the age and the percentage of carry-over and survival. My concern is that we've seen an increase in kittens. I would just caution that that if you don't catch an adult cat, the better trappers will release the kittens. If you see an increase in kitten harvest, it may simply be that trappers are having a hard time finding cats altogether. So make sure that when you're beginning the new plan that that factor needs to be considered. This year, we didn't see the bobcats that we believed we should have.

Leslie McFarlane- So one of the other things that wasn't part of this presentation that we also look at in conjunction with the bobcats are rabbits trends and we're seeing a dramatic increase in rabbit populations this year. More than anything, bobcats cycle with rabbits and so we should start seeing an increase in bobcats overall. It is proven that they cycle with rabbits and so we will be watching that but we will take those things into consideration. I feel bad because I look like I don't know what I'm talking about because I don't know how the percent survival was figured out. I hope that you trust that the number is a valid number.

Harvey Howard- I understand that you have a big job and you did a great job on the lion thing. I just worry that the bobcat population isn't what appears to be from the harvest numbers and the rabbit population will just skyrocket and the bobcats are not going to follow because we are trapping too many.

Leslie McFarlane- I got that, thank you.

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht- Any comments from the RAC?

Charlie Tracy- I recommend that we go with the Division's recommendations with the exception that we lengthen the season by one week across the board.

Charlie Tracy – Is that okay? Did I say that right?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes, just exclude Beaver and Mink.

Charlie Tracy – Just exclude Beaver and Mink?

Leslie McFarlane – Yes, because you don't want to extend them by a week.

Charlie Tracy – Okay, sorry. Exclude Beaver and Mink.

Derris Jones – I will second that motion

Kevin Albrecht – I will try to restate that. We had a motion by Charlie Tracy that we go with the Division’s recommendations with one exception and that would be to extend a week for all furbearing species except for the Beaver and the Mink. And that was seconded by Derris Jones and Darrel Mecham.

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous.

VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the Furbearer and Bobcat Harvest Recommendations for 2015-2016 as presented, except that the bobcat and all furbearer seasons be extended by one week with the exception of beaver and mink.

Seconded by Derris Jones

Motion passed unanimously

8) AIS Rule Amendments-R657-60 (Action)

-Cody Edwards, AIS Coordinator

Questions from the RAC

No Questions

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht – Seeing no questions or comments, I’ll entertain a motion.

Charlie Tracy – I move that we accept the AIS Rule Amendments as presented.

Kevin Albrecht – Motion made by Charlie Tracy to accept the AIS rule amendments, R 657 – 60 as presented. Seconded by Kent Johnson.

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous.

VOTING

Motion was made by Charlie Tracy to accept the AIS Rule Amendments-R657-60 as presented.

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

9) **Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments (Action)**
-Rick Olsen, Law Enforcement officer

Questions from the RAC

No Questions

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht-Anyone want to make a motion?

Keith Brady – I move to accept the youth fishing exemption rule amendments as presented.

Chris Micoz – I second that.

Kevin Albrecht – We have a motion made by Keith Brady to accept the youth fishing exemption rule R657-45 amendments as presented and seconded by Chris Micoz

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous.

VOTING

Motion was made by Keith Brady to accept the Youth Fishing Exemption Rule Amendments as presented.

Seconded by Chris Micoz

Motion passed unanimously

10) **Self Defense against Animals Rule Amendment (Action)**
-Rick Olsen Law Enforcement officer

Questions from the RAC

Kevin Albrecht- Could you clarify the difference in the rule that we have now?

Rick Olsen- It's a really subtle change that was requested as part of an agreement with the legislature regarding all self-defense rules in general. If somebody's going to come and attack you, you don't have to run away. You should try to avoid it, but it doesn't require you to run away. Our rule would have done that. If you're walking up the trail and a bear comes walking down the trail, our old rule said you had to run away. The new rule says that if you took a path around a bear and he charged, you could kill the bear, if you did something to avoid the killing."

Kevin Albrecht- Thank you.

Charlie Tracy- So what if it's killing your child or your dog or whatever is that considered.

Rick Olsen-That would be permitted.

Charlie Tracy – What I'm saying is if it's killing my horse or my dog or something, am

I still justified in killing the animal?

Rick Olsen – Yes. The only exception in there, is if you were walking down the trail with your dog and a lion or a bear jumps out and attacks your dog, you can kill the lion. However, if you tell your dog to sic ‘him, and the dog is injured, you cannot shoot the animal. At other RACs, the question has come up about a houndsman who treed a lion that jumped and the houndsman sent his dogs to attack the lion. If his dogs were injured, the houndsman would not be protected under this rule. However, if the hunter were attacked, he could act in self-defense and kill the cat.

Kevin Albrecht- Thank you. Any other questions?

Charlie Tracy- I got one more question. What he is attacking my peach tree?

Rick Olsen-No

Charlie Tracy-Thought I’d ask.

Kevin Albrecht-Any question from the audience? Any comment cards?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Keith Brady – I move to accept the Self Defense Against Animals Rule amendment as presented by the Division.

Kent Johnson – I second that.

Kevin Albrecht – We’ve got a motion by Keith Brady to accept the Self Defense against Animals Rule R657-63, seconded by Kent Johnson. All in favor? Unanimous.

VOTING

Motion was made by Keith Brady to accept the Self Defense Against Animals Rule Amendment as presented.

Seconded by Kent Johnson

Motion passed unanimously

11) Possession of Firearms Rule Amendment-Waterfowl and Upland (Action) -Rick Olsen Law Enforcement officer

Questions from the RAC

Kent Johnson-Will this rule apply on all WMAs and on the mountain?

Rick Olsen-You have the right to possess firearms. The way the current rule is written, the only weapon you can possess on a WMA is a shotgun during the waterfowl season or upland game season. So what we are saying, you have the right to possess any gun, but you cannot use it to hunt upland game or waterfowl, unless it’s defined as a legal weapon for those species. At most RACs, the question has come up about carrying a gun that is

not a legal weapon for the species, but a coyote or skunk or raccoon comes by and you shoot it, would that be legal. The answer is yes. All of those species commonly occur on our WMAs and using another weapon would be permissible. You just can't use a rifle or pistol to shoot waterfowl or upland game.

Kevin Albrecht-I think that helps quite a bit.

Kevin Albrecht – Any new questions? Are there any questions from the audience? I see no comment cards. Are there any comments from the RAC?

Questions from the Public

No Questions

Comments from the Public

No Comments

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht – Seeing no comments from the RAC, is there a motion?

Kent Johnson – I make a motion to accept the Possession of Firearms Rule Amendment-Waterfowl and Upland Game as presented.

Kevin Albrecht – We've got a motion by Kent Johnson to accept the Possession of Firearms Rule Amendment R657-6 & R657-9 and seconded by Keith Brady

Kevin Albrecht – All in favor? Unanimous

VOTING

Motion was made by Kent Johnson to accept the Possession of Firearms Rule Amendment-Waterfowl and Upland- as presented.

Seconded by Keith Brady

Motion passed unanimously

12) Fee Schedule (Action)

- Brandon Behling Administrative Services Section Personnel

Questions from the RAC

No questions

Questions from the Public

No questions

Comments from the Public

No comments

RAC Discussion

Kevin Albrecht – Comments? Objections?

Brandon Behling – There needs to be a motion even though there was no change.

Kevin Albrecht – Seeing no comments, I’ll entertain a motion.

Keith Brady-Motion by Keith Brady and seconded by Sue Bellagamba

Sue Bellagamba-I second the motion.

Kevin Albrecht – There’s been a motion by Keith Brady and seconded by Sue Bellagamba. All in favor? Unanimous

VOTING

Motion was made by Keith Brady to accept the Fee Schedule as presented.

Seconded by Sue Bellagamba

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Public in attendance: 15

The next Wildlife Board meeting will take place on August 27 at 9 a.m. at the DNR Board Room at 1594 W. North Temple, SLC

The next southeast regional RAC meeting will take place on September 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the John Wesley Powell Museum in Green River.

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
August 6, 2015

5. COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION to accept the cougar management plan as presented

Passed Unanimously

6. COUGAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS FOR 2015-2016

MOTION to accept the Division's proposal as it's been presented, with the exception that the Book Cliffs permits be raised from 20 to 27 permits.

Passed Unanimously

7. FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016-2016

MOTION to accept as presented with caveat of extending the season by a week at the end, along with the other species discussed (excluding beaver and mink).

Passed Unanimously

8. AIS RULE AMENDMENTS - R657-60

MOTION to approve as presented

Passed Unanimously

NERO RED FLEET MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION to approve stocking the Colorado River cutthroat trout into Brush Creek and also into Red Fleet as proposed by the Division

Passed Unanimously

9. YOUTH FISHING EXEMPTION RULE AMENDMENTS

MOTION to accept the youth fishing proposal as presented

Passed Unanimously

10. SELF DEFENSE AGAINST ANIMALS RULE AMENDMENT

MOTION to accept the rule amendment as proposed by the Division

Passed Unanimously

11. POSSESSION OF FIREARMS RULE AMENDMENTS - WATERFOWL AND UPLAND

MOTION to accept the proposal as presented

Passed Unanimously

12. FEE SCHEDULE

MOTION to accept the no proposed fee changes for 2016

Passed Unanimously

NORTHEASTERN RAC MEETING SUMMARY OF MOTIONS
Utah Wildlife Resources Office, 318 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal
August 6, 2015

NER RAC MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dan Abeyta, Forest Service
Randy Dearth, RAC Chair
David Gordon, BLM
Melissa Wardle, Non Consumptive
Joe Arnold, At-Large
Andrea Merrell, Non Consumptive
Tim Ignacio, Ute Tribe
Brett Prevedel, At Large
Miles Hanberg for Boyde Blackwell

UDWR PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Alex Hansen, NER Wildlife Recreation Specialist
Gayle Allred, NER Office Manager
Mitch Lane, SLO Captain
Dax Mangus, NER Wildlife Manager
Clint Sampson, NER Wildlife Biologist
Kyle Kettle, NER Predator Management Specialist
Leslie McFarlane, SLO Mammals Coordinator
Randall Thacker, NER Wildlife Biologist
Dan Barnhurst, NER Law Enforcement
Richard Gibbs, NER AIS Biologist
Trina Hedrick, NER Aquatics Manager

NER RAC MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Joe Batty, Agriculture
Mitch Hacking, Agriculture
Jerry Jorgensen, Elected Official
Daniel Davis, Sportsmen
Boyde Blackwell, NER Supervisor

WILDLIFE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kirk Woodward
Byron Bateman

1. WELCOME, RAC INTRODUCTION AND PROCEDURES – Randy Dearth

Acknowledge new members of NER's RAC:
Missy Wardle - Non Consumptive
Joe Arnold - At Large
Daniel Davis - Sportsman new

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

David Gordon motion to approve minutes and agenda
Dan Abeyta second
Passed Unanimously

3. WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING UPDATE - Miles Hanberg

There will be a Wildlife Board and RAC Training August 26 at Scheels' conference room at Scheels in Sandy, 10am-4 pm. The Wildlife Board meets the following day.

4. REGIONAL UPDATE - Miles Hanberg

Aquatics Section has been working on the Red Fleet Treatment Project. They've also been moving cutthroat trout. Will continue to do those efforts to get the desired densities.

Outreach Section is preparing for youth pheasant hunts and waterfowl hunts.

Wildlife Section just finished classifying pronghorn antelope. Things are looking good. There are a good number of fawns. They completed the bighorn sheep survey and lambs numbers are looking a little bit down. As far as deer populations, they're noticing increased bucks on the summer range.

Law Enforcement is preparing for the archery hunt which will be coming up within the next couple of weeks.

Habitat Section is working on wildlife guzzler projects. 21 wildlife guzzlers had been placed throughout the region in Daggett, Anthro, and the Book Cliffs. We will be able to store up to 37,800 gallons of water for our wildlife. We're hoping to get enough rain to fill them. Funding for guzzlers has come from DWR Habitat Council, BLM, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, Rocky Mountain Elk, Mule Deer Foundation, National Wild Turkey Foundation, Utah Bowmen, and Red Leaf Resources. Boy Scouts have helped build guzzlers as part of their projects.

5. COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN: Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: You can make changes based on one year of data saying a deer population has declined or sheep population?

Leslie McFarlane: If we have a really bad winter and drop below 65% of the unit objective it would qualify for predator management mule deer. OR adult deer survival under 84% for 2 of 3 years and has a declining trend, OR adult deer survival is under 80% in the previous year and has a declining trend.

Brett Prevedel: (referenced humane society letter).

Leslie McFarlane: Cougar population numbers are really difficult to try and determine. With bobcats you can use a model that builds the population based on age structure. The problem with that model on cougars is you make assumptions that we violate. So in the plan there are two population estimates based on habitat. This past year we did a population reconstruction based on age data. You build back the population in order to have those ages in the harvest at that time, you figure out what your minimum number of cougars should be. We have to have 4,100 in our state. But people hold you to those numbers, and I can't say that's exactly the number. So we want to do research projects to get a better handle on numbers. Until then we have habitat, estimates and population reconstructions. That's why we use age, sex, harvest, so we monitor what we're doing.

Missy Wardle: You mentioned you would be exploring other ideas. Could you tell us about that?

Leslie McFarlane: We're working with Utah State to develop this. Similar to mule deer survival where you have collars, monitor and follow through time. What we're not sure is sample sizes needed, and so we're trying to go that direction. We have several different others we're working through.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

Comments from Public:

None

MOTION

David Gordon motion to accept the cougar management plan as presented

Brett Prevedel: Second

Passed Unanimously

6. COUGAR RECOMMENDATIONS AND RULE AMENDMENTS FOR 2015-2016:

Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Randy Dearth: Since the Book Cliffs went to harvest objective has the quota been met each year?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes. It closed fairly early.

Randy Dearth: What have the other RACs thought about this Book Cliffs proposal?

Leslie McFarlane: NRO accepted it. CRO made a motion to decrease the quota from 38 to 28 which failed. SRO took it as recommended. SERO recommended an increase of 25 instead of 38.

Missy Wardle: Regarding the Book Cliffs deer, what other methods are you using to monitor deer outside predator populations?

Miles Hanberg: There have been thousands of acres of improvement work on pinion juniper removal, and bull hog projects. In addition, the last five years we have been developing water with guzzler projects and springs that we're hoping will increase deer populations out there.

Clint Sampson: We've also done collar studies to look at doe survival and got the coyote bounty program to try to increase our knowledge.

Missy Wardle: Did they reduce the number of deer permits?

Clint Sampson: Yes. Buck deer permits were reduced.

Kirk Woodward: What about doe mortality in the summertime?

Clint Sampson: We have doe collars. They're not GPS so we can't access those as well, but we're finding them on deer summer range.

Alex Hansen: 50% on winter range, 50% on summer range.

Brett Prevedel: Is Harvest Objective is higher than Limited Entry?

Leslie McFarlane: Yes. 68% of the quotas were filled.

Dax Mangus: The success rate of an individual hunter is less than that.

Missy Wardle: On the Nine Mile Rattlesnake boundary, is that because of bighorn sheep?

Leslie McFarlane: Unlimited take is not a strategy for mule deer. It's because there are bighorn sheep there.

Dan Abeyta: Deer populations in the Book Cliffs is 56% of objective. How far back does that date? Has it been going down?

Leslie McFarlane: I have a table here. The population objective is 15,000. It has been 6200-41%, 7300-49%, 7850-52%, 8600-57%. It's below 90% of objective for three years and adult doe survival as well. The thing that keeps it in predator management is it is less than 65%. It is trending upward but not reaching its objective. If it does you can take it out.

Dax Mangus: We were on an increasing trend until 2000, then it had a dramatic drop. 2010 or 11 was a low point. Now we're coming back.

Dan Abeyta: Have we ever been 15,000?

Dax Mangus: Not in the last decade. We've been about 10,000 but it's been awhile.

Joe Arnold: Is there a direct correlation between quota numbers and deer populations?

Leslie McFarlane: No. It's one of the things there are so many factors in addition to predator control. We can do coyote bounty, habitat treatments, etc. Can you prove it has an effect? It's not cut and dry. You can't show it.

Randy Dearth: Is it true that one cougar will take one deer each week?

Leslie McFarlane: It averages that, but if a cougar learns to specialize, that affects its ability, if a female has kittens it will take more to feed its kittens. If it takes an elk calf it doesn't need deer. They also eat rabbits and porcupines. Porcupines are actually their favorite food.

Andrea Merrell: The change to 38 was to try to speed up the population crash for the mountain lions that usually lag eight years behind deer when their numbers crash, and you'll evaluate next year to see what actually the effect has been on the deer population has been?

Leslie McFarlane: On the Book Cliffs they're trying to get percent females from 28% to over 40%. They're trying to accomplish that by increasing permits.

Andrea Merrell: Why did you choose 38?

Dax Mangus: That is the maximum we would be allowed to recommend based on the parameters of the plan.

Leslie McFarlane: Our research on other populations has shown that if you keep it at least 42% for multiple years, you affect the population and that's what they're trying to do.

Tim Ignacio: Where the Book Cliffs is so close to the Tribal populations we only have a few guys who will hunt them. When you start seeing lions and not having to track them to see them, you know you've got a problem. Our sheep population is way down coming out of Reservation Canyon and Lawrence Creek.

Dan Abeyta: Are you seeing a population decline in deer on the Tribe?

Tim Ignacio: Yes, and even on the elk. The deer population is down.

Dan Abeyta: Do you guys have population objectives?

Tim Ignacio: I'm going to guess there are only 450 people who hunt.

Dax Mangus: It's hard to equate correlation with causation, does harvesting lions affect deer populations, as well as does a lion kill 50 deer a year. We had a cougar management workshop in Cedar City and on the Colorado side after they got rid of cougars, they had an increase in bears. In the Book Cliffs we're harvesting a lot of males. We also have a high bear density and our radio collar study in adult does showed much lower survival than what we had hoped for and anticipated. The last couple of years the adult survival has jumped up a little bit, we found about half the mortality was on summer range, which usually indicates predators. It's hard to prove everything, there could be possible disease issues, but we have a lot of evidence taken into consideration in formulating the recommendation.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from Public:

Dan Cochane (Utah Hounds man Association): I sat on the Board to simplify the plan. (See letter). The best indicator of the lion population is guys who are out there. Everyone I've spoken to about the Book Cliffs has talked about how low we've knocked down the lion population. Wild horses are thicker than fleas. I never used to see a buffalo in the Book Cliffs. There are a lot of things that are competing with those deer. We think a 90% increase is too much. We're almost to the eight years that they would crash anyway. There is so much more access now with all the roads. We recommend no more than a five permit increase.

Mike Davis: The cougar management plan has good ideas but we're hunters not exterminators. I believe a five cougar increase is plenty. Let's get off this roller coaster. Let's take it slower.

J.C. Brewer: I'll never kill a cougar or bear, I'm a deer hunter. I completely support the Division's recommendation completely.

Al Kettle: From what I've seen of deer populations in Book Cliffs, very rarely do you see good animals. You're starting to see better numbers but there are a lot of predator issues. I support the biologists in what they recommend.

Guy Webster (Hounds man): I outfit on the south side and top of the Book Cliffs. 38 is insane. We've taken 68 lions from the Book Cliffs in the last six years. We're trying to decrease males instead of females. I'm out there every weekend and the deer population is coming up. Horses and buffalo are out there and other factors. On the south side of the Book Cliffs, Cunningham's ranch used to have hay fields. It's not there anymore. There's not enough feed down there compared to what was there. Reducing lions will not increase deer herds. Let's do something besides kill all the lions, studies have proven that. We don't need to annihilate the lions in addition to not having deer. The Humane Society letter scares me. If we take an aggressive approach it may be in the hands of a judge who will shut down cougar hunting, then we can't take any. The deer trends are going up. Let's add five and then analyze it.

Comments from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: It does seem like an extremely high increase in one year. I don't know what the right number is. I'd be a little uncomfortable supporting a recommendation or 38 permits based on what I'm hearing here.

Andrea Merrell: It does seem like last year we chose to be more moderate and I feel better with going with a more moderate number.

Brett Prevedel: If the deer percentage actually hits 65% what would the recommendation be?

Dax Mangus: That would bump us out of predator management.

Leslie McFarlane: It would be percent female it would decrease.

Joe Arnold: I have a question about the amount of elk vs. the amount of deer in the Book Cliffs. I was on a horse in the mid 80s and saw lots of deer and no elk. Have you considered increasing the harvest on elk to help the deer population?

Dax Mangus: Deer vs. elk competition, there's probably something to it. Our elk population is not to objective either. It's at 73% of objective, it could be a factor. 30 years ago there weren't a lot of elk there.

Randy Dearth: Last year wasn't the proposal to 30?

Dax Mangus: Yes.

Randy Dearth: And this RAC wanted to go moderate.

Dax Mangus: The year before that, the Book Cliffs and Nine Mile units had a combined quota of 40 and we harvested 35 lions. The next year they split the Book Cliffs and Nine Mile.

Randy Dearth: So we actually harvested less than we did the year before.

Dan Abeyta: What's driving this recommendation? Is it being so far from the population objective?

Dax Mangus: We try to look at all the different data .

Joe Arnold: What has been the deer quota as far as amount of buck deer tags DWR has given out?

Clint Sampson: Last year we gave out 550. This last year basically the same.

Joe Arnold: Are you guys okay with that?

Dax Mangus: Buck management is based on buck/doe ratios. Bucks aren't what are driving it. Buck numbers will affect the quality. If you have a small number of bucks, you will harvest larger bucks. Buck-to-doe numbers are climbing. Last year the buck-to-doe ratio was at the upper end. We didn't recommend an increase because it's starting to make the upward trajectory. It's hard to determine the relationship between deer number and cougars.

Tim Ignacio: This isn't just deer, we're talking about bighorn sheep.

Dax Mangus: The only bighorn sheep on non-Tribal lands is on Rattlesnake. There are a lot of bighorn on Tribal lands, but it's quite a ways from where are hunters are hunting.

Tim Ignacio: There's something going on there.

Randy Dearth: 38 isn't as aggressive if we took 35 a few years ago.

Dax Mangus: The Book Cliffs does have a lot of access like roads, whether you get snow or not.

MOTION

Dan Abeyta motion to accept the Division's proposal as it's been presented, with the exception that the Book Cliffs permits be raised from 20 to 27 permits.

Tim Ignacio: second

Missy Wardle: That's less than half.

Dan Abeyta: Instead of a 90% increase, it's about a 35 to 40% increase.

Passed Unanimously

7. FURBEARER AND BOBCAT HARVEST RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015-2016:

Leslie McFarlane, Mammals Coordinator

(see handout)

Questions from RAC:

Missy Wardle: How do you determine the survival?

Leslie McFarlane: On every bobcat that's harvested, we collect the lower jaw and age it. Chapman builds the age data and it works well.

Tim Ignacio: Last year when we approved that season extension, did that help them? Because I know we met them in the middle; the guy wanted to go two weeks longer and we said one week. He said toms were bigger and better priced later in the season.

Leslie McFarlane: For population, if you look at that graph, early on they're catching male and female equally which is not a good thing. We're probably going to ask for season dates to start later and go later to increase male harvest. I think we'll look like starting in December. We'll work through a committee and go through the end of February to try and protect the females a little more.

Brett Prevedel: We never talked about the financial benefit of some of these strategies. By selling all these tags you made a lot more money?

Leslie McFarlane: We asked for a fee increase last year which was approved. It was still at \$5.00.

Brett Prevedel: There was an economic benefit?

Leslie McFarlane: This year tags will be \$15 each instead of \$5.

Questions from Public:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

Comments Public:

Kent Fowden (Utah Trappers Association): We support the recommendation except we request again the one week extension at the end, helping us harvest more toms which is what we're all after.

DISCUSSION AND MOTION

Randy Dearth: How would that week extra affect the population?

Leslie McFarlane: I don't think it will affect the population in a negative way. It's better to harvest more males than females since females put litters back into the population. The one thing I would request though, if you do recommend an additional week, we did run into a law enforcement problem. The season was not added onto the other seasons for beaver and mink, badger, marten, etc because there was incidental take.

Randy Dearth: What did the other RACs do?

Leslie McFarlane: Every RAC has added a week. I would ask that you exclude the beaver and mink season date.

MOTION:

David Gordon motion to accept as presented with caveat of extending the season by a week at the end, along with the other species discussed (excluding beaver and mink).

Tim Ignacio: second

Passed Unanimously

FIVE MINUTE BREAK. All public in attendance left the meeting.

8. AIS RULE AMENDMENTS - R657-60: Trina Hedrick

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: On the change of Certificate of Registration (COR) with the business entity, is that on a volunteer basis? For a business entity to take on that responsibility of decontamination, it's time and it's money. Is there compensation involved there?

Trina: No.

Dan Abeyta: So it's just in the best interest of everyone. Like Lucerne Valley Marina or Buckboard, are those examples?

Trina Hedrick: The marinas are staying in one place. Really it's the rafting community. If you should be cleaning, draining, drying, and maybe you can't let it go the full dry time but you can clean it with a professional cleaner. If you keep a set of rafts on the Colorado and other rafts just along the Green River, you can keep them going. Rafts can't handle that amount of pressure or heat.

Richard Gibbs: We've talked about going the route like Wyoming does but we're not prepared to do that yet.

Comments from RAC:

Dan Abeyta: Can you brief us what's going on at Lake Powell?

Richard Gibbs: We got an additional 30 technicians and some biologists covering Wahweap and Bullfrog to take care of it. We're checking everybody coming off those areas making sure they're draining and drying. At that point we put on an orange seal. Not too many decontaminations are being done. We do a few with the National Parks but due to the sheer quantity of boats coming off the lake, we're limited. We do decontaminate them once they get to other parts of the state.

MOTION:

Brett Prevedel motion to approve as presented

David Gordon: second

Passed Unanimously

REGIONAL PRESENTATION NERO - RED FLEET MANAGEMENT PLAN: Trina Hedrick, NER Aquatics Manager

Questions from RAC:

Randy Dearth: I was at Strawberry when they treated it many years ago, and there were a lot of dead fish. How are you going to clean that all up?

Trina Hedrick: Red Fleet has a lot fewer acres than Strawberry. We will clean up as many fish as possible but we won't be able to clean them all up. For every one you see on the shore, there are so many more under the surface. Hopefully as you do it at the end of the season, the water level will rise and cover up those fish. We will focus on easily accessible areas like around the campground, by the dam, and some of the other access points. We want to go around and see what comes up take some measurements, and numbers of little fish, sometimes it's surprising. When we did Cottonwood we had a lot of small fish and a large one.

Missy Wardle: Are you going to close the reservoir?

Trina Hedrick: We were asked to keep the campground open but the water will be closed. The EPA requires no fishing, swimming, you can't be within 50 feet of the water at all of the access points. People can come and watch as long as they stay away from the rotenone.

Dan Abeyta: Where do you plan to stock the Colorado River cutthroat trout?

Trina Hedrick: They'll go in based on what's easiest for the hatchery truck, maybe the 2-track from the highway if the hatchery can make it, immediately above the reservoir. I don't think Simplot allows access to theirs.

David Gordon: FONSI stands for Finding Of No Significant Impact

MOTION

David Gordon motion to approve stocking the Colorado River cutthroat trout into Brush Creek and also into Red Fleet as proposed by the Division

Missy Wardle: second

Passed Unanimously

9. YOUTH FISHING EXEMPTION RULE AMENDMENTS: Mitch Lane Captain 657-45 (school groups and other youth groups)

(See handout)

Questions from RAC:

Brett Prevedel: Is it automatically approved or does it have to be approved by the Division?

Mitch Lane: That application would be reviewed and the COR is what they would be operating under, would have to be approved.

David Gordon: How long is the timeline for approval after submission?

Mitch Lane: I'm not sure, but it's going to be done pretty expeditiously, especially if it's one that happens to be submitted on short notice.

Joe Arnold: We just had a youth group at Flaming Gorge. What about reciprocal stamps? Would there be a crossover?

Mitch Lane: All other fishing regulations will be the same. If they're not required to have a license because they're covered under the COR, it may be different. At Bear Lake we have agreements with those different states. It's something to look into.

Joe Arnold: We had that at Flaming Gorge where we were looking for a reciprocal stamps at 9:30 at night.

Dan Barnhurst: If they're of a young age, I don't know if that would have to be addressed with Wyoming.

Dan Abeyta: Once the group is approved, is it a set amount of time? 3 days, 5 days?

Mitch Lane: Although it's not specifically spelled out or expressly prohibited, this is designed to before a specific day or days, it implies that.

Dan Abeyta: What are the requirements for a group?

Mitch Lane: Grades 1-9 basically would meet the definition of a youth group from a school. Other youth groups, boy scouts, girl scouts, any other 50C3 non-profit group that endorses or sponsors activities promoting outdoor activities.

Comments from RAC:

None

MOTION:

David Gordon motion to accept the youth fishing proposal as presented

Andrea Merrell: second

Passed Unanimously

10. SELF DEFENSE AGAINST ANIMALS RULE AMENDMENT: Mitch Lane

Questions from RAC:

Randy Dearth: I suspect the other four RACs approved this as written, is that right?

Mitch Lane: I don't know. Officer Olson attended the other four RACs.

MOTION:

Davis Gordon motion to accept the rule amendment as proposed by the Division

Missy Wardle Second

Favor: Unanimous

11. POSSESSION OF FIREARMS RULE AMENDMENTS - WATERFOWL AND UPLAND: Mitch Lane

Questions from RAC:

Randy Dearth: We're hearing about Browns Park and Stewarts Lake. Are there any other areas?

Dan Barnhurst: Little Montes Creek, Kevin Conway, Pariette.

Mitch Lane: These would be the upland game list and waterfowl management areas.

Miles Hanberg: Browns Park and Stewarts lake are the only waterfowl management areas.

Mitch Lane: Others could be management areas that don't fall into one of those two categories. The intent was to stick to primarily waterfowl areas or upland game areas where upland game is the predominant activity that goes on. We didn't want to restrict anything on areas that aren't listed.

Comments from RAC:

Andrea Merrell: This does make sense given the change in the gun law.

Mitch Lane: We've had to do this several times throughout the years to keep in line with what's going on with firearms possession.

MOTION:

Andrea Merrell motion to accept the proposal as presented

David Gordon: second

Passed Unanimously

12. FEE SCHEDULE: Alex Hansen

Questions from RAC:

None

Comments from RAC:

None

MOTION:

Brett Prevedel motion to accept the no proposed fee changes for 2016

David Gordon: second

Passed Unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 pm

Next meeting: September 17, 2015 (Fishing Recommendations and Guidebook-2016)



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J. COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J. SHEEHAN
Division Director

August 18, 2015

Greg Sheehan, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources
John Bair, Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board
Kirk Woodward, Vice Chairman, Utah Wildlife Board
Utah Wildlife Board Members

RE: 2015 Expo Permit Internal Audit – Rule R657-55

Dear Director Sheehan and Wildlife Board Members,

In accordance with Rule R657-55, an audit of the Expo Permit program has been conducted. This audit is attached for your review and the results will be presented at the Utah Wildlife Board Meeting on August 27, 2015.

If you have any questions please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenny Johnson".

Kenny Johnson
Administrative Services Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Internal Audit of the 2015 Expo Permit Program

Dated August 18, 2015

Background

The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) conducts the Expo in partnership with Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife (SFW). The contract for the wildlife Expo permits was awarded to the Mule Deer Foundation in 2010. The award was for a five year contract period that runs from 2012 through 2016. This report covers 2015 specifically, and uses historical data from the outset of the Expo in 2007 through 2015 for some comparative items.

The Expo was held in Salt Lake City February 19-22, 2015. In accordance with R657-55, an annual audit of the Expo permit program has been conducted in 2015. This audit was not performed using generally accepted auditing standards, but is an internal audit designed by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Administrative Services Section to ensure compliance.

Overview

The focus of this audit is to assist the Division and the Wildlife Board to be able to ensure contract compliance. Our report focuses on verifying that data is secure, and that the drawing procedure used is random for the permits being issued. Additionally, we reviewed data regarding the number of applicants, success rates, and other efforts related to drawing procedures and issuance of permits. We also reviewed revenue amounts retained by the contractor for both Expo expenses and use on division approved projects. We look to verify that the funds designated for projects are kept separate from other funds in an insured bank account.

New in 2015, we looked to see if the application fees collected in 2013 were spent or committed to division approved projects within the time allotted by agreement with the Division (September 1, 2015).

Findings and Recommendations

The Division monitored the processes of data collection and input, securing of personal and confidential data received, and performance of the actual draw process. There were no findings with the data handling or program code in 2015.

Additionally, the Division has performed eligibility checks of successful applicants and alternates that may have been assigned a permit. One eligibility issue was identified and handled internally, preventing a permit from being issued to an ineligible applicant.

This audit verified application revenue retained by the contractor, as well as permit revenue payable to the division from each successful applicant prior to issuance of the permit. There were no compliance issues in 2015.

Application revenue from 2013 was reviewed, project invoices paid with Expo dollars were tallied and project coversheets signed by the division director were compiled to obtain the total of application revenue spent on division approved projects and the total dollars committed to division approved projects. Both the MDF and SFW had expended or committed all required 2013 revenue and are in compliance with rule and agreements with the Division.

Review of handling personal and sensitive data

The division considers the handling of personal data and information a top priority. Because the contractor conducting the draw is allowed to access DWR data for populating the hunt applications, we require adherence to protocols that will safeguard this data.

The contractor has two process components regarding sensitive and confidential data from the applicants. For these purposes sensitive and confidential data is defined as social security number, driver's license information, height, weight, gender, hair/eye color.

First is the handling of sensitive information given by applicants at the Expo to apply in the drawing. This is done on a paper form completed by the applicant. Once completed and submitted, these forms are cross-shredded on site. No paper applications are retained by the contractor.

Second is the handling of electronic data that is used in the electronic application process. Sensitive data is used by the application for customer lookups into the Division database. This data transmission is through a secure socket layer using 128 bit encryption. Once the customer information is retrieved no sensitive information is stored in the contractor database.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2015.

Review of the drawing process

Division of Wildlife personnel go through an extensive review of the draw processes used by GraySky Technologies, the draw contractor selected to conduct the Expo permit drawing. The Division is represented by Greg Evans and Kirk Poulsen of the Utah Department of Technology Services, who reviewed the following:

- 1) The process of the draw is reviewed for its soundness.
- 2) The database structure is reviewed to make sure that a customer can't flood a certain hunt by making multiple entries for that hunt.
- 3) A review of the code is conducted to make sure that there is no chance that a seeded record could exist in the database prior to the assignment of random numbers. This is done to ensure that the result table is empty and no records can be inserted independently of the drawing code. This ensures that a record with an abnormally low random number isn't placed in the table thereby guaranteeing a permit to that record.
- 4) The code is reviewed to ensure that all records are treated equally in the process that assigns random numbers to the entries. Care is given to make sure that when the random numbers are being assigned, no records are identified to get a number other than a random number which is generated by the system.
- 5) The code is then reviewed for inserts that may occur after the drawing to make sure that a secured opportunity record is not placed in the result table after the assignment of random numbers takes place.

This was an exhaustive and thorough review; no compliance issues were identified by the Division in 2015.

Conducting the Draw

The actual drawing was conducted at the Division Office in Salt Lake City on February 24, 2015. Attendees included division staff, representatives from the Mule Deer Foundation, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, and the general public. The public is welcome to attend the drawing and at least 3 individuals unrelated to the Division or contractors were in attendance. The draw is then conducted by GraySky Technologies whereupon the following occurred:

- 1) An impromptu passphrase “Go Johnny GOOOO!” was given to the GraySky representative and was witnessed written into the code prior to beginning the draw process. Later this same passphrase was verified to display on the result page to ensure the code reviewed by the Division was the actual code used during the draw.
- 2) The draw was then run assigning random numbers to applicants hunt choice entries and then sorted in descending order.
- 3) The results of the draw were printed and immediately given to a Division representative to ensure that there were no edits to the results table.
- 4) This list was then given to the Division Law Enforcement and Licensing sections to validate eligibility before any results were posted.
- 5) Any applicants selected through the draw that receive multiple permits for the same species are contacted by the Division and asked to select their preferred hunt choice. The unclaimed permits are issued to alternates.

The passphrase was witnessed being added to the code, and the same passphrase verified at the conclusion of the draw. Results were instantly printed and the process to validate began immediately.

No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Note about Random Drawings

In any truly random drawing there always seems to be a few “lucky” individuals. Statistically when randomness is discussed it is always possible to view the final result and pick out certain trends, especially with few historical data sets to observe. The key to these trends is that they cannot be predicted prior to the event or drawing. This is the very essence of randomness. Random is not an assurance that an event will be spread evenly across a population, or distributed equally among participants. There were not any abnormalities observed in the 2015 drawing, random or otherwise.

Draw Related Information

The Division reviewed data from the Expo regarding application numbers and success rates of the Expo. Applicant numbers verified that at least 10,000 individuals attended the Expo again in 2015 as was established as a basis for applying for the permit series. The reported number of attendees at the 2015 Expo was just over 40,000, with more than 10,000 being formally registered for activities.

Applicant data for years 2007-2015 is as follows:

Year	Applicants	Applications	Gross Revenue@ \$5 per app	Avg Applications Per Applicant
2007	10,527	205,462	\$ 1,027,310	19.52
2008	8,745	138,988	\$ 694,940	16.89
2009	9,927	169,988	\$ 845,970	17.04
2010	9,700	165,866	\$ 847,285	17.1
2011	12,154	196,360	\$ 981,800	16.16
2012	13,388	207,870	\$ 1,039,350	15.53
2013	14,043	197,312	\$ 986,560	14.05
2014	14,148	206,506	\$ 1,032,530	14.59
2015	14,910	228,530	\$ 1,142,650	15.33

No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Resident versus Nonresident Success

Data was reviewed comparing the number of resident applicants versus the nonresident applicants. In the 2015 application period, 84% of the applications for the 200 permit series were residents with 16% nonresidents. 88% of the permits drawn were awarded to residents, and 12% to nonresidents. These numbers are consistent with the historical averages.

These findings are consistent and inline with previous comparisons.

Historical Comparison of Expo Permit Applications and Success Rates

	Average 2007-2015	2015
Total Resident Applications	178,917	192,420
Total Nonresident Applications	32,401	36,110
	207,244	228,530

Percent of Resident Applications	83.97%	84.19%
Percent of Nonresident Applications	16.03%	15.81%
	100%	100%

Permits Issued to Residents	173	176
Permits Issued to Nonresidents	27	24
	200	200

Percent of Permits Resident	86.65%	88.00%
Percent of Permits Nonresident	14.25%	12.00%
	100%	100%

License Sales

The Division requires that anyone applying for a permit at the Hunt Expo have a valid hunting or combination license at the time of application. To ensure this compliance the programming will not allow applicants to apply without a valid license in the system. For the Hunt Expo in 2015 there were 1,101 combination and hunting licenses sold on site. The resulting license revenue generated was \$49,252.00. The entirety of these funds are owed to the division with the same reporting stipulations as other third party license vendors; the invoice was paid in full on time.

There were no compliance issues with license sales, reporting, or payment.

Application Revenue

MDF and SFW agreed to spend a portion of application revenue on division approved projects beginning in 2013. In March of 2015 the division, MDF and SFW agreed to amend the contract allowing the conservation groups to retain application revenue at \$3.30 for administrative costs of the Expo and designating \$1.70 to be spent or committed to division approved projects within 2 years of receipt.

In 2015 the Expo was held February 19–22, the draw processed 228,530 applications, generating \$1,142,650 in gross application revenue. The retained portion allowable for administrative Expo costs was \$754,149.00; the remaining \$1.70 per application dedicated to division approved projects totaled \$388,501.00. This revenue is split 50/50 between The Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and wildlife, each receiving \$194,250.50. These fund balances were clearly identifiable, verified, and held separate from other funds in federally insured bank accounts. No compliance issues were identified by the Division.

Project Revenue

In 2013 we reported 3 completed and 3 approved projects. Last year we reported 12 projects approved or completed with Expo permit funds. Since 2013, Mule Deer Foundation has spent \$183,910.03 dollars on 9 division approved projects, and has received division approval on commitments to 27 more projects totaling \$345,485.00 in committed revenue. This means they have spent nearly all of their 2013 project revenue of \$185,473.28, and have easily met their obligation to commit or expend this revenue by Sept 1, 2015.

Our internal review of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife shows that they have spent \$314,466.60 on 6 division approved projects, and have received division approval on commitments to 10 more projects for an additional \$257,916.50 in committed revenue. This means they have exhausted all of their 2013 project revenue of \$185,473.28, and have met their obligation to commit or expend this revenue by Sept 1, 2015.

More detail can be found in attachment 2.

Draw Probability Statistics

The Expo offers a limited number of permits annually and attracts exponentially more applicants who compete for them through the draw process. It should be noted that this dynamic implies a statistically low probability of obtaining a permit. While the draw odds are not a controllable variable or concern of the division, we want to acknowledge the expediency with which this information is made available to the public. The Expo contractor publishes these statistics annually on their website prior to the next year application period.

Conclusions

This internal audit was directed at processes involved in the careful handling of applications and data. We believe that with the procedures set in place by MDF, SFW, and GraySky, that the data was properly secured at the Expo, and the drawing was conducted in a random, transparent, and consistent manner.

Funds for division approved projects were verified and accounted for in the prescribed manner, kept separate from other account funds in federally insured bank accounts.

Revenue collected in 2013 for division approved projects were committed and expended prior to the September 1 deadline.

The Division will perform another audit of the 2016 Expo and will provide a report including any findings to the Utah Wildlife Board.

We would like to thank the Mule Deer Foundation and Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife for their time, prompt response and their willingness to provide the information requested for the preparation of the audit. Their information was clearly presented and very much appreciated. If there are questions regarding this report, please contact me at 801-550-8349.

Kenneth Johnson
Administrative Services Chief
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

CC: Gregory Sheehan, Director
John Bair, Board Chair
Kirk Woodward, Board Vice Chair
Utah Wildlife Board Members
Miles Moretti, Mule Deer Foundation
Jon Larsen, Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife

ATCH:

1. Current Expo Rule R647-55
2. Project Expenditures list

Attachment 1

UTAH ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

The Utah Administrative Code is the body of all effective administrative rules as compiled and organized by the Division of Administrative Rules (see Subsection [63G-3-102\(5\)](#); see also Sections [63G-3-701](#) and [702](#)).

NOTE: For a list of rules that have been made effective since July 1, 2015, please see the [codification segue](#) page.

NOTE TO RULEFILING AGENCIES: Use the RTF version for submitting rule changes.

Download the [RTF file](#)

R657. Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources.

Rule R657-55. Wildlife Expo Permits.

As in effect on July 1, 2015

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KEY

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R657-55-1. Purpose and Authority.

(1) Under the authority of Sections 23-14-18 and 23-14-19 of the Utah Code, this rule provides the standards and requirements for issuing wildlife expo permits.

(2) Wildlife expo permits are authorized by the Wildlife Board and issued by the division to a qualified conservation organization for purposes of generating revenue to fund wildlife conservation activities in Utah and attracting a regional or national wildlife exposition to Utah.

(3) The selected conservation organization will conduct a random drawing at an exposition held in Utah to distribute the opportunity to receive wildlife expo permits.

(4) This rule is intended as authorization to issue one series of wildlife expo permits per year to one qualified conservation organization.

R657-55-2. Definitions.

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

(2) In addition:

(a) "Conservation organization" means a nonprofit chartered institution, corporation, foundation, or association founded for the purpose of promoting wildlife conservation.

(b) "Special nonresident expo permit" means one wildlife expo permit for each once-in-a-lifetime species that is only available to a nonresident hunter legally eligible to hunt in Utah.

(c) "Wildlife exposition" means a multi-day event held within the state of Utah that is sponsored by multiple wildlife conservation organizations as their national or regional convention or event that is open to the general public and designed to draw nationwide attendance of more than 10,000 individuals. The wildlife exposition may include wildlife conservation fund raising activities, outdoor exhibits, retail marketing of outdoor products and services, public awareness programs, and other similar activities.

(d) "Wildlife exposition audit" means an annual review by the division of the conservation organization's processes used to handle applications for expo permits and conduct the drawing, and the protocols associated with collecting and using client data.

(e) "Wildlife expo permit" means a permit which:

(i) is authorized by the Wildlife Board to be issued to successful applicants through a drawing or random selection process conducted at a Utah wildlife exposition; and

(ii) allows the permittee to hunt the designated species on the designated unit during the respective season for each species as authorized by the Wildlife Board.

(f) "Wildlife expo permit series" means a single package of permits to be determined by the Wildlife Board for:

(i) deer;

(ii) elk;

(iii) pronghorn;

(iv) moose;

(v) bison;

(vi) rocky mountain goat;

(vii) desert bighorn sheep;

(viii) rocky mountain bighorn sheep;

- (ix) wild turkey;
- (x) cougar; or
- (xi) black bear.

(g) "Secured opportunity" means the opportunity to receive a specified wildlife expo permit that is secured by an eligible applicant through the exposition drawing process.

(h) "Successful applicant" means an individual selected to receive a wildlife expo permit through the drawing process.

R657-55-3. Wildlife Expo Permit Allocation.

(1) The Wildlife Board may allocate wildlife expo permits by May 1 of the year preceding the wildlife exposition.

(2) Wildlife expo permits shall be issued as a single series to one conservation organization.

(3) The number of wildlife expo permits authorized by the Wildlife Board shall be based on:

(a) the species population trend, size, and distribution to protect the long-term health of the population;

(b) the hunting and viewing opportunity for the general public, both short and long term; and

(c) a percentage of the permits available to nonresidents in the annual big game drawings matched by a proportionate number of resident permits.

(4) Wildlife expo permits, including special nonresident expo permits, shall not exceed 200 total permits.

(5) Wildlife expo permits designated for the exposition each year shall be deducted from the number of public drawing permits.

R657-55-4. Obtaining Authority to Distribute Wildlife Expo Permit Series.

(1)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (b), the wildlife expo permit series is issued for a period of five years.

(b) For expo contracts governing the 2017 expo, and all expo contracts thereafter, the original five year term may be extended an additional period not to exceed five years, so long as:

(i) the division and conservation organization mutually agree in writing to an extension; and

(ii) the contract extension is approved by the Wildlife Board.

(2) The wildlife expo permit series is available to eligible conservation organizations for distribution through a drawing or other random selection process held at a wildlife exposition in Utah open to the public.

(3) Conservation organizations may apply for the wildlife expo permit series by sending an application to the division between August 1 and September 1 of the year preceding the expiration of each wildlife exposition term, as provide in R657-55-4(1).

(4) Each application must include:

(a) the name, address and telephone number of the conservation organization;

- (b) a description of the conservation organization's mission statement;
 - (c) the name of the president or other individual responsible for the administrative operations of the conservation organization; and
 - (d) a detailed business plan describing how the wildlife exposition will take place and how the wildlife expo permit drawing procedures will be carried out.
- (5) An incomplete or incorrect application may be rejected.
- (6) The division shall recommend to the Wildlife Board which conservation organization may receive the wildlife expo permit series based on:
- (a) the business plan for the wildlife exposition and drawing procedures contained in the application; and
 - (b) the conservation organization's, including its constituent entities, ability, including past performance in marketing conservation permits under Rule R657-41, to effectively plan and complete the wildlife exposition.
- (7) The Wildlife Board shall make the final assignment of the wildlife expo permit series based on the:
- (a) division's recommendation;
 - (b) applicant conservation organization's commitment to use expo permit handling fee revenue to benefit protected wildlife in Utah;
 - (c) historical contribution of the applicant conservation organization, including its constituent entities, to the conservation of wildlife in Utah; and
 - (d) previous performance of the applicant conservation organization, including its constituent entities.
- (8) The conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series must:
- (a) require each wildlife expo permit applicant to possess a current Utah hunting or combination license before applying for a wildlife expo permit;
 - (b) select successful applicants for wildlife convention permits by drawing or other random selection process in accordance with law, provisions of this rule, proclamation, and order of the Wildlife Board;
 - (c) allow applicants to apply for wildlife expo permits without purchasing admission to the wildlife exposition;
 - (d) notify the division of the successful applicant of each wildlife expo permit within 10 days of the applicant's selection;
 - (e) maintain records demonstrating that the drawing was conducted fairly; and
 - (f) submit to an annual wildlife exposition audit by a division appointed auditor.
- (9) The division shall issue the appropriate wildlife expo permit to the designated successful applicant after:
- (a) completion of the random selection process;
 - (b) verification of the recipient being eligible for the permit; and

(c) payment of the appropriate permit fee is received by the division.

(10) The division and the conservation organization receiving the wildlife expo permit series shall enter into a contract, including the provisions outlined in this rule.

(11) If the conservation organization awarded the wildlife expo permit series withdraws before the end of the 5 year period or any extension period under R657-55-4(1)(b), any remaining co-participant with the conservation organization may be given an opportunity to assume the contract and to distribute the expo permit series consistent with the contract and this rule for the remaining years in the applicable period, provided:

(a) The original contracted conservation organization submits a certified letter to the division identifying that it will no longer be participating in the exposition.

(b) The partner or successor conservation organization files an application with the division as provided in Subsection (4) for the remaining period.

(c) The successor conservation organization submits its application request at least 60 days prior to the next scheduled exposition so that the wildlife board can evaluate the request under the criteria in this section.

(d) The Wildlife Board authorizes the successor conservation organization to assume the contract and complete the balance of the expo permit series period.

(12) The division may suspend or terminate the conservation organization's authority to distribute wildlife expo permits at any time during the original five year award term or any extension period for:

(a) violating any of the requirements set forth in this rule or the contract; or

(b) failing to bring or organize a wildlife exposition in Utah, as described in the business plan under R657-55-4(4)(d), in any given year.

R657-55-5. Wildlife Expo Permit Application Procedures.

(1) Any person legally eligible to hunt in Utah may apply for a wildlife expo permit, except that only a nonresident of Utah may apply for a special nonresident expo permit.

(2) Any handling fee assessed by the conservation organization to process applications shall not exceed \$5 per application submitted.

(3)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), applicants must validate their application in person at the wildlife exposition to be eligible to participate in the wildlife expo permit drawing.

(i) No person may submit an application in behalf of another.

(ii) A person may validate their wildlife expo permit application at the exposition without having to enter the exposition and pay the admission charge.

(b) An applicant that is a member of the United States Armed Forces and unable to attend the wildlife exposition as a result of being deployed or mobilized in the interest of national defense or a national emergency is not required to validate their application in person; provided exposition administrators are furnished a copy of the written deployment or mobilization orders and the orders identify:

(i) the branch of the United States Armed forces from which the applicant is deployed or mobilized;

- (ii) the location where the applicant is deployed or mobilized;
- (iii) the date the applicant is required to report to duty; and
- (iv) the nature and length of the applicant's deployment or mobilization.

(c) The conservation organization shall maintain a record, including copies of military orders, of all applicants that are not required to validate their applications in person pursuant to Subsection (3)(b), and submit to a division audit of these records as part of its annual audit under R657-55-4(8)(f).

(4) Applicants may apply for each individual hunt for which they are eligible.

(5) Applicants may apply only once for each hunt, regardless of the number of permits for that hunt.

(6) Applicants must submit an application for each desired hunt.

(7) Applicants must possess a current Utah hunting or combination license in order to apply for a wildlife expo permit.

(8) The conservation organization shall advertise, accept, and process applications for wildlife expo permits and conduct the drawing in compliance with this rule and all other applicable laws.

R657-55-6. Drawing Procedures.

(1) A random drawing or selection process must be conducted for each wildlife expo permit.

(2) Preference and bonus points are neither awarded nor applied in the drawings.

(3) Waiting periods do not apply, except any person who obtains a wildlife expo permit for a once-in-a-lifetime species is subject to the once-in-a-lifetime restrictions applicable to obtaining a subsequent permit for the same species through a division application and drawing process, as provided in Rule R657-5 and the proclamation of the Wildlife Board for taking big game.

(4) No predetermined quotas or restrictions shall be imposed in the application or selection process for wildlife expo permits between resident and nonresident applicants, except that special nonresident expo permits may only be awarded to a nonresident of Utah.

(5) Drawings will be conducted within five days of the close of the exposition.

(6) Applicants do not have to be present at the drawing to be awarded a wildlife expo permit.

(7) The conservation organization shall identify all eligible alternates for each wildlife expo permit and provide the division with a finalized list. This list will be maintained by the conservation organization until all permits are issued.

(8) The division shall contact successful applicants by phone or mail, and the conservation organization shall post the name of all successful applicants on a designated website.

R657-55-7. Issuance of Permits.

(1) The division shall provide a wildlife expo permit to the successful applicant, as designated by the conservation organization.

(2) The division must provide a wildlife expo permit to each successful applicant, except as otherwise provided in this rule.

(3) The division shall provide each successful applicant a letter indicating the permit secured in the drawing, the appropriate fee owed the division, and the date the fee is due.

(4)(a) Successful applicants must provide the permit fee payment in full to the division.

(b) Subject to the limitation in Subsection (8), the division will issue the designated wildlife expo permit to the applicant.

(5) Residents will pay resident permit fees and nonresidents will pay nonresident permit fees.

(6) Applicants are eligible to obtain only one permit per species, except as provided in Rule R657-5, but no restrictions apply on obtaining permits for multiple species.

(7) If an applicant is selected for more than one expo permit for the same species, the division will contact the applicant to determine which permit the applicant selects.

(a) The applicant must select the permit of choice within five days of receiving notification.

(b) If the division is unable to contact the applicant within 5 days, the division will issue to the applicant the permit with the most difficult drawings odds based on drawing results from the division's big game drawing for the preceding year.

(c) Permits not issued to the applicant will go to the next person on the alternate drawing list for that permit.

(8) Any successful applicant who fails to satisfy the following requirements will be ineligible to receive the wildlife expo permit and the next drawing alternate for that permit will be selected:

(a) The applicant fails to return the appropriate permit fee in full by the date provided in Subsection (3);

(b) The applicant does not possess a valid Utah hunting or combination license at the time the expo permit application was submitted and the permit received; or

(c) The applicant is legally ineligible to possess the permit.

R657-55-8. Surrender or Transfer of Wildlife Expo Permits.

(1)(a) A person selected to receive a wildlife expo permit that is also successful in obtaining a Utah limited entry permit for the same species in the same year or successful in obtaining a general permit for a male animal of the same species in the same year, may not possess both permits and must select the permit of choice.

(b) In the event a secured opportunity is willingly surrendered before the permit is issued, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list will be selected to receive the permit.

(c) In the event the wildlife expo permit is surrendered, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it, and the permit fee may be refunded, as provided in Sections 23-19-38, 23-19-38.2, and R657-42-5.

(2) A person selected by a conservation organization to receive a wildlife expo permit, may not sell or transfer the permit, or any rights thereunder to another person in accordance with Section 23-19-1.

(3) If a person is successful in obtaining a wildlife expo permit but is legally ineligible to hunt in Utah, the next eligible applicant on the alternate drawing list for that permit will be selected to receive it.

R657-55-9. Using a Wildlife Expo Permit.

(1) A wildlife expo permit allows the recipient to:

- (a) take only the species for which the permit is issued;
- (b) take only the species and sex printed on the permit;
- (c) take the species only in the area and during the season specified on the permit; and
- (d) take the species only with the weapon type specified on the permit.

(2) The recipient of a wildlife expo permit is subject to all of the provisions of Title 23, Wildlife Resources Code, and the rules and proclamations of the Wildlife Board for taking and pursuing wildlife.

R657-55-10. Wildlife Expo Permit -- Application Fee Revenue.

(1) All wildlife expo permit, application fee revenue generated by the conservation organization under R657-55-5(2) will be deposited in a separate, federally insured account to prevent commingling with any other funds.

(a) All interest earned on application fee revenue may be retained and used by the conservation organization for administrative expenses.

(2) The conservation organization may retain up to \$3.50 of each \$5.00 application fee for administrative expenses.

(3) The remaining balance of each \$5.00 application fee will be used by the conservation organization to fund projects advancing wildlife interests in the state, subject to the following:

(a) project funding will not be committed to or expended on any project without first obtaining the division director's written approval;

(b) cash donations to the Wildlife Habitat Account created under Section 23-19-43 or Division Species Enhancement Funds are authorized projects that do not require the division director's approval; and

(c) application fee revenue dedicated to funding projects must be completely expended on or committed to approved projects by September 1st, two years following the year in which the application fee revenue is collected, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the division director.

(4) All records and receipts for projects under Subsection (3) must be retained by the conservation organization for a period not less than five years, and shall be produced to the division for inspection upon request.

(5) The conservation organization shall submit a report to the division and Wildlife Board each year no later than September 1st that accounts for and documents the following:

(a) gross revenue generated from collecting \$5 wildlife expo permit application fees;

(b) total amount of application fee revenue retained for administrative expenses;

(c) total amount of application fee revenue set aside and dedicated to funding projects; and

(d) description of each project funded with application fee revenue, including the date of funding, the amount of funding contributed, and the completion status of the project.

(6) An organization that individually receives application fee revenue from the expo permit drawing pursuant to a co-participant contract with the conservation organization, is subject to the provisions in Subsections (1) through (5).

KEY

wildlife, wildlife permits

Date of Enactment or Last Substantive Amendment

March 16, 2015

Notice of Continuation

May 5, 2015

Authorizing, Implemented, or Interpreted Law

23-14-18; 23-14-19

Attachment 2

Sportsmen for Fish & Wildlife		FY Approved	Source	Approved	Complete
3149	Black Mesa Pond Cleaning	2014	SFW Expo	\$ 9,180.00	
3092	Buckskin and 5 Mile Catchment Apron Repairs	2013	SFW Expo	\$ 14,148.00	
3151	David Edwards Fencing Project	2014	SFW Expo		\$48,219.60
3146	Mule Deer Transplants FY13-14	2013	SFW Expo		\$106,430.80
3156	Pahvant Deer Translocation from Parowan Front	2014	SFW Expo		\$59,655.00
3186	Pahvant spring rehabilitation	2014	SFW Expo		\$13,635.00
3508	Parowan Front deer translocation	2015	SFW Expo		\$51,709.00
3161	Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase I	2014	SFW Expo	\$ 3,000.00	
3161	Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase I	2014	SFW Expo	\$ 10,000.00	
3397	Richfield Upland Game and Waterfowl Management Project Phase II	2016	SFW Expo	\$ 58,050.00	
2767	South Slope Feral Horse Gather	2014	SFW Expo		\$34,817.20
3499	South Slope Feral Horse Gather Phase II	2016	SFW Expo	\$ 40,000.00	
2633	Sowers Canyon SFW Property Habitat Improvement	2014	SFW Expo	\$ 6,125.00	
3246	Support for Congressional Sportsman's Foundation	2015	SFW Expo	\$ 50,000.00	
3236	West Vernon Phase 5: Lion Hill	2016	SFW Expo	\$ 5,000.00	
3147	Youth Recruitment and retention pheasant program	2014	SFW Expo	\$ 62,413.50	
				\$ 257,916.50	\$314,466.60

Mule Deer Foundation		FY Approved	Source	Approved	Complete
3526	Advancing Hunting and Angling Sports	2015	MDF Expo		\$50,000.00
3512	Bruce Hall Hardware Ranch	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 24,369.15	
3281	Coal Hollow, Kane County - Phase II	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 2,500.00	
3321	Crouse Canyon Brows Plots	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 1,218.40	
3308	Dark Canyon Plateau Phase III	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 5,000.00	
3151	David Edwards Fencing Project	2014	MDF Expo		\$48,219.60
3137	Deer Fawn/Adult Survival FY15	2015	MDF Expo		\$22,400.00
2918	Dugout Flat Reseeding	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 20,000.00	
3505	Efficacy of Translocation as a Management Tool for Urban Mule Deer in Utah	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 5,940.00	
3500	Gordon Creek WMA Shrub Planting	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 12,250.00	
2076	Harmlin Valley Habitat Restoration Project - Sagebrush Restoration Year I	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 10,000.00	
3187	Left Fork Stewardship Project	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 40,000.00	
2931	Little Mountain Bullhog	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 20,000.00	
3350	McMillan Spring Phase III	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 30,000.00	
2675	McMillan Springs Phase 2	2014	MDF Expo		\$5,500.00
2675	McMillan Springs Phase 2	2014	MDF Expo	\$ 16,458.02	\$16,458.02
3181	MDF Statewide Water Storage Maintenance Repair FY15	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 15,000.00	
2805	MDF Stewardship Position FY14	2014	MDF Expo		\$30,000.00
3120	MDF Stewardship Position FY15	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 30,000.00	
3497	MDF Stewardship Position FY16	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 30,000.00	
3019	Mill Fork Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project (Phase 2)	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 2,500.00	
3498	Outdoor Adventure Days Sponsorship	2015	MDF Expo		\$5,000.00
3441	Park Valley Winter Range Bullhog	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 5,000.00	
3234	Roughneck Vegetation Restoration (Phase II)	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 5,000.00	
3282	Sheep Creek Phase 3: Sheep Creek North	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 5,000.00	
2808	Stockton Shrub Planting	2014	MDF Expo		\$1,740.77
3370	Temple Fork Juniper Restoration	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 4,250.00	
3314	Timber Mountain Wildlife Drinker	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 2,000.00	
3250	Transplant trailer for deer	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 14,000.00	
3496	Volunteer Mileage Reimbursement for Urban Deer Transplant	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 2,500.00	
3236	West Vernon Phase 5: Lion Hill	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 5,000.00	
2865	Wood Hollow Fire Bitterbrush Seeding	2014	MDF Expo		\$4,591.64
3263	Yellowjacket (Farm Canyon)	2016	MDF Expo	\$ 10,000.00	
3495	Youth Education	2015	MDF Expo	\$ 25,000.00	
2814	Youth Outdoor Experience 2013	2013	MDF Expo	\$ 2,500.00	
				\$ 345,485.57	\$183,910.03

2016 Expo Permits by Species and Residency

		TOTAL PERMITS		
		Res	NonRes	Total
Grand Total		144	56	200

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bison	Henry Mtns	Hunters Choice Early	1	0	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Hunters Choice Late (Non Resident Only)	0	1	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Cow Only Early	0	1	1
Bison	Henry Mtns	Cow Only Late	1	0	1
TOTAL			2	2	4

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Black Bear	Wasatch Mtns, West	Summer, Any Legal Weapon, No Dogs	1	1	2
Black Bear	La Sal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
Black Bear	Nine Mile	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowitz	Fall, Any Legal Weapon	1	0	1
Black Bear	Bookcliffs, Bittercreek/South	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	S. Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn./Vernal	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	Central Mountains, Manti North	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	0	1
Black Bear	San Juan	Spring, Any Legal Weapon, No Bait	1	1	2
TOTAL			8	3	11

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, North	Any Weapon	6	3	9
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs, South	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Archery	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	Muzzleloader	3	1	4
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oakcreek	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Premium Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	Management Buck	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Any Weapon	2	1	3
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Premium Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	Management Buck	1	0	1
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Any Weapon	4	1	5
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Archery	1	1	2
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	Any Weapon	1	1	2
TOTAL			32	13	45

			PERMITS		
Species	Area	Condition	Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1

Bull Elk	Cache, South	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Cache, South	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (early)	5	2	7
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	Archery	4	2	6
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Muzzleloader	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (early)	2	1	3
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Any Weapon (late)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Archery	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (early)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon (late)	1	1	2
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	Muzzleloader	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Archery	1	0	1
Bull Elk	San Juan	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (early)	5	3	8
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Any Weapon (late)	3	1	4
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Archery	6	3	9
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Muzzleloader	3	2	5
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	Multi-Season	1	0	1
TOTAL			69	22	91

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns		1	0	1
Bull Moose	Wasatch Mtns/Central Mtns	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
TOTAL			1	1	2

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Cougar	Plateau-Boulder	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Plateau-Fishlake	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountains, Nebo	Limited Entry	1	0	1
Cougar	Central Mountains, Northeast Manti	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Paunsaugunt	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Panguitch Lake	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
Cougar	Mt. Dutton	Split, Limited Entry/Harvest Objective	1	0	1
TOTAL			7	0	7

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Desert Bighorn Sheep	Zion	Non Resident Only (Early Season)	0	1	1

Desert Bighorn Sheep	Kaiparowits, West		1	0	1
TOTAL			1	1	2

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Pronghorn	Bookcliffs, South	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Any Weapon	3	1	4
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	Archery	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt, Johns Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Plateau	Archery	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau	Muzzleloader	1	1	2
Pronghorn	Plateau	Any Weapon	3	2	5
Pronghorn	Pine Valley	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	Any Weapon	1	0	1
Pronghorn	Southwest Desert	Any Weapon	2	1	3
TOTAL			16	6	22

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtn	Any Weapon (early)	1	0	1
Rocky Mtn. Bighorn Sheep	Nine Mile, Range Creek	Non Resident Only (early season)	0	1	1
TOTAL			1	1	2

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Rocky Mtn. Goat	No. Slope/So. Slope, High Uintas West		1	1	2
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (early)	Non Resident Only	0	1	1
Rocky Mtn. Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (late)		1	0	1
TOTAL			2	2	4

Species	Area	Condition	PERMITS		
			Res	NonRes	Total
Turkey	Northern Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Northeast Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Central Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Southern Region		1	1	2
Turkey	Southeast Region		1	1	2
TOTAL			5	5	10

Preliminary Multi-Year Conservation Permit List (2016-2018)

8/3/2015

Species	Area	Permits	Type
Antlerless Elk	Cache	4	
Antlerless Elk	South Slope	4	
Antlerless Elk	LaSal	4	
Antlerless Elk	Manti	3	
Antlerless Elk	Wasatch (whole unit)	4	

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Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	Henry Mtns	1	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	2	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	2	Archery
Buck Deer	Paunsaugunt	2	Any Weapon
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	2	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	2	Archery
Buck Deer	Book Cliffs	2	Any Weapon
Buck Deer	Cache, Crawford Mtn	1	Choice of season
Buck Deer	Fillmore, Oak Creek	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	LaSal, Dolores Triangle	1	Choice of season
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	2	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	1	Archery
Buck Deer	North Slope, Summit	2	Any Weapon
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	San Juan, Elk Ridge	1	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	1	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	1	Archery
Buck Deer	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	2	Any Weapon
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	2	Choice of season
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	2	Muzzleloader
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	2	Archery
Buck Deer	West Desert, Vernon	2	Any Weapon
Buck Deer	Statewide	1	

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Bull Elk	Beaver, East	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Beaver, East	1	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	2	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	4	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	1	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Box Elder, Grouse Creek	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Cache, Meadowville	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Cache, North	1	Multi-season

Bull Elk	Cache, North	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Cache, South	2	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Cache, South	4	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Cache, South	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Cache, South	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	2	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	4	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Manti	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Central Mtns, Nebo	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Fillmore, Pahvant	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	1	Archery
Bull Elk	La Sal, La Sal Mtns	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Monroe	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Monroe	1	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Mt Dutton	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Nine Mile, Anthro	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	North Slope, Three Corners	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	North Slope, Three Corners	1	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Oquirrh-Stansbury	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Oquirrh-Stansbury	1	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Panguitch Lake	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Paunsaugunt	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	2	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	4	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Plateau, Fishlake/Thousand Lakes	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	San Juan	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	San Juan	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	2	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	South Slope, Diamond Mtn	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	2	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	4	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	1	Archery
Bull Elk	Southwest Desert	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	2	Multi-season
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	4	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	1	Archery

Bull Elk	Wasatch Mtns	1	Muzzleloader
Bull Elk	West Desert, Deep Creek	1	Multi-season
Bull Elk	West Desert, Deep Creek	1	Any Weapon
Bull Elk	Statewide	1	

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Pronghorn	Beaver	1	
Pronghorn	Book Cliffs, South	1	
Pronghorn	Box Elder, Puddle Valley	1	
Pronghorn	Cache/Morgan-South Rich/Ogden	5	
Pronghorn	Fillmore, Black Rock	1	
Pronghorn	Mt Dutton/Paunsaugunt, John's Valley	2	
Pronghorn	Nine Mile, Anthro	2	
Pronghorn	North Slope, Three Corners/West Daggett	1	
Pronghorn	Pine Valley	2	
Pronghorn	Plateau	8	
Pronghorn	San Rafael, North	2	
Pronghorn	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn	1	
Pronghorn	South Slope, Vernal	1	
Pronghorn	Southwest Desert	5	
Pronghorn	West Desert, Riverbed	1	
Pronghorn	West Desert, Rush Valley	1	
Pronghorn	West Desert, Snake Valley	1	
Pronghorn	Statewide	1	

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Bull Moose	Wasatch Mountains	2	
Bull Moose	Statewide	1	

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Mountain Goat	Beaver (early)	1	
Mountain Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas Central	1	
Mountain Goat	North Slope/South Slope, High Uintas West	1	
Mountain Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (early)	1	
Mountain Goat	Ogden, Willard Peak (late)	1	
Mountain Goat	Statewide	1	

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Bison	Book Cliffs, Wild Horse Bench, Hunter's Choice	1	
Bison	Henry Mtns, Hunter's Choice (early)	1	
Bison	Henry Mtns, Hunter's Choice (late)	1	
Bison	Henry Mtns, Cow Only (early)	1	
Bison	Statewide	1	

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RMBHS	Book Cliffs, South	1	
RMBHS	Box Elder, Newfoundland Mtns (early)	1	
RMBHS	Nine Mile, Range Creek (early)	1	
RMBHS	Nine Mile, Range Creek (late)	1	
RMBHS	Statewide	1	

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DBHS	Kaiparowits (Comb)	1	
DBHS	SER (Comb)	1	

DBHS	San Rafael (Comb)	1	
DBHS	Zion (early)	1	
DBHS	Zion (late)	1	
DBHS	Statewide	1	

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Turkey	Northern Region	8	
Turkey	Central Region	7	
Turkey	Northeastern Region	8	
Turkey	Southeastern Region	8	
Turkey	Southern Region	7	
Turkey	Statewide	1	

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Bear	Chalk Creek/Kamas/North Slope, Summit	1	
Bear	South Slope, Yellowstone	1	
Bear	South Slope, Bonanza/Diamond Mtn/Vernal	2	
Bear	Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek/South	3	
Bear	Book Cliffs, Little Creek Roadless	1	
Bear	Nine Mile	1	
Bear	La Sal	4	
Bear	San Juan	4	
Bear	Central Mtns, Nebo	1	
Bear	Central Mtns, Manti-North	2	
Bear	Central Mtns, Manti-South/San Rafael, North	1	
Bear	Wasatch Mtns, West	2	
Bear	Wasatch Mtns, Avintaquin/Currant Creek	1	
Bear	Beaver	1	
Bear	Plateau, Boulder/Kaiparowits	2	
Bear	Panguitch Lake/Zion	1	
Bear	Statewide	1	

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Cougar	Box Elder, Desert and Raft River	1	
Cougar	Cache	1	
Cougar	Central Mountains, Nebo and Nebo, West Face	1	
Cougar	Central Mountains, Manti	2	
Cougar	Chalk Creek/Kamas, East Canyon, Morgan-South Rich	1	
Cougar	Mt. Dutton	1	
Cougar	Oquirrh-Stansbury/West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	1	
Cougar	Plateau, Boulder	1	
Cougar	Plateau, Fishlake	1	
Cougar	Statewide	1	

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January 25, 2015

Wildlife Board Members
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
1594 West North Temple
Box 146301
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-6301

To Wildlife Board Members,

My name is Carl Watson and I am writing this request for a variance to the law that prohibits the possession of a bobcat for personal use. In the summer of 2007 I purchased a bobcat, lynx rufus, from a licensed breeder unbeknownst to me that it was against the law. At the time of purchase, the seller had been breeding and selling bobcats and lynx in captivity for 22 years. I knew that it was illegal to take animals from the wild as pets, however, where I was buying a cat born and raised in captivity from a licensed breeder; it never crossed my mind that my actions would be unlawful.

I know that these animals are not for everyone. My father and mother, who possess the cat, have a wealth of knowledge with animals of this nature. My dad has a degree in wildlife biology from Utah State and worked as a government trapper for 15 years. My mother's father was a trapper as well and she spent many years raising bobcats, raccoons, a coyote, and ring tail cats. Everyone that comes to see the cat is advised that animals like these are a lot of work and not recommended.

The bobcat is in good health. It regularly sees the local vet for health checkups. She has been spayed and her claws and fangs have been removed. Raw beef is cut up into cubes and fed to her night and day. The cat lives in the basement of my parents' house where there is only one door that accesses the living area. A conservation officer has been to the living area and believes there is no danger to the cat or the public.

If at all possible we would like to find a way to keep the cat until the end of its life. We are trying to do everything we can to right this wrong and be compliant to the state and local laws.

Thank you for your time,

Carl Watson
285 West 200 South
Delta, Utah 84624
Phone: (435)864-8118



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J SHEEHAN
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2015

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Staci Coons, Chair
Certification Review Committee

RE: Variance Request from Mr. Carl Watson for the personal possession of a captive-bred Bobcat.

The Certification Review Committee met July 27, 2015, to discuss the above-mentioned variance request to Rule R657-3, for the possession of a bobcat.

In attendance were: Leslie McFarlane for Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief; Roger Wilson, Aquatic Section Chief; Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief; Rick Olson for Tony Wood, Law Enforcement Chief; Jodee Baker for Robert Rolfs, Department of Health; Anna Marie Forest, Fish Health Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Suzanne McMullin, COR Licensing Specialist; and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

ANALYSIS

The committee evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-3-36. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The committee expressed no concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public as the bobcat has had claws and fangs removed. The bobcat has been in possession since 2007.
2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts on wildlife or domestic animals.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts** - The committee had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.
4. **The suitability of the facilities** - The committee has no concerns with the suitability of the facilities.



5. **Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The committee has no concerns with the experience of the owners. Mr. Watson worked as a government trapper for 15 years and holds a degree in wildlife biology from Utah State.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, after careful evaluation, recommends that the request be approved with the following stipulations:

1. The committee recommends that appropriate documentation be provided to the Division of Wildlife Resources proving the bobcat was purchased from a breeder and not taken from the wild.
2. The committee recommends that Mr. Watson receive permission from the city to house the bobcat within the city limits. Note: - This requirement has been met. An email was received from Todd Andersen, Delta City Attorney indicating that the city would be willing to “grandfather” the bobcat into the rule and allow for the bobcat to stay within city limits for the remainder of its life.
3. The committee further recommends that the Certificate of Registration issued to Mr. Watson prohibit the transfer of the bobcat to any other persons.
4. The committee recommends that Mr. Watson also obtain a health certificate from the Veterinarian currently seeing the bobcat.
5. The committee recommends that the Certificate of Registration be for the life of the animal and that when the animal is deceased the Certificate of Registration will become void.

cc: Certification Review Committee Members
Carl Watson

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

RECORD OF ACQUISITION, DISPOSITION OR TRANSPORT
OF ANIMALS (Other Than Dogs and Cats)

1. INVOICE NO.

2. PAGE

1 OF

3. DATE OF DISPOSITION

8-15-07

4. DEALER'S LICENSE NO.

MT Lic # 13030801062

SALE EXCHANGE OR TRANSFER DONATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete applicable Items 1 through 13. Original and one copy to accompany animals. When delivery is made - Items 14 through 20 must be completed. Original retained by Buyer (Receiver) and copy one returned to Dealer (Seller or Donor). Copy two to be retained by Dealer (Seller or Donor). Attach Continuation Sheet (APHIS FORM 7020A) as needed.

4. SELLER OR DONOR (Name and Address, include Zip Code)

Bitterroot Bobcat & Lynx
Barbara Roe
3615 Hwy 93 N.
Stevensville, MT 59870
(406) 777-2036

6. BUYER OR RECEIVER (Name and Address, include Zip Code)

Carl Watson
1010 Bossard Rd
Anaconda, MT 59711

7. USDA LICENSE NO. (If any)

81-A-0027

8. IDENTIFICATION OF ANIMALS BEING DELIVERED

A. CONTAINER TAG NO., CRATE OR PEN NO.	B. NO. ANIMALS	C. PREVIOUS INVOICE NO. (if any)	D. INDIVIDUAL IDENT., TATTOOS, TAG NOS. (if applicable)	E. SPECIES	AGE - SEX		H. EST. WEIGHT (lbs.)	I. REMARKS (Condition, etc.)	RECEIVER'S USE	
					F. NO. YOUNG	G. NO. ADULT			J.	K.
	<u>1</u>			<u>MT Bobcat (Lynx Rufus Superiorensis)</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>1/2 lb</u>	<u>Fe Kitten born Summer '07</u>		
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>				

DELIVERY BY COMMERCIAL CARRIER

9. DELIVERY BY ("X" one)

Buyer's Truck

Dealer's Truck (Seller or Donor)

10. TRUCK LICENSE NO.

Shipped via Delta

11. BILL OF LADING NO.

12. NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPANY OR FIRM

13. NAME AND ADDRESS OF TRUCK DRIVER

00001081470

DELIVERY RECEIPT - TO BE COMPLETED BY BUYER OR RECEIVER

14. ANIMALS DELIVERED WERE ("X" one)

IN APPARENT GOOD CONDITION

POOR CONDITION

REJECTED (Attach explanation for rejection)

15. TOTAL NUMBER RECEIVED

1

16. NUMBER DEAD

0

17. NUMBER ALIVE

1

18. BY (Signature)

X Carl Watson (bjr)

19. TITLE

Owner

20. DATE

8-15-07



Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
 PO Box 146500
 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
 (801) 538-7161

UTAH

CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION
 Contact State of Destination for Movement Requirements and Certificate Validity
 FOR FOREIGN SHIPMENTS (Outside United States or Leaving United States) USE FEDERAL FORM

87-N-02829

BRAND INSPECTION
 FORM # ISSUE DATE

INSPECTION DATE: 8-10-15

ISSUE DATE: 8/10/15

ENTRY PERMIT #:

NAME: SHELLY WATSON

NAME: SHELLY WATSON

NAME: SHELLY WATSON

CARRIER (Transporter)

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 340 E 300 S

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 340 E 300 S

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: 340 E 300 S

CITY, STATE: Delta, UT

CITY, STATE: Delta, UT

CITY, STATE: Delta, UT

PHONE: 435-864-4957

PHONE: 435-864-4957

PHONE: 435-864-4957

ORIGIN OF ANIMALS: same as above

DESTINATION OF ANIMALS: same as above

TEST RECORDS - Are legible copies of official charts (with individual animals identified and animals that are not shipped lined out) attached to all copies?

PREMISES ID#

PREMISES ID#

TEST RECORDS - Are legible copies of official charts (with individual animals identified and animals that are not shipped lined out) attached to all copies?

Species/Number in Shipment

Purpose(s) of Movement (check all that apply)

CARRIER

Beef Cattle #

Interstate Intrastate

Air Boat Car Mail

Horses #

Show Race Rodeo Sale Pet Breeding

Rail Trail Truck

Goats #

Feeding Grazing Training Slaughter

Other (specify):

Poultry #

Medical Treatment Other (specify):

TB Bruc PRV

VETERINARY CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

VETERINARY CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

Flock/Herd Free For: TB Bruc PRV

OFFICIAL/FEDERAL EAR TAG #

REGISTRATION TATTOO

Current State/Area Status: Tuberculosis: Free MAA MA

OR OTHER PERMANENT IDENTIFICATION

AGE

Bruc. Vacc. Status/Tattoo

1 Dusty (Bobcat)

8yr Bobcat

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

2 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

3 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

4 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

5 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

6 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

7 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

8 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

9 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

10 Spayed Female Domestic Bobcat

Supers old approx 11lbs

Date: Test: Accession #: Results +/-: Lab: Vaccination and/or Treatment

OWNER/AGENT STATEMENT

VETERINARY CERTIFICATION - I certify, as an accepted veterinarian, that the above described animals have been inspected by me and that they are not showing signs of infectious contagious and/or communicable disease (except where noted). The vaccinations and results of tests are indicated on the certificate. To the best of my knowledge, the animals listed on this certificate meet the state of destination and federal interstate requirements. No further warranty is made or implied.

OFFICIAL OFFICE USE ONLY

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

TEMPERATURE (if required) VACCINATION AND/OR TREATMENT Please list Date, Product, and Reason for Vaccination/Treatment

DATE

DATE

TEMPERATURE (if required) VACCINATION AND/OR TREATMENT Please list Date, Product, and Reason for Vaccination/Treatment

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

TEMPERATURE (if required) VACCINATION AND/OR TREATMENT Please list Date, Product, and Reason for Vaccination/Treatment

The Veterinarian issuing this certificate is accredited and has been authorized to inspect animals and issue certificates.

USDA ACCREDITATION (NVA) #

USDA ACCREDITATION (NVA) #

DISTRIBUTION: WHITE: State Veterinarian - Origin PINK: State Veterinarian - Destination CANARY: Owner BLUE: Accompany Shipment GOLDENROD: Remains in Book

DISTRIBUTION: WHITE: State Veterinarian - Origin PINK: State Veterinarian - Destination CANARY: Owner BLUE: Accompany Shipment GOLDENROD: Remains in Book

DISTRIBUTION: WHITE: State Veterinarian - Origin PINK: State Veterinarian - Destination CANARY: Owner BLUE: Accompany Shipment GOLDENROD: Remains in Book

453390

STATEMENT

DATE 8-2-07

TO
 Carl Watson
 340 E. 3005.
 Delta, UT 84624

TERMS

IN ACCOUNT WITH

Bitterroot Bobcat & Lynx
 Barbara Roe
 3615 Hwy 93 N.
 Stevensville, MT 59870
 (406) 777-2036

1	NW Bobcat Kitten Female - Summer '07	\$1250 ⁰⁰
	R.O.A. CK #220	-250 ⁰⁰
	Balance Due	\$1000 ⁰⁰
<p>Carl - I have a couple of real nice females - one of them will be ready to ship by mid August. I will call a week or so before she's ready.</p> <p>Thanks!</p> <p>B Barbara</p>		



Staci Coons <stacicoons@utah.gov>

Request for species reclassification

Ali S <storybookhedgehogs@gmail.com>

Mon, Dec 29, 2014 at 3:19 PM

To: stacicoons@utah.gov

Hello,

I would like to submit a request for species re-classification regarding lesser hedgehog tenrecs, or *Echinops telfairi*, of the tenrecidae family. I am requesting this because of their wonderful suitability as family pets.

Lesser hedgehog tenrecs are endemic to Madagascar, are slow to reproduce (only one litter per year, typical litter size is 1-4 babies), are prone to predation even in their native habitat, and cannot survive cooler temperatures. When exposed to temperatures lower than 70 degrees, tenrecs go into a form of hibernation called torpor. When exposed to temperatures lower than 65 degrees, they simply die. As pets, tenrecs are caged indoor pets only. They seem to be well suited to being a family pet, as they are quiet, slow, and for the most part just enjoy sleeping on the nearest, warmest person.

There is strong community support from hedgehog enthusiasts that recognize the similarities and even added benefits of tenrecs and hedgehogs. Because tenrecs can live into their teens, families that love the charm of the hedgehog but want a pet with a bit more longevity find their perfect match in a tenrec. Names of Utah residents hoping to get tenrecs onto the regulated list include: Ruth and Robert Aswin, Abby and Gregory Christiansen, Kobe and Tiffany Miller, Kelsey Jackman, Chris Neizer, Kim and Barbara Allen, Crystal Rasmussen, Anthony and Sara Vidal, Crystal and Chris Green, Destiny Long, Melissa Stevens, Sara and Jonathan Friedel, Adam and Amber Flora-Pendleton, Diana Calloway, Jessica Jaeckle, BethAnn Mayberry, Kathryn Smart, and Mariah Warner. The list is still growing, and there is also a Facebook page for people who hope to see tenrecs off the regulated list, found here: <https://www.facebook.com/utahfortenrecs>

Tenrecs are on the unregulated list for most states in the US, and that list has grown by chunks in the last 20 years. My goal is to add Utah to that list. I have contacted several experts in the species, like Jeanne Robtoy who has raised them since 2003 and worked with 2 states in getting tenrecs off the regulated list, Tina Clay who has also owned and raised them for about 12 years, and Jean Stockwell of Volcano View Hedgehogs, the current leading breeder and educator in the tenrec community. Since I have also owned my own tenrec since September (COR was approved in July), I have first person experience with their ownership, handling, and how they as a species relate to Utah.

Please keep me informed as to any questions you may have, I am eager to assist where I can. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Alison Spittler



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J SHEEHAN
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 6, 2015

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Staci Coons, Chair
Certification Review Committee

RE: Reclassification Request from Ms. Alison Spittler for lesser hedgehog tenrecs (*Echinops telfairi* of the tenrecidae family) to be removed from the Classification and Specific Rules list.

The Certification Review Committee met July 27, 2015, to discuss the above-mentioned reclassification request to Rule R657-53-24(1)(e).

In attendance were: Leslie McFarlane for Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief; Roger Wilson, Aquatic Section Chief; Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief; Rick Olson for Tony Wood, Law Enforcement Chief; Jodee Baker for Robert Rolfs, Department of Health; Anna Marie Forest, Fish Health Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Suzanne McMullin, COR Licensing Specialist; and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

ANALYSIS/RECOMMENDATION

The committee evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-3-35. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the committee recommends that lesser hedgehog tenrecs (*Echinops telfairi* of the tenrecidae family) be placed under section **R657-3-2. Species Not Covered by This Rule** and allow for the sale and possession of lesser hedgehog tenrecs as pets. The committee does not believe that lesser hedgehog tenrecs will have a detrimental effect on wildlife native to Utah nor is there believed to be a public health threat to those persons wishing to possess one. Lesser hedgehog tenrecs are not native to Utah and can be captive-bred and sold with a breeder's license from the USDA. Lesser hedgehog tenrecs are caged indoor pets and live in climates that do not drop below 50 Fahrenheit. It would be unlikely for lesser hedgehog tenrecs to survive in the wild in Utah.

cc: Certification Review Committee Members
Alison Spittler



July 21, 2015

Dear Certification Review Committee:

My name is Stephanie Merzel - 505 Huntridge Circle, Moab, Utah 84532 (435) 260-2458.

I am submitting a request for a variance regarding the personal care of a spotted skunk born April 15, 2015 in Kanarrville, Utah. After a dog attack, the skunk was sent to Second Chance Wildlife Rehab in Price, Utah where Debbie Pappas cared and assessed the animal. The skunk is healthy, but its back legs are paralyzed, therefore making it impossible to be returned to the wild.

Debbie selected me as a potential care-taker for the skunk as I have the time and means necessary to care for and afford him long term.

I have been a volunteer for the peregrine falcons at the Joseph Smith Memorial Building under the direction of Bob Walters for four years and have been working as a volunteer for Second Chance Wildlife for a year now. I have proven long term and loyal guardian for many diverse animals and can fulfill any special needs this spotted skunk may have.

I'm deeply interested in wildlife conservation and educating the public on the spotted skunk's unique place in nature and contribution to a healthy eco-system. By the way his name is, Kiva Peaches.

Thank you for your consideration,



Stephanie Merzel



GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

SPENCER J COX
Lieutenant Governor

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MICHAEL R. STYLER
Executive Director

Division of Wildlife Resources

GREGORY J SHEEHAN
Division Director

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 16, 2015

TO: Utah Wildlife Board

FROM: Staci Coons, Chair
Certification Review Committee

RE: Variance Request from Ms. Stephanie Merzel for the personal possession of an injured spotted skunk.

The Certification Review Committee met July 27, 2015, to discuss the above-mentioned variance request to Rule R657-3, for the possession of a spotted skunk.

In attendance were: Leslie McFarlane for Bill Bates, Wildlife Section Chief; Roger Wilson, Aquatic Section Chief; Kenny Johnson, Administrative Services Chief; Rick Olson for Tony Wood, Law Enforcement Chief; Jodee Baker for Robert Rolfs, Department of Health; Anna Marie Forest, Fish Health Specialist, Department of Agriculture, Suzanne McMullin, COR Licensing Specialist; and Staci Coons, Administrative Rules Coordinator.

ANALYSIS

The committee evaluated the merits of the request based on the criteria established by the Wildlife Board in R657-3-36. Based upon the criteria established by the Wildlife Board, the analyses and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

1. **The health, welfare, and safety of the public** - The committee expressed some concerns over health, welfare, and safety of the public as the spotted skunk is not able to be vaccinated against rabies. However, due to the injuries the spotted skunk has sustained, Ms. Merzel will be housing the spotted skunk indoors which will alleviate the risk of exposure.
2. **The health, welfare, safety and genetic integrity of wildlife, domestic livestock, poultry and other animals** - The committee has concerns with the spreading of skunk rabies in Colorado. Ms. Merzel will have to keep the spotted skunk away from all wild animals, including other skunks and raccoons.
3. **The ecological and environmental impacts** - The committee had no concerns with ecological or environmental impacts.



4. **The suitability of the facilities** - The committee has no concerns with the suitability of the facilities.
5. **Experience of the applicant for the proposed activity** - The committee has no concerns with the experience of the owner. Ms. Merzel has been working as a volunteer for Second Chance Wildlife and has access to additional resources if necessary.
6. **The ecological and environmental impacts on other states** - The committee had no significant concerns with impacts of this request on other states.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee, after careful evaluation, recommends that the request be approved with the following stipulations:

1. The committee recommends that Ms. Merzel receive permission from the city to house the spotted skunk within the city limits.
2. The committee recommends that the Certificate of Registration issued to Ms. Merzel prohibit the transfer of the spotted skunk to any other persons.
3. The committee further recommends that if the spotted skunk were to bite a human that the animal would be euthanized.
4. The committee also recommends that the Certificate of Registration be for the life of the animal and that when the animal is deceased the Certificate of Registration will become void.

cc: Certification Review Committee Members
Stephanie Merzel

Utah Cougar Management Plan



Cougar Management Plan Revision



- ⦿ 1999-2009 1st plan
- ⦿ 2009- 2011 1st revision and minor amendments
- ⦿ 2013 Wildlife Board directed the DWR to:
 - Simplify the plan
 - Allocate permits on a unit by unit basis
- ⦿ 2014 – requested 1 year to form advisory group

Cougar Advisory Group Members

Members		DWR	
⦿ BLM	Robin Naeve	⦿ Bill Bates	Facilitator
⦿ Deer Plan Rep	Mike Christensen	⦿ Leslie McFarlane	Chair
⦿ Farm Bureau	Garrick Hall	⦿ Dan Barnhurst	LE
⦿ FNAWS	Adam Bronson	⦿ Clint Mecham	Pred. Spec
⦿ Guides & Outfitters	Josh Horrocks	⦿ Dustin Mitchell	Biologist
⦿ Houndsmen-At-Large	Brett Guymon	⦿ Anita Candelaria	Minutes
⦿ MDF	Mike Laughter		
⦿ Non-consumptive	Brian Perkes		
⦿ SFW	Byron Bateman	WILDLIFE BOARD	
⦿ UHA	Dan Cockayne	⦿ Mike King	
⦿ USDA WS	Mike Linnell		
⦿ USU	Dr. David Stoner		
⦿ Utah Woolgrowers	Bret Selman		
⦿ UWC	Chad Coburn		
⦿ Western Wildlife Con.	Kirk Robinson		

Advisory Group Meetings

- ⦿ 5 Meetings held from December 2014 to April 2015
- ⦿ Over 50 hours spent on management plan



Plan Goal 2015 -2025

Maintain a healthy cougar population within their current distribution while considering human safety, economic concerns, other wildlife species, and maintaining hunting traditions.

Definition: A healthy cougar population is one that maintains:

- Reasonable proportion of older age animals
- Breeding females
- Healthy individuals
- Balance with its natural prey
- Genetic variability



Population Management Objective

Maintain cougar populations within their current statewide distribution in a manner that:

- ⦿ Recognizes large geographic and temporal scales
- ⦿ Stresses the importance of social structure for long-term viability
- ⦿ Direct hunter pressure on a management unit or sub-unit basis
- ⦿ Manage cougar abundance with respect to their ungulate prey

Cougar Harvest Strategies



- ◉ Limited Entry (LE)
- ◉ Split
- ◉ Harvest Objective (HO)

Cougar Management Strategies



- ◉ Cougar management
- ◉ Predator management

Performance Targets – Cougar Management



- ◉ Primary Target – Proportion of all females in the harvest <40% (averaged over 3 years)
- ◉ Secondary Target – Proportion of cougars ≥5 years old in the harvest between 15-20% (averaged over 3 years)

Cougar Management Strategies



- ◉ If proportion of females <40%
 - > ≥ 5 years old is ≥ 20% ↑
 - > ≥ 5 years old = 15-20% - may maintain, decrease or increase
 - > ≥ 5 years old <15% ↓
- ◉ If proportion of females ≥40% ↓
- ◉ Caveat – units with small sample sizes
- ◉ Select harvest strategy (LE, Split, HO)

Predator Management- Mule Deer

- ◉ Deer Population <65% of the unit objective in the previous year or;
- ◉ Deer Population <90% of unit objective and either condition below is met:
 - > Adult deer survival <84% for 2 of 3 years and has a declining trend or;
 - > Adult deer survival is <80% in the previous year and has a declining trend



Predator Management - Bighorn Sheep

- ◉ Population <90% unit objective
- ◉ Population is <125 animals



Bighorn Sheep and Mule Deer Transplants



Target areas where a transplant or re-introduction will occur in the next year

Predator Management Performance Target

Primary Target: Proportion of female cougars in the harvest $\geq 40\%$ (within a management area averaged over 3 years)



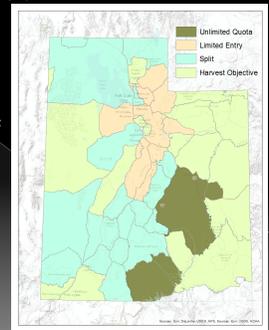
Predator Management Strategies

- Proportion of females in $<40\%$ may increase permits/quota up to 100% of the previous year
- Proportion of females $\geq 40\%$ then maintain permits/quota at current level
- Select harvest strategy (LE, HO, Split)



Bighorn Sheep Management Areas

- BHS are primary prey base for cougars
- Low elevation, snow-free habitat and little if any cougar harvest
- Open year-round with no limit on harvest



- > San Rafael
- > Kaiparowits
- > Book Cliffs-Rattlesnake

Bighorn Sheep-Predator Management



- Possess 2 cougar permits on unlimited quota units
- DWR employees to help remove cougars
- Contract with Wildlife Services
- Contract/authorize someone outside the agency to remove the depredating animal(s)

Evaluation

- Evaluate deer population response annually (based on 3 year average) to determine need to continue or discontinue predation management direction



Outreach and Education

- ◉ Increase awareness and appreciation for the role of cougars in Utah's ecosystems.
- ◉ Educate and increase awareness about cougar safety
- ◉ Provide educational opportunities on the relationship between cougar and prey populations
- ◉ Educate hunters how to tell the age/sex of cougars to increase harvest selectivity
- ◉ Increase educational opportunities for sportsmen and other user groups prior to RAC and Wildlife Board meetings.

Chronic Livestock Depredation

- ◉ Occurs on private land
- ◉ Same area for 3 consecutive years or 4 out of 5 years
- ◉ Wildlife Services has attempted to remove the animal but was unsuccessful

Cougar Research

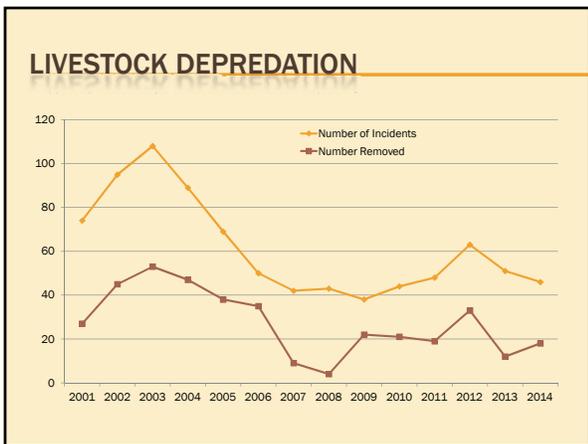
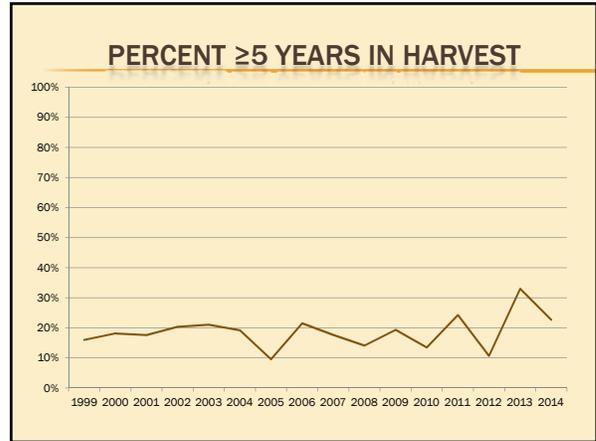
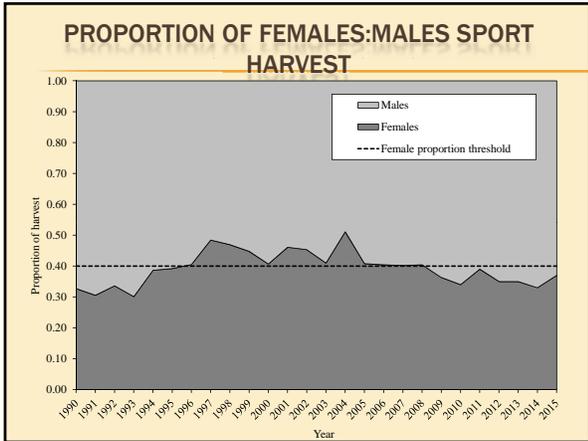
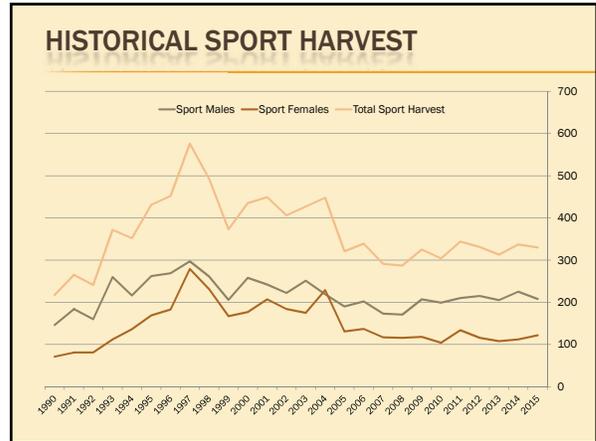
- ◉ Increase base understanding through continued research designed to address questions relative to cougar management in Utah



Summary

- ◉ Recommend this be a 10 year plan (2015-2025)
- ◉ Provides guidance and direction for managing Utah's cougar populations.
- ◉ Recommendations are simplified, will be on annual basis, and are unit by unit.
- ◉ Prey populations are considered
- ◉ Cougar recommendations will be made in accordance with this plan.
- ◉ Thanks again to the members of the Cougar Advisory Group for their efforts in drafting this plan





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NRO

Unit Name	Predator Mgmt (Deer/BHS/No)	2014-15 permits/quota	% females	% ≥5 yrs old	Recommended permits/quota	Strategy (LE, split, HO)
Box Elder, Desert	Deer/BHS	6	25%	0%	6	Split
Box Elder, Pilot Mountain	Deer/BHS	4	0%	50%	6	HO
Box Elder, Raft River	Deer	6	10%	30%	6	Split
Cache	No	15	31%	21%	20	Split
Chalk Creek/Kamas	No	8	25%	17%	8	LE
East Canyon	No	4	33%	10%	6	LE
East Canyon, Davis	Other	5	57%	29%	5	Split
Morgan-South Rich	No	6	44%	31%	8	LE
Ogden	No	15	44%	40%	14	HO

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NERO

Unit Name	Predator Mgmt (Deer/BHS/No)	2014-15 permits/quot a	% females	% >5 yrs old	Recommended permits/quot a	Strategy (LE, split, HO)
Book Cliffs, Bitter Creek	Deer	20	28%	30%	38	HO
North Slope, Three Corners	BHS	10	33%	27%	10	HO
North Slope, Summit/West Daggett	BHS	10	54%	33%	10	HO
South Slope, Vernal/Bonanza/Diamond	No	18	37%	20%	18	HO
South Slope, Yellowstone	No	10	31%	20%	10	HO
Wasatch Mountains, Avintaquin	BHS	15	32%	27%	15	HO
Wasatch Mountains, Currant CK	No	6	7%	46%	8	LE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CRO

Unit Name	Predator Mgmt (Deer/BHS/No)	2014-15 permits/quot a	% females	% >5 yrs old	Recommended Permits/Quota	Strategy (LE, split, HO)
Central Mountains, Nebo	Deer/BHS	9	38%	29%	9	LE
Central Mountains, Nebo-West Face	Deer/BHS	10	46%	13%	10	LE
Central Mountains, Northwest Manti	No	10	42%	12%	9	LE
Central Mountains, Southwest Manti	No	6	42%	26%	5	LE
Oquirrh-Stansbury	BHS	6	17%	53%	9	LE
Wasatch Mountains, Cascade	BHS	5	41%	0%	5	HO
Wasatch Mountains, Timpanogos	BHS	5	31%	18%	5	HO
Wasatch Mountains, West	No	9	36%	38%	9	LE
West Desert, Mountain Ranges	No	4	0%	0%	4	HO
West Desert, Tintic-Vernon	No	4	0%	0%	4	Split

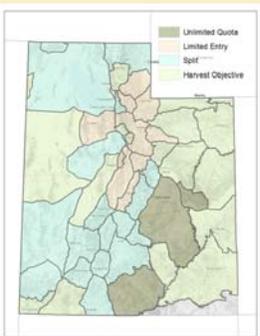
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SRO

Unit number	Predator Mgmt (Deer/BHS/No)	2014-15 permits/quot a	% females	% >5 yrs old	Recommended Permits/Quota	Strategy (LE, split, HO)
Beaver	No	10	43%	19%	9	Split
Fillmore, Oak Creek	BHS	12	13%	40%	12	HO
Fillmore, Pahvant	No	9	39%	30%	8	Split
Kaiparowits	Sheep	Unlimited	25%	25%	Unlimited	HO
Monroe	No	8	22%	7%	9	Split
Mt. Dutton	Transplant Goat/Deer	14	60%	25%	14	Split
Panguitch Lake	No	10	33%	14%	10	Split
Paunsaugunt	No	8	33%	36%	10	Split
Pine Valley, North	No	8	50%		8	Split
Pine Valley, South	BHS	10	29%		10	HO
Plateau, Boulder	No	11	34%	21%	11	Split
Plateau, Fishlake	No	10	27%	24%	12	Split
Plateau, Thousand Lakes	No	4	50%	20%	4	Split
Southwest Desert	No	8	17%	30%	9	Split
Zion	No	20	36%	13%	20	HO

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERO

Unit number	Predator Mgmt (Deer/BHS/No)	2014-15 permits/quot a	% females	% >5 yrs old	Recommended permits/quot a	Strategy (LE, split, HO)
Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake Canyon	Deer/BHS	Unlimited	0%	harvest=1 no tooth	Unlimited	HO
Central Mountains, Northeast Manti	No	10	35%	39%	10	Split
Central Mountains, Southeast Manti	No	10	29%	22%	10	Split
Henry Mountains	BHS	12	47%	12%	12	HO
La Sal Mountains	Deer/BHS	15	50%	40%	15	HO
Nine Mile, North	BHS	20	40%	27%	20	HO
Nine Mile, South	BHS				Unlimited	HO
San Juan	Deer/BHS	25	40%	17%	25	HO
San Rafael	BHS	Unlimited	71%	50%	Unlimited	HO

UNLIMITED QUOTA UNITS



- ✗ Harvest objective unit without quota
- ✗ Valid harvest objective or split permit after the transition date
- ✗ Purchase cougar control permit
- ✗ Control permit is valid only in the unlimited quota units
 - Book Cliffs, Rattlesnake –Nine Mile, South
 - Kaiparowits
 - San Rafael

LIMITED ENTRY AND SPLIT PERMITS TOTALS

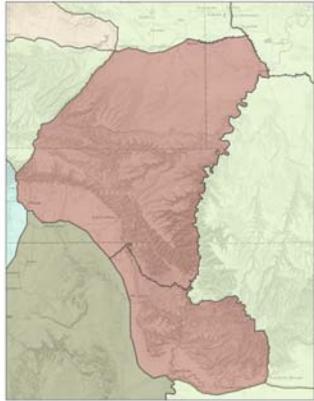
- 2015 = 253
- 2016 = 246

HARVEST OBJECTIVE QUOTA TOTALS

- 2015 = 207
- 2016 = 249

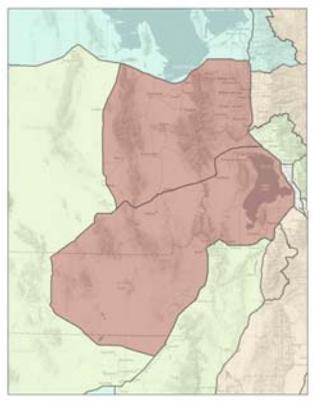


Nine Mile ,
North
Nine Mile,
South
Book Cliffs,
Rattlesnake



BOUNDARY CHANGE

Oquirrh-Stansbury
West Desert, Tintic-
Vernon



BOUNDARY CHANGE

COUGAR SEASON DATES

Limited Entry
November 11, 2015 through May 31, 2016

Split
Limited Entry
November 11, 2015 through February 26, 2016

Harvest Objective
March 3, 2016 through May 31, 2016

Harvest Objective
November 11, 2015 through November 6, 2016

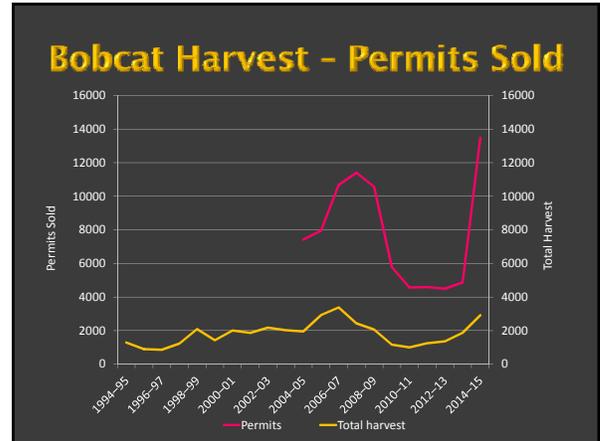
Unlimited Quota
November 11, 2015 through November 10, 2016

Pursuit Season
November 11, 2015 through May 31, 2016

SUMMARY

- ✘ Recommendations in accordance with Cougar Management Plan
- ✘ All females are considered in the harvest
- ✘ Age performance target extra measure on population
- ✘ Recommendations annually unit by unit basis
- ✘ Incorporates prey population performance into cougar recommendations
- ✘ Allows for evaluation of predator management on an annual basis
- ✘ Does not result in a significant increase or decrease in permit/quota recommendations





2007-2016 Bobcat Management Plan:

Performance targets to adjust permit numbers and season dates:

Variable	Target Range
% Young	42-56
% Adult Survival	65-72
% Females	41-45
Set-days/bobcat	177-220

Bobcat Trend and Target:

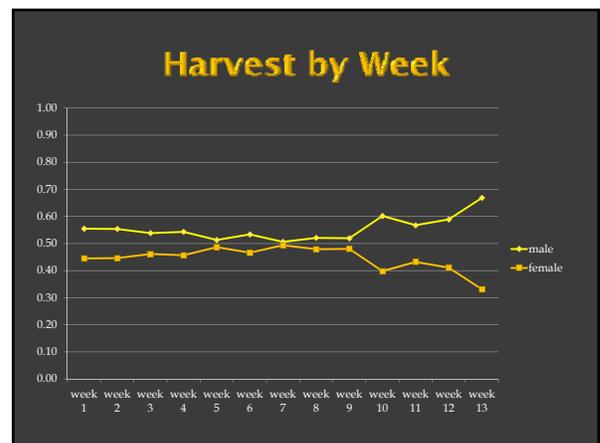
Variable	2012	2013	2014	2015	Target
% Juvenile	35	35	46	60	42-56
% Survival	70	75	70	74	65-72
% Female	45	48	45	45	41-45
Set-day/bobcat	400	392	333	373	171-220

Guidance from Bobcat Plan

If less than 2 performance targets are outside of range:
return to baseline:

Baseline:

- ❖ 6 Tags per individual
- ❖ Season from 3rd Wednesday in November to second Sunday in February
- ❖ No cap on number of tags sold



2015-2016 Bobcat Recommendations

- ❖ 6 permits per individual
- ❖ November 18, 2015 until February 7, 2016
- ❖ No cap on number of permits sold



Other Furbearer Season Dates

Beaver and Mink

- ❖ September 26, 2015 to April 6, 2016

Badger, gray fox, kit fox, ringtail, spotted skunk, and weasel seasons

- ❖ September 26, 2015 to February 7, 2016

Marten

- ❖ September 26, 2015 to February 7, 2016

Bobcat and Marten Tagging Date

Saturday following the close of the season to the first Friday in March



Trapping on State Waterfowl Management Areas Amendment to R657-11-27

- ❑ Utilized to protect improvements to DWR property from damage (ex. burrowing on dikes)
- ❑ Protect nesting waterfowl from predation
- ❑ Not a recreational opportunity - more like a contractor
- ❑ Collect proposals from public. Select the proposal with the greatest benefit to DWR and sportsmen.
 - Must possess
 - Trapping experience
 - Familiarity with WMA
 - Ability to focus on needed areas



Photo credit: Steve Gray

Decontamination Certificate of Registration

- Allows private entities to provide decontamination services
 - Stipulates required training parameters
 - Required business plan
 - Required water disposal plan
 - Reporting
- Division may solicit via RFP
 - May provide equipment if necessary
 - Requires profits to be used for O & M
- Provisions for the violation of COR requirements

Thank You



DON'T SPREAD THE
STD OF THE SEA

License Exemption for Youth Organizations or School Activities



Amendments to R657-45

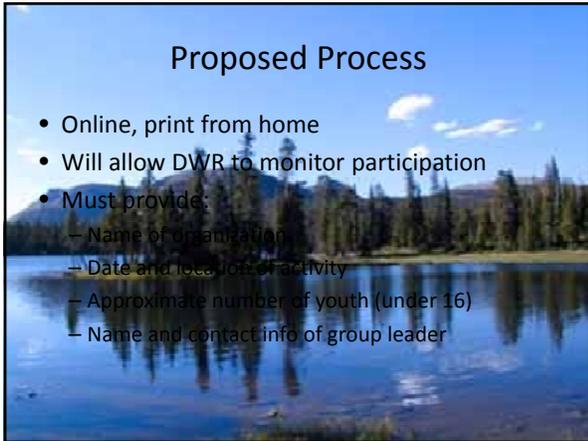
Purpose of Rule Amendment

- Utah Code 23-19-4.5 creates a program where youth in certain organizations (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and non profits) may fish without a license
- Subsection 4 of that statute requires that the Wildlife Board adopt a rule specifying the documentation required
- This proposal satisfies that requirement...



Proposed Process

- Online, print from home
- Will allow DWR to monitor participation
- Must provide:
 - Name of organization
 - Date and location of activity
 - Approximate number of youth (under 16)
 - Name and contact info of group leader



Group Leader Expectations

- Must be 18 or older
- Must possess valid Utah fishing or combo license
- Must provide instruction and training to youth participants on Utah fishing laws and regulations
- Obtain approval from school or youth organization



Summary

- Ongoing program, with this process now able to document and track participation
- Volunteers provide instruction
- Encourage youth to get involved in fishing



Thanks!



Self Defense Against Wild Animals



Amendments to R657-63

Purpose of Rule Amendment

- Utah laws relating to self defense state that in many circumstances, an individual does not have a duty to retreat from a threat.
- DWR's current self defense against wild animals rule, R657-63, includes a provision that references an "individual's ability to safely retreat"

Utah Code 76-2-402



Proposed Amendment #1

- A person is justified in using force when that person has a reasonable belief that force is necessary to protect themselves or others from an imminent attack.
- A series of factors are listed to determine what is "reasonable"
 - One of those factors was "ability to safely retreat"
 - Change to "ability to safely avoid the danger"



Proposed Amendment #2

Life and safety of a human is paramount to life and safety of a wild animal



Proposed Amendment #3

- Person presumed to have acted reasonably if:
 - The wild animal enters a home, tent, camper, or other similar living structure occupied by the person (Provided) the wild animal is reasonably perceived to be capable of causing severe bodily injury or death to human (and) the wild animal is killed while attempting to enter, entering, or occupying the structure



Summary

- Reasonableness based in part on "ability to safely avoid the danger," not "retreat"
- Life and safety of humans is paramount
- Wild animals entering a living structure and reasonably perceived as able to cause severe injury or death may be killed



Thanks!



Use of Weapons on Division Lands



Amendments to
Upland Game Rule R657-6
Waterfowl Rule R657-9

Purpose of Proposal

- To bring DWR administrative rules in compliance with Utah State Uniform Firearm laws set by the Legislature.
- DWR fully recognizes and supports an individuals right to possess firearms.



Rule Changes

- Current versions of the Upland Game Rule R657-6 and Waterfowl Rule R657-9 have provisions that limit an individual's "possession" of firearms
- Proposed changes define when an individual may "discharge" firearms while on specified DWR owned and managed properties (applies only to WMA's listed in the waterfowl and upland game guidebooks)

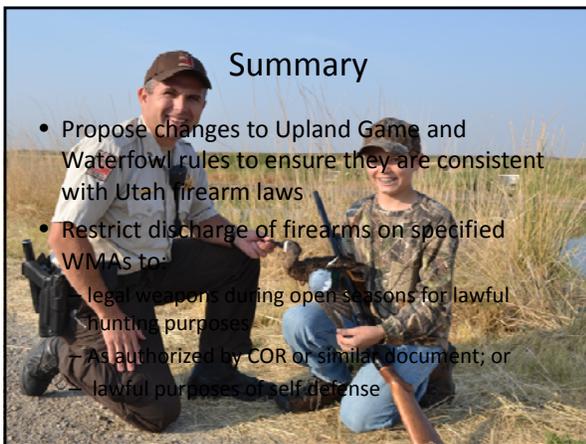
Discharge Restricted To

- legal weapons during open seasons for lawful hunting purposes
- As authorized by COR or similar document; or
- lawful purposes of self defense



Summary

- Propose changes to Upland Game and Waterfowl rules to ensure they are consistent with Utah firearm laws
- Restrict discharge of firearms on specified WMAs to:
 - legal weapons during open seasons for lawful hunting purposes
 - As authorized by COR or similar document; or
 - lawful purposes of self defense



Thank you!



Red Fleet Reservoir Fisheries Restoration Project 2015




Trina Hedrick, Regional Aquatics Manager
Garn Birchell, Assistant Regional Manager
Natalie Boren, Regional Reservoir Biologist

Outline

- ▶ Problem:
 - Illegal introductions
 - Escapement of walleye
- ▶ Solutions
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Addressing concerns
- ▶ Species
 - Request for approval
- ▶ Project timeline



Illegal Introductions

- ▶ Yellow Perch into Starvation Reservoir and Big Sandwash Reservoir
- ▶ Largemouth Bass into Brown's Draw, Bullock, Big Sandwash, and Cottonwood reservoirs
- ▶ Green Sunfish into Cottonwood Reservoir, Steinaker Reservoir, and Pelican Lake
- ▶ Smallmouth Bass into Cottonwood and Steinaker reservoirs
- ▶ Black Bullhead into Little Montes Reservoir
- ▶ Walleye into Red Fleet Reservoir and Big Sandwash
- ▶ Including downstream invasions:
 - Flaming Gorge Reservoir (Burbot)
 - Big Sandwash (Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass)
 - Brough Reservoir (Largemouth Bass, Green Sunfish)

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program

- ▶ Recovery of four endangered fishes while water development proceeds
- ▶ Things going well until the increase of Walleye in the Green River
- ▶ Sources: Red Fleet, Starvation, Lake Powell



Solutions

- ▶ Screening reservoirs
- ▶ Sterile sportfish
- ▶ Low/no threat sportfish
- ▶ Chemical removal
 - Rotenone




Scoping/Planning

- ▶ Bureau of Reclamation dam
- ▶ Secondary drinking water source (used every year)
- ▶ Red Fleet State Park
 - Visitation has been highly variable in recent years
- ▶ Environmental Assessment (EA)
- ▶ Rainbow Trout fishery with LMB, SMB, BG, and WE illegal introductions
- ▶ What to replace with?
- ▶ Angler input
 - Species
 - Vision
 - Goals
- ▶ Management Plan

Addressing Scoping and Angler Concerns

- ▶ Drinking water source: Treatment performed after drinking water withdrawals for year
- ▶ Red Fleet State Park: Visitation low in October anyway + restocking as soon as possible
- ▶ Species to replace those eradicated?

Post-treatment Species

- ▶ Colorado River Cutthroat Trout into Brush Creek as secondary catch in reservoir
- ▶ Sterile Walleye (6-8") (Nov 2015, 2016, 2017)
 - Fingerling sterile Walleye (2016-)
- ▶ Yellow Perch, Black Crappie, Mountain Whitefish - 2015, 2016 and every year until they are established
- ▶ Fingerling Wipers, Tiger Trout (2016-)
- ▶ Fathead Minnow to help predators establish (2015-2016)
- ▶ Largemouth Bass (2017?)
- ▶ Sample every year and assess success!

New Native Species

- ▶ Colorado River Cutthroat Trout



State Sensitive Species
Request ability to introduce into Brush Creek, inflow to Red Fleet Reservoir for sportfish purposes

- ▶ Mountain Whitefish



Not state or federally listed

Timeline

- ▶ RDCC for EA (open currently)
- ▶ Finalize EA/FONSI August 2015
- ▶ Stocking requests approved
- ▶ Preparation of equipment (next 3 months)
- ▶ Delivery of materials to site - week before
- ▶ Final preparation - October 5, 2015
- ▶ Treatment - October 6, 2015
- ▶ Cleanup, disposal (fish, etc) - October 7-8, 2015
- ▶ Neutralization- October 6-20, 2015
- ▶ Restocking - beginning November 2015

Thank You!!



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Planning Continued

- ▶ Treatment plan
 - Concentration of rotenone (targeted species)
 - Application methods
 - Cost--\$165k-\$265k
 - Rotenone, safety materials, personnel
 - Rotenone safety
 - Reservoir closed for 2 weeks (no water contact)
 - Only pesticide applicators in project area
 - Neutralize outflows
- ▶ Outreach plan
 - Press releases
 - Radio spots
 - Public meetings
 - EA comments

